

Town of St. Armand  
Public Hearing – 5:30 pm – Battery Storage Facility Moratorium  
Regular Board Meeting – 6:30 pm  
Thursday, March 19, 2026

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- PUBLIC HEARING

Public Notice read by Town Clerk

Introduction of Moratorium

Discussion

Guests: Owen Hooper and Riya Kurian from Carson Power

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Guest Speaker: Nicholas Cunha, Carson Power. Battery Storage Facility information

- Monthly Reports

Highway Superintendent – Douglas Snickles, Jr.

Water Superintendent – Jonathan Nielsen

Wastewater Superintendent – Joshua Woodruff

Water & Sewer Clerk – Barbara Darrah

Code Enforcement Officer – Rodger Tompkins

Town Justice – Francis Whitelaw

Town Supervisor's 2025 Year-end Report

## RESOLUTIONS # 29 - # 35 OF 2026

Resolution # 29 – Resolution Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 1 Entitled “A Local Law - Moratorium

Resolution # 30 – Town of St. Armand Electronic Funds Transfer Policy and Procedures

Resolution # 31 – Town Board Authorization for Town Supervisor to sign BETA Agreement

Resolution # 32 – Town Board's Audit of Town Supervisor's 2025 Annual Year-end Report

Resolution # 33 – Town Board Authorization for on-line payment monthly US Bank Credit Card Bill

Resolution # 34 – Town Board Authorization for 1200-gallon Water Usage credit on 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter bill.

Resolution # 35 – Town Board Authorization for Emergency Medical Services Inter-municipal Agreement

- Motion to approve monthly payments for March 2026: Read aloud then followed by Roll Call Vote

General Vouchers # 52 - # 79 in the amount of \$ 69,411.67

Trust & Agency Voucher # 6 in the amount of \$ 218.00

Highway Vouchers # 26 - # 39 in the amount of \$ 14,723.38

Water & Sewer Vouchers # 26 - # 41 in the amount of \$ 13,211.12

B Fund Vouchers # 3 - # 4 in the amount of \$ 187.98

Fire Protection Vouchers # 5 - # 9 in the amount of \$ 96,463.40

Disinfection Fund # 2 in the amount of \$ 2,110.00

- Motion to approve Town Supervisor's Report for the Month of February 2026
- Motion to approve Meeting Minutes for the February 19, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.
- Town Clerk's Monthly Report
  
- Review of Old Business
  - \* Clock Tower has been repaired – Verbal update
  - \* ROBO Call info – Verbal update
  - \* Bloomindale Methodist Church – Verbal update
  
- Review of New Business
  - \* EFC Photo of Town of St. Armand's Water Infrastructure Award - Handout
  - \* Inter-County Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks Conference on February 26, 2026 - Verbal
  - \* Adirondack Daily Enterprise article on flexible grid Battery Energy Storage facilities - Handout
  - \* Essex County proposal to award contract/agreement with REL COMM., Inc. for County phone system in the amount of \$21,879,99 for February 3m 2026 through December 31, 2027, and Towns can piggyback off of the contract. County is preparing a quote for St. Armand.
  - \* Supervisor Thurston attended the housing symposium held in Schroon Lake on March 5<sup>th</sup> – Verbal
  - \* On March 11, 2026, Supervisor Thurston attended the Smart Growth Award for the Beta Trail Grant Held in Westport.

Questions or Concerns from Guests/Staff

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Legal Issue

- \* Motion to Move into Executive Session
- \* Motion to Adjourn Executive Session

MOTION TO ADJOURN REGULAR BOARD MEETING

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

PURPOSE: Legal Issue

☐ MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time IN:

1st Motion:

2nd Motion:

☐ MOTION TO END EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time OUT:

1st Motion:

2nd Motion:

☐ MOTION TO ADJOURN REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Time ENDED:

1st Motion:

2nd Motion:

## Town of St. Armand Highway Report

March 19, 2026

1. Pushing back all the banks on all routes.
2. Dug out all the ditches that give us problems during the thaw, so they can run.
3. We had a couple of culverts to unthaw.
4. Pushed back Pisgah Lane for traffic for the race.
5. Had to do some cold patch repairs in some potholes.
6. Got most of the storm drains open for the thaw.

## **Town of St. Armand March 2026 Board Meeting**

### **Water Treatment Plant Updates**

1. Meter Reads, Reader swap outs, Chlorine Residual Testing, Daily testing at the Plant
2. Routine Ednyne Labs were collected and sent out this month for E-coli, Total Coliform (all ok)
3. Class action lawsuit for PFOA's, compiled and sent data from last 10 previous years along with lab testing results, yearly water withdraws reports. As of now we are all caught up on necessary data needed.
4. The Well field purchase and Water withdrawal forms and data have been sent to NYS DEC, and we are currently waiting for approval.
5. Still Inventorying parts and going through stock for future repairs this spring/summer.

### **General Maintenance**

1. Minor repairs in the town hall for office staff

**Water and Sewer Clerk's Monthly Report for March 19, 2026 Board Meeting**

**WATER/SEWER**

The 1st quarter billing for 2026 (October 1 – December 31, 2025) was completed on January 21, 2026 with the amount of the billing totaling \$ 82,153.60. To date, receivables are \$ 20,301.43. I have received payments that will be processed tomorrow, Friday, March 20, 2026<sup>th</sup>.

The next Water and Sewer readings are set for March 25 - March 31, 2026.

Barbara Darrah  
St. Armand Water and Sewer Clerk

**Town of St Armand**  
**Receivables Summary Report**  
Thursday, March 19, 2026

Page 1 of 1

| TRANSACTION TYPE:             | DB AMOUNT:  | CR AMOUNT:   |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| WATER USAGE:                  | \$0.00      |              |
| WTR DEBT / CRWIF / CRWRF:     | \$0.00      |              |
| SEWER USAGE:                  | \$0.00      |              |
| SWR DEBT / CRSF:              | \$314.00    |              |
| PAYMENT - WATER USAGE:        |             | \$444.15     |
| PAYMENT - WATER DEBT SERVICE: |             | \$80.20      |
| PAYMENT - SEWER USAGE:        |             | \$686.28     |
| PAYMENT - SWR DEBT / CRSF:    |             | \$662.00     |
| WATER LATE PENALTY:           | \$0.00      |              |
| PAYMENT - WATER LATE PENALTY: |             | \$0.00       |
| SEWER LATE PENALTY:           | \$0.00      |              |
| PAYMENT - SEWER LATE PENALTY: |             | \$0.00       |
| TOTALS:                       | \$314.00    | \$1,872.63   |
| NET TOTAL:                    |             | (\$1,558.63) |
| ARREARS - WATER USAGE:        | \$5,573.15  |              |
| ARREARS - WATER DEBT SERVICE: | \$628.72    |              |
| ARREARS - SEWER USAGE:        | \$8,210.97  |              |
| ARREARS - SWR DEBT / CRSF:    | \$5,614.45  |              |
| ARREARS - WATER LATE PENALTY: | \$582.32    |              |
| ARREARS - SEWER LATE PENALTY: | \$1,250.45  |              |
| ARREARS - TOTAL:              | \$21,860.06 |              |
| UNPAID TOTAL:                 |             | \$20,301.43  |
| BALANCE - WATER USAGE:        |             | \$5,129.00   |
| BALANCE - WATER DEBT SERVICE: |             | \$548.52     |
| BALANCE - SEWER USAGE:        |             | \$7,524.69   |
| BALANCE - SWR DEBT / CRSF:    |             | \$5,266.45   |
| BALANCE - WATER LATE PENALTY: |             | \$582.32     |
| BALANCE - SEWER LATE PENALTY: |             | \$1,250.45   |
| BALANCE - TOTAL:              |             | \$20,301.43  |

Code Report - Submitted by Rodger Tompkins

March 12, 2026 - Prepared on February 17, 2026

New Residential Building Permits Issued Since Last Report: 1

New Water or Sewer Line Permits Issued Since Last Report: 0

Extension of Residential Building Permits Issued Since Last Report: 0

Commercial Building Permits Issued Since Last Report: 0

Certificates of Completion Issued Since Last Report: 0

Stop Work Orders Issued Since Last Report: 0

Demolition Permits Issued Since Last Report: 0

Solar PVS Permits Issued Since Last Report: 0

New Short Term Rental Permits Issued Since Last Report: 0

Code Violations Issued Since Last Report Issued: 4

Sewer Code Violations Issued Since Last Report: 0

Total number of Residential Building permits issued for the year 2026: 0

Total number of Residential Certificates of Completion issued for the year 2026: 0

Total number of Commercial Building permits issued for the year 2026: 0

Total number of Commercial Certificates of Completion issued for the year 2026: 0

Total number of Demolition permits issued for the year 2026: 0

Total number of Demolition Certificates of Completion issued for the year 2026: 0

Total number of Short Term Rental Permits Issued for the year 2026: 0

Total number of Solar permits issued for the year 2026: 0

Total number of Solar Certificates of Completion issued for the year 2026: 0

Total number of Code Violations issued for the year 2026: 4

Total number of Code Violation Certificates of Completion issued for the year 2026: 0

Total number of Sewer Code Violations issued for the year 2026: 0

Total number of Sewer Code Violation Certificates of Completion issued for the year 2026: 0

Amount of fees collected for Code Office since last report: \$50.00

Amount of fees collected for Water Department since last report: \$0

Amount of fees collected for Sewer Department since last report: \$0

Total amount of Water/Sewer fees collected via Code Office since last report: \$0

Total amount of fees collected via Code Office for the year 2026: \$100.00

**St. Armand Town Court Report for February 2026**

**Total fines and surcharges collected for the month of February 2026: \$125.00**

**Total collected year-to-date: \$566.00**

**Total parking fines for February 2026: \$0.00**

**Total parking fines year-to-date: \$0.00**

**The isolation up here is getting to me. I'm descending into madness.**

RESOLUTION # 29 OF 2026

RESOLUTION ADOPTING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW  
NO. 1 FOR THE YEAR 2026 ENTITLED "A LOCAL LAW  
ESTABLISHING A TWELVE-MONTH MORATORIUM  
PROHIBITING THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF  
APPLICATIONS AND PERMITS FOR 'BATTERY  
ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS)' IN THE  
TOWN OF ST. ARMAND"

The following resolution was offered by

, who moved its adoption.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution dated February 19, 2026, this Board introduced proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2026, a local law entitled "A Local Law Establishing a Twelve-Month Moratorium Prohibiting the Review and Approval of Applications and Permits for 'Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)' in the Town of St. Armand;" and

**WHEREAS**, that a Public Hearing was duly held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. to hear any and all persons concerning the adoption of said local law; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of St. Armand Town Board hereby adopts Local Law No. 1 of 2026 entitled "Local Law Establishing a Twelve-Month Moratorium Prohibiting the Review and Approval of Applications and Permits for 'Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)' in the Town of St. Armand" reading and provided as follows:

**TOWN OF ST. ARMAND LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2026**

**LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING A TWELVE-MONTH MORATORIUM PROHIBITING THE REVIEW  
AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS AND PERMITS FOR 'BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS  
(BESS)' IN THE TOWN OF ST. ARMAND**

**Section 1. Purpose**

The purpose of this local law is to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Town of St. Armand and to maintain the status quo by temporarily suspending the processing of land use approvals as provided herein and to further suspend the rights of land owners and their designees to obtain development approvals as identified below for a period of twelve months from the adoption of this local law while the Town Board studies, analyzes and determines potential appropriate Planning Board/Site Plan Review and zoning laws and revisions and amendments to the Town Law regarding the propriety of Battery Energy Storage Systems (as defined below).

**Section 2. Legislative Findings**

One specific area of concern and inquiry is Battery Energy Storage Systems within the Town of St. Armand. The Town of St. Armand has significant safety concerns, especially following fire incidents at facilities across the state. The Town of St. Armand intends to study the safety and security of these energy storage systems.

including thermal runaway, off gassing and toxicity, stranded energy, ways to prevent fires, prevent by-product contamination, and ensure emergency responders have the necessary training and information to prepare and deploy resources in the event of a fire. Relatedly, the Town of St. Armand intends to study which areas in the Town may be appropriate for such systems.

The Town of St. Armand understands that in the Summer 2023 fires occurred at three energy storage facilities and a fire at a solar farm that is believed to have sent potentially toxic smoke across the Albany area. These events prompted the Governor to establish an Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group (FSWG), which recently made recommendations for changes to the New York State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council. New York State adopted updated energy storage safety codes based on the FSWG's recommendations. The updated NYS Fire Code provisions will take effect on or about January 1, 2026. Thus, utility-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems may have adverse impacts on the community including safety and fire risk, and may have a detrimental effect on the value of properties and may impair important agricultural resources within the Town of St. Armand. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority has developed guidance, including a model law, for regulating Battery Energy Storage Systems to mitigate and address potential adverse impacts on the municipality.

The Town of St. Armand is very concerned with detrimental effects of Battery Energy Storage Systems on the health, safety, welfare and quality of life of the residents and citizens of the Town of St. Armand. The Town Board has decided to consider potential solutions thereto to address these concerns.

To allow the Town Board of St. Armand time to complete its review, draft proposed new legislation and enact any such legislation, the Town Board deems it in the best interest of the general health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Town of St. Armand to impose a moratorium prohibiting the review and approval of applications and permits for Battery Energy Storage System in the Town of St. Armand.

### **Section 3. Definitions**

**Battery Energy Storage System (BESS):** One or more devices, assembled together, capable of storing energy in order to supply electrical energy at a future time, typically using lithium-ion or similar batteries, including all equipment and controls, not to include standalone 12v car batteries, electric motor vehicles or any battery energy storage unit used on a residential property for the benefit of such property only. Nothing herein shall prohibit a licensed load saving entity from conducting its regular and usual business of providing electrical distribution within its service territory as defined by its tariff by the New York State Department of Public Service.

### **Section 4. Moratorium Imposed**

For a period of one (1) year following the effective date of this Local Law, no board, officer, or agency of the Town shall accept, process, or approve any application for the construction or operation of any Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

### **Section 5. Study and Review**

During this moratorium, the Town Board shall review safety, environmental, and zoning issues, and prepare Planning Board, zoning ordinances and amend its comprehensive plan addressing BESS concerns.

### **Section 6. Hardship Exemption**

Owing to the limited scope and duration of this moratorium, there is no provision being made in this Local Law for any waivers to its applicability. However, the Town Board may, but is not obligated to promulgate regulations by Resolution of the Board authorizing a hardship waiver process to this moratorium.

**Section 7. Extension or Early Termination**

The Town Board may, by resolution, extend or terminate the moratorium as necessary.

**Section 8. Supersession Clause**

This Local Law is enacted pursuant to the New York State Constitution and Municipal Home Rule Law §10, and shall supersede any provision of the Town Law or any other local law, ordinance, or regulation of the Town of Goshen to the extent necessary to give full effect to the provisions of this Local Law. Without limitation, this Local Law shall supersede the procedural and decision deadlines contained in Town Law §§ 267, 267-a, 274-a, 276, and 277, and any inconsistent provisions of the Town Code, for the duration of the moratorium established herein.

**Section 9. SEQRA Classification**

This Local Law is a Type I action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act {SEQRA} pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.5(c){30}, as it involves the adoption of a moratorium on land development or construction. As a Type II action, this Local Law is not subject to further review under SEQRA.

**Section 10. Severability**

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall be confined in its operation to the clause, paragraph, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered, and the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 11. Penalties for Offenses**

Any person or entity that violates the terms of this local law shall be guilty of a violation and subjected to a fine of not less than \$250.00 per day and for imprisonment of 15 days. Each day that the violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense. In addition, the Town may enforce this local law by seeking an injunction or any other legal remedy it deems appropriate.

**Section 12. Conflicts**

In the event that any provision of the Town of St. Armand Code is in conflict with the provisions of this Local Law such provision is hereby superseded by the requirements of this Local Law during the moratorium set forth above.

It is the intention of the Town Board to supersede any inconsistent provisions in the following sections of New York State Town Law §265, §267, §267-a, §267-b, §274-a, §274-b, §276, and §277 pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law Section 10.

**Section 13. Authority**

This Local Law is adopted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law Sections 10 and 22.

**Section 14. Effective Date**

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State of the State of New York in accordance with New York Municipal Home Rule Law.

RESOLUTION # 29 of 2026 continued

This resolution was duly seconded by  
follows:

, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Town Supervisor Davina Thurston   | AYE |
| Deputy Supervisor Karl Law        | AYE |
| Councilperson Donna Whitelaw      | AYE |
| Councilperson JP O'Neil           | AYE |
| Councilperson Raymond Tempestilli | AYE |

By order of the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand.

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Barbara J. Darrah  
St. Armand Town Clerk

Dated: March 19, 2026

RESOLUTION # 30 OF 2026

**TOWN OF ST. ARMAND ELECTRONIC FUNDS  
TRANSFER POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

, who moved its adoption, offered the following Resolution:

**ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER POLICY & PROCEDURES  
FOR  
THE TOWN OF ST. ARMAND**

**1. POLICY STATEMENT AND USE**

**1.1 Policy Statement**

The Town of St. Armand (hereinafter "the Municipality") recognizes that electronic commerce is the primary method for modern financial transactions. This policy establishes the framework for the secure initiation, execution, and approval of all Electronic Funds Transfers (EFTs).

**1.2 Purpose of Use**

The primary goal is to mitigate the risk of fraud, error, or unauthorized access by ensuring that every EFT is authenticated, documented, and approved by multiple authorized parties.

**1.3 Scope and Direction**

This policy applies to all municipal officers, employees, and authorized agents who manage, initiate, or approve payments Via EFT, including vendor payments, employee direct deposits, and inter-fund transfers.

**1.4 Guidance and Contact**

If you are unsure of the validity of a transfer request or the application of these procedures, contact the St. Armand Town Supervisor before engaging the banking system.

**2. DEFINITIONS & SCOPE**

**2.1 Definitions**

**Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** – Any transfer of funds initiated through an electronic terminal, computer, or magnetic tape, including ACH, wire transfers, and direct deposits.

**Designated Office** – The department formally authorized by the Governing Body to manage municipal bank accounts (e.g., Treasurer's or Comptroller's Office).

**Initiator** – The authorized employee who enters the payment instructions into the computer-based banking system.

**Approver/Releaser** – The uthorized employee, distinct from the Initiator, who verifies and executes the final transmission of funds.

**Authentication** – The process of verifying the identity of the person or entity requesting an EFT or a change to existing Banking information.

## 2.2 What Constitutes an EFT

For the purposes of this policy, an EFT includes, but is not limited to, the following electronic mechanisms:

- \* **ACH (Automated Clearing House):** Batch-processed transfers used for routine transaction such as payroll direct deposits, vendor payments, and recurring bill payments.
- \* **Wire Transfers (Fedwire):** Real-time, high-value transfers typically used for time-sensitive payments, debt service, or large-scale capital projects.
- \* **Direct Deposits:** The electronic transfer of employee compensation, benefits, or tax refunds directly into a personal bank account.
- \* **Electronic Check Conversion (eCheck):** The use of information from a paper check (routing and account numbers) to initiate a one-time electronic debit.
- \* **Point-of Sale (POS) & Card Transactions:** Payments made via municipal procurement cards (P-Cards) or debit cards.
- \* **Inter-fund Transfers:** Electronic movement of money between different municipal bank accounts or investment funds.

## 3. OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES AND CONTROLS

### 3.1 Internal Controls and Separation of Duties

- \* **Dual Authorization:** Two separate individuals are required to complete an EFT. One person must initiate the transfer, and a second authorized person must release/approve the payment through the banking system.
- \* **Access Audit:** Management must maintain a log of all personnel with banking credentials. Access must be revoked immediately upon an employee's change in status or termination.

### 3.2 Mandatory Phone Authentication (The "Call-Back" Rule)

Before any new EFT instruction or change to an existing account is input into the system, the following Outbound Call steps are mandatory:

1. **Direct Contact:** Do NOT use the phone number provided in the email request or the "caller ID" of an incoming call. Use only verified contact information from the original contract or the master supplier file.
2. **Verify Existing Data:** Have the contact confirm existing bank details on file **BEFORE** accepting new instructions to ensure they are the legitimate account holder.
3. **Third-Party Verification:** For high-value transfers, contact the receiving bank to confirm the account name and number match the municipality's records.

### 3.3 Vishing (Voice Phishing) Protocols

"Vishing" occurs when a fraudster calls an employee to trick them into disclosing PII, changing banking details, or rushing an unauthorized wire transfer. These calls may even use IA Voice Cloning to sound like a high-ranking official or a known vendor.

If you received an incoming call regarding financial transfer:

- \* **Identify Red Flags:** Be alert for extreme urgency, requests for secrecy, or calls occurring outside of normal Business hours.
- \* **Do Not Authenticate Inbound:** Never provide or "confirm" banking details on an incoming call. Even if the Caller ID looks internal or familiar, it can be spoofed.
- \* **The "Hang Up and Dial" Requirement:** If an incoming caller requests a financial change or a wire transfer, thank them for the information, hang up, and initiate a new outbound call using the trusted number on file to verify the request.
- \* **Report Suspicious Activity:** If a caller becomes aggressive or the request seems fraudulent, terminate the call immediately and notify the Town Supervisor.

### 3.4 Documentation and Records Retention

- \* **Wire Transfer Request Form:** A formal request form must be submitted to the Town Bookkeeper at least seven (7) business days prior to the payment date.
- \* **Verification Log:** A record of the authentication process (including the date, time, and person contacted) must be documented and signed by both the Initiator and Approver.
- \* **Public Record Status:** Consistent with the Arts & Cultural Affairs Law, all EFT authorizations and bank confirmations are "Records" and must be retained according to the LGS-1 schedule.

### 3.5 Confidentiality and System Security

- \* **PII Protection:** Banking details and Personal Identifying Information (PII) of employees or vendors shall not be disclosed or stored in non-secure environments.
- \* **Network Security:** Banking transactions must only be conducted on municipality-owned devices and secured, encrypted networks. The use of public Wi-Fi for EFT activity is strictly prohibited.

## 4. FRAUD AND CRISIS PROTOCOLS

### 4.1 Immediate Response to Suspected Fraud

If an employee suspects a fraudulent transfer has occurred or that banking credentials have been compromised, they must:

1. Immediately notify the Town Supervisor and the Town Bookkeeper.
2. Contact the municipal banking institution to request a "Recall of Funds" or account freeze.
3. Secure all related communications (emails, logs, calls) for investigative purposes.

### 4.2 Fraudulent Communication Warning

Employees are cautioned that "Business Email Compromise" (BEC) scams often mimic the writing style of high-ranking officials (e.g., Mayor, Supervisor). No EFT shall be processed based solely on an email request without the verbal authentication required in Section 3.2.

## 5. VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

### 5.1 Investigation and Corrective Action

Violations of this policy, including circumventing dual-authorization requirements or failing to authenticate changes, will be investigated. Corrective action, including discipline up to and including termination, will be taken.

### 5.2 Financial Liability

Employees who intentionally bypass security protocols may be subject to legal action or held liable for losses incurred By the Municipality.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that I have read and understand the St. Armand EFT Policy.  
I agree to adhere to all authentication and dual-authorization procedures.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand, Essex County, State of New York hereby adopt the Town of St. Armand Electronic Funds Transfer Policy & Procedures.

This Resolution was duly seconded by

, and adopted by Roll Call Vote as follows:

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Supervisor Davina Thurston        | AYE |
| Deputy Supervisor Karl Law        | AYE |
| Councilperson Donna Whitelaw      | AYE |
| Councilperson JP O'Neil           | AYE |
| Councilperson Raymond Tempestilli | AYE |

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Barbara J. Darrah  
St. Armand Town Clerk

Dated: March 19, 2026

DRAFT

**RESOLUTION # 31 OF 2026**

**TOWN OF ST. ARMAND TOWN BOARD AUTHORIZATION  
FOR ST. ARMAND TOWN SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE  
TRAILS CONSTRUCTION & STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN BARKEATER TRAILS ALLIANCE AND THE  
TOWN OF ST. ARMAND**

, who moved its adoption, offered the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, BETA is a duly formed not-for-profit corporation under the laws of the State of New York which has planned, constructed, maintained and promoted trails for mountain biking, ski touring and other human-powered activities in the region on lands of New York State, lands of private individuals, and lands of the local governments in the Counties of Essex and Franklin, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Saranac Lake is the owner of the following parcels in the Town of St. Armand, NY; known as tax identification number: 32.102-1-2.000, and an agreement was developed to establish roles and responsibilities for all parties engaged in planning, constructing and maintaining public access for non-motorized trails within the boundaries of Mount Pisgah, and

WHEREAS, it is agreed that the terms of this agreement will run from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2029, and thereafter shall renew automatically on an annual basis unless terminated in writing by either party. Either Party may terminate this Agreement at any time for any reason with 30 days written notice to the other party hereto.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand hereby authorizes St. Armand Town Supervisor, Davina Thurston to execute and sign the Trails Construction & Stewardship Agreement as required.

This Resolution was seconded by

, and adopted by Roll Call vote as follows:

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Supervisor Davina Thurston        | AYE |
| Deputy Supervisor Karl Law        | AYE |
| Councilperson Donna Whitelaw      | AYE |
| Councilperson JP O'Neil           | AYE |
| Councilperson Raymond Tempestilli | AYE |

Dated: March 19, 2026

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Barbara J. Darrah  
St. Armand Town Clerk

RESOLUTION # 32 OF 2026

TOWN OF ST. ARMAND'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF  
AUDIT CONDUCTED ON TOWN SUPERVISOR'S  
ANNUAL YEAR-END REPORT FOR 2025

, who moved its adoption, offered the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, The Office of the State Comptroller requires that the town and village supervisors annually provide their year-end report to their respective town and village auditing Board, and that such report be examined or audited and that fact be entered into the minutes of the Board's proceedings, and

WHEREAS, the Supervisors Report includes initiatives to improve accountability and controls over all Town finances and records, and

WHEREAS, among the initiatives is increased monitoring of town and village board compliance with the NYS Comptroller's direction,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board acknowledges an audit of the Town Supervisor's report for the Town of St. Armand for 2025 was completed during the month of March 2026, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no issues or discrepancies were found.

This Resolution was duly seconded by  
Vote as follows:

, and adopted by Roll Call

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Town Supervisor Davina Thurston   | AYE |
| Deputy Supervisor Karl Law        | AYE |
| Councilperson Donna Whitelaw      | AYE |
| Councilperson JF O'Neil           | AYE |
| Councilperson Raymond Tempestilli | AYE |

Dated: March 19, 2026

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Barbara J. Darrah  
St. Armand Town Clerk

RESOLUTION # 33 OF 2026

TOWN OF ST. ARMAND TOWN BOARD  
AUTHORIZAITON FOR THE MONTHLY  
US BANK CREDIT CARD BILL TO BE PAID  
ONLINE RATHER THAN BANK CHECK

, who moved its adoption, offered the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of St. Armand has received approval from NYS Comptroller's office to make payments for monthly bills online, and

WHEREAS, due to several factors including USPS slow delivery and lack of proper processing of the Town's check payments by the billing company US BANK, the Town has been subjected to late fees, interest fees and excessive hours in researching and providing proof of check payments through NBT Bank, and

WHEREAS, a process for completing online payments has been agreed upon by US BANK, Supervisor Davina Thurston, Town Bookkeeper Nancy Heath, Town Clerk Barbara Darrah and Clerk to the Supervisor Michael Changelo. It has been determined that this process will be safe and effective in prohibiting late fees, interest and false restrictions for credit card use.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board hereby approves that from this point forward the following bills from US Bank be paid online.

This Resolution was duly seconded by  
as follows:

, and adopted by Roll Call vote

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Supervisor Davina Thurston        | AYE |
| Deputy Supervisor Karl Law        | AYE |
| Councilperson Donna Whitelaw      | AYE |
| Councilperson JP O'Neil           | AYE |
| Councilperson Raymond Tempestilli | AYE |

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Barbara J. Darrah  
St. Armand Town Clerk

Dated: March 19, 2026

RESOLUTION # 34 OF 2026

TOWN OF ST. ARMAND WATER ADJUSTMENT  
ALLOWANCE FOR TEMPORARY WATER USAGE  
(1200 GALLONS) FOR FRIGID TEMPERATURES  
JANUARY 23 THROUGH JANUARY 25, 2026

, who moved its adoption, offered the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, due to the frigid temperatures occurring Friday, January 23 through Sunday, January 25, 2026, Water Superintendent Jonathan Nielsen advised Supervisor Davina Thurston that residents should be advised to run their water a pencil-size stream in order to avoid freezing pipes; and

WHEREAS, Supervisor Thurston made a calculation of 400 gallons per a 24-hour period would be used for running a pencil-sized stream overnight; and

WHEREAS, Supervisor Thurston contacted all members of the Town Board advising them of the situation; and suggesting the Town allow customers a total of 1200 gallons water credit from January 23 through January 25; in order to accommodate running their water to prevent freezing pipes; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board made the determination that residents should be advised to run their water overnight to prevent freezing and receive 1200 gallons of water and sewer usage credit on their next bill. The billing period would be the 2<sup>nd</sup> billing quarter which is January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, with actual bills going out mid-April. Supervisor Thurston posted a notice as above on the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Facebook page.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand hereby approves that all customers using the St. Armand Water District will receive a water and sewer usage credit on their 2nd Quarter Bill (January 1 – March 31, 2023) in the amount of 1200 gallons.

This Resolution was duly seconded by  
follows:

and adopted by Roll Call Vote as

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Supervisor Davina Thurston        | AYE |
| Deputy Supervisor Karl Law        | AYE |
| Councilperson Donna Whitelaw      | AYE |
| Councilperson JP O'Neil           | AYE |
| Councilperson Raymond Tempestilli | AYE |

Dated: March 19, 2026

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Barbara J. Darrah  
St. Armand Town Clerk

RESOLUTION # 35 OF 2026

TOWN OF ST. ARMAND TOWN BOARD AUTHORIZATION  
FOR ST. ARMAND TOWN SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE  
ESSEX COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ESSEX  
COUNTY, SARANAC LAKE VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD  
AND THE TOWN OF ST. ARMAND

, who moved its adoption, offered the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Essex County has developed a County-wide Advanced Life Support (ALS) emergency medical service program to supply existing individual ambulance services, both municipal and non-profit, with additional ALS manpower, services and vehicles such that emergency medical services will be supplemented, strengthened and enhanced to provide the best possible care; and

WHEREAS, through this program, the County will support existing ambulance services located within the County pursuant to the agreement to provide ALS services as and for Essex County pursuant to Essex County's current certificate of need; and

WHEREAS, the various towns in Essex County acknowledge the need for additional ALS resources to supplement existing emergency medical services and acknowledge and consent to aid from the County either directly to the towns or through their current contract providers or EMS agencies as set forth below:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand hereby authorizes St. Armand Town Supervisor, Davina Thurston to execute and sign the Essex County Emergency Medical Services Intermunicipal Agreement between Essex County Office of Emergency Services, the Saranac Lake Volunteer Rescue Squad (EMS Agency, and the Town of St. Armand.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this agreement is hereby retroactive to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

This Resolution was seconded by

, and adopted by Roll Call vote as follows:

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Supervisor Davina Thurston        | AYE |
| Deputy Supervisor Karl Law        | AYE |
| Councilperson Donna Whitelaw      | AYE |
| Councilperson JP O'Neil           | AYE |
| Councilperson Raymond Tempestilli | AYE |

Dated: March 19, 2026

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Barbara J. Darrah  
St. Armand Town Clerk

## Town of St. Armand

**Monthly Report of Supervisor**

Pursuant to Section 119 of the Town Law, I hereby render the following detailed statement of all moneys received and disbursed by me, as Supervisor, for the month FEBRUARY 2026

| <b>Receipts (980)</b><br>Source:               | For the Month<br>of FEBRUARY 2026 | Year-to-Date<br>Amount Received |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| General A Fund 6506                            | \$529,796.19                      | \$564,580.76                    |
| General B Fund 3451                            | \$0.52                            | \$51.09                         |
| Highway Fund- TOWNWIDE DA 3853                 | \$395,988.24                      | \$397,437.33                    |
| Highway Fund- OUTSIDE DB 4035                  | \$855.23                          | \$1,807.29                      |
| Fire District – Bloomingdale 3802              | \$64,199.98                       | \$64,311.25                     |
| Fire District – North Elba 3802                | \$6,539.00                        | \$6,539.00                      |
| Fire District – Saranac Lake 3802              | \$57,398.89                       | \$57,429.93                     |
| Rockledge Water District 3831                  | \$11,956.48                       | \$12,225.55                     |
| Sewer District 7670                            | \$31,146.40                       | \$31,565.11                     |
| Water District 7670                            | \$14,566.65                       | \$14,788.48                     |
| <b>Capital Projects:</b>                       |                                   |                                 |
| Community Center - 1945                        | \$0.00                            | \$0.00                          |
| Disinfection Project - 1813                    | \$4.55                            | \$4.55                          |
| PFOA Project - 1848                            | \$0.00                            | \$0.31                          |
| Rockledge Sewer - 1910                         | \$0.00                            | \$0.00                          |
| Well Field Purchase - 1872                     | \$9.27                            | \$19.51                         |
| <b>Total</b>                                   |                                   | <b>\$1,150,760.16</b>           |
| <b>Disbursements (522)</b><br>Fund or Account: | For the Month<br>of FEBRUARY 2026 | Year-to-Date<br>Amount Expended |
| General A Fund 6506                            | \$38,046.73                       | \$82,651.22                     |
| General B Fund 3451                            | \$942.92                          | \$1,939.63                      |
| Highway Fund- TOWNWIDE DA 3853                 | \$31,182.70                       | \$62,283.23                     |
| Highway Fund - OUTSIDE DB 4035                 | \$0.00                            | \$0.00                          |
| Fire District – Bloomingdale 3802              | \$6,934.65                        | \$6,934.65                      |
| Fire District – North Elba 3802                | \$0.00                            | \$0.00                          |
| Fire District – Saranac Lake 3802              | \$765.00                          | \$765.00                        |
| Rockledge Water District 3831                  | \$0.00                            | \$0.00                          |
| Sewer District 7670                            | \$26,357.76                       | \$39,530.79                     |
| Water District 7670                            | \$8,561.55                        | \$15,204.29                     |
| <b>Capital Projects:</b>                       |                                   |                                 |
| Community Center - 1945                        | \$0.00                            | \$0.00                          |
| Disinfection Project - 1813                    | \$0.00                            | \$0.00                          |
| PFOA Project - 1848                            | \$0.00                            | \$0.00                          |
| Rockledge Sewer - 1910                         | \$0.00                            | \$0.00                          |
| Well Field Purchase - 1872                     | \$0.00                            | \$0.00                          |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>\$112,791.31</b>               | <b>\$209,308.81</b>             |

|                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                                    |                       |
| General A Fund 6506                | \$523,912.71          |
| General B Fund 3451                | \$11,927.11           |
| Highway Fund- Townwide DA 3853     | \$395,430.39          |
| Highway Outside DB 4035            | \$11,521.78           |
| Fire Protection 3802               | \$121,078.23          |
| Rockledge Water District 3831      | \$13,626.56           |
| Sewer/Water Fund 7670              | \$24,361.31           |
| CRF Sewer Reserve Emg Repars 6023  | \$1.00                |
| CRF Sewer Improvement Reserve 5868 | \$1,735.75            |
| CRF Water Improvement Reserve 6058 | \$78.51               |
| CRF Water Emg Repairs Reserve 6074 | \$78.50               |
| Trust & Agency 4351                | \$1,175.05            |
| <b>Capital Projects:</b>           |                       |
| Community Center - 1945            | \$0.00                |
| Disinfection Project - 1813        | \$84.55               |
| PFOA Project - 1848                | \$0.79                |
| Rockledge Sewer - 1910             | \$0.00                |
| Well Field Purchase - 1872         | \$5,041.87            |
|                                    | <b>\$1,110,054.11</b> |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>\$0.00</b>         |

## FEBRUARY 2026

| Class Account   | Class Account Name                      | Fund Account Numbers | Fund Codes | FEBRUARY Contributions | FEBRUARY Withdrawals | PRIOR MONTH BALANCE: | FEBRUARY 2025 Interest | CURRENT MONTH BALANCE | Total Int YTD |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| NY-01-0976-0001 | GENERAL FUND A                          | A 6506               | AZ01C      |                        |                      | \$40,897.25          | \$112.03               | \$41,009.28           | \$262.36      |
| NY-01-0976-0002 | GENERAL FUND B                          | B 3451               | BZ01C      |                        |                      | \$166.21             | \$0.52                 | \$166.73              | \$1.09        |
| NY-01-0976-0004 | HIGHWAY OUTSIDE DB                      | DB 4035              | DB201C     |                        |                      | \$312,043.54         | \$854.72               | \$312,898.26          | \$1,806.22    |
| NY-01-0976-0005 | HIGHWAY DB - WEST MAIN ST PROJECT       | DB 4035              | DB201C1    |                        |                      | \$157.15             | \$0.51                 | \$157.66              | \$1.07        |
| NY-01-0976-0006 | FIRE PROTECTION - BLOOMINGDALE          | FB 3802              | FB201C     |                        |                      | \$36,492.84          | \$99.98                | \$36,592.82           | \$211.25      |
| NY-01-0976-0007 | SEWER FUND SS                           | SS 7670              | SS201C     |                        |                      | \$3,868.10           | \$10.62                | \$3,878.72            | \$30.13       |
| NY-01-0976-0008 | SEWER IMPROVEMENTS CAPITAL RESERVE FUND | SI 5868              | SS231.100  |                        | \$17,300.00          | \$92,333.32          | \$213.99               | \$75,247.31           | \$500.51      |
| NY-01-0976-0009 | SEWER EMG REPAIRS CAPITAL RESERVE FUND  | SR 6023              | SS231.101  |                        |                      | \$11,780.69          | \$32.25                | \$11,812.94           | \$68.17       |
| NY-01-0976-0010 | WATER FUND SW                           | SW 7670              | SW201C     |                        |                      | \$60,122.78          | \$164.69               | \$60,287.47           | \$364.71      |
| NY-01-0976-0011 | WATER IMPROVEMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND  | WI 6058              | SW231.100  |                        |                      | \$3,583.84           | \$9.80                 | \$3,593.64            | \$20.70       |
| NY-01-0976-0012 | WATER EMG REPAIRS CAPITAL RESERVE FUND  | WR 6074              | SW231.101  |                        |                      | \$3,590.14           | \$9.80                 | \$3,599.94            | \$20.71       |
| NY-01-0976-0013 | ROCKLEDGE WATER FUND                    | RW3831               | RW201C     |                        |                      | \$88,522.64          | \$242.48               | \$88,765.12           | \$512.42      |
| NY-01-0976-0014 | GENERAL A YOUTH BUILDING                | A 5146               | AZ02C1     |                        |                      | \$2,342.87           | \$6.44                 | \$2,349.31            | \$13.59       |
| NY-01-0976-0015 | GENERAL A HIGHWAY GARAGE BUILDING       | A 5146               | AZ02C2     |                        |                      | \$29,480.12          | \$80.74                | \$29,560.86           | \$170.65      |
| NY-01-0976-0016 | GENERAL A YOUTH DONATIONS               | A 5146               | AZ02C3     |                        |                      | \$5,879.50           | \$16.11                | \$5,895.61            | \$34.06       |
| NY-01-0976-0017 | GENERAL A TRANSFER STATION              | A 5146               | AZ02C4     |                        |                      | \$3,292.02           | \$8.98                 | \$3,301.00            | \$18.97       |
| NY-01-0976-0018 | GENERAL A BROOKSIDE CEMETERY            | A 5146               | AZ02C5     |                        |                      | \$19,670.64          | \$53.86                | \$19,724.50           | \$113.85      |
| NY-01-0976-0019 | GENERAL A FRANKLIN FALLS CEMETERY       | A 5146               | AZ02C6     |                        |                      | \$2,393.10           | \$6.51                 | \$2,399.61            | \$13.81       |
| NY-01-0976-0021 | GENERAL A TOWN HALL BUILDINGS           | A 6506               | AZ01C1     |                        |                      | \$4,385.36           | \$12.04                | \$4,397.40            | \$25.40       |
| NY-01-0976-0022 | GENERAL A YOUTH SPORTS & GROUNDS        | A 6506               | AZ01C2     |                        |                      | \$26,221.09          | \$71.81                | \$26,292.90           | \$151.77      |
| NY-01-0976-0023 | GENERAL A VETERANS MEM PARK & DONATIONS | A 6506               | AZ01C3     |                        |                      | \$242.68             | \$0.60                 | \$243.28              | \$1.28        |
| NY-01-0976-0025 | HIGHWAY TOWN-WIDE DA                    | DA 3853              | DA201C     |                        | \$24,000.00          | \$314,772.11         | \$817.22               | \$291,589.33          | \$1,834.30    |
| NY-01-0976-0026 | HIGHWAY FUTURE VEHICLE PURCHASE         | DA 3853              | DA201C1    |                        |                      | \$6,370.06           | \$17.41                | \$6,387.47            | \$36.83       |
| NY-01-0976-0027 | HIGHWAY FUTURE MACH/EQUIP PURCHASE      | DA 3853              | DA201C2    |                        |                      | \$123,101.15         | \$337.18               | \$123,438.33          | \$712.53      |
| NY-01-0976-0028 | HIGHWAY DB - FUTURE PAVING PROJECT      | DB 4035              | DB201C2    |                        |                      | \$0.00               |                        | \$0.00                | \$0.00        |
| NY-01-0976-0029 | FIRE PROTECTION - SARANAC LAKE          | FS 3802              | FS201C     |                        |                      | \$10,181.95          | \$27.89                | \$10,209.84           | \$58.93       |
| NY-01-0976-0030 | FIRE PROTECTION - NORTH ELBA            | FN 3802              | FN201C     |                        |                      | \$0.15               |                        | \$0.15                | \$0.00        |
| NY-01-0976-0031 | TOWN OF St Armand Sewer Fund Comm Bank  | SS 4681              | SS201C1    |                        |                      | \$18,706.99          | \$51.24                | \$18,758.23           | \$128.00      |
| NY-01-0976-0032 | TOWN OF St Armand DA Comm Bank Savings  | DA 4495              | DA201C3    |                        |                      | \$12,212.41          | \$33.43                | \$12,245.84           | \$70.67       |
| NY-01-0976-0033 | GENERAL A ROOST                         | A 6506               | AZ02C7     | \$62,751.75            |                      | \$33,529.13          | \$232.93               | \$96,513.81           | \$335.17      |
| TOTALS:         |                                         |                      |            | \$62,751.75            | \$41,300.00          | \$1,266,339.83       | \$3,525.78             | \$1,291,317.36        | \$7,519.15    |

## TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT

TOWN OF St. Armand, NEW YORK  
TO THE SUPERVISOR:

DATE: February 28, 20 26

Pursuant to Section 27, Subd. 1, of the Town Law, I hereby make the following statement of all fees and moneys received by me in connection with my office, during the month above stated, excepting only such fees and moneys in application and payment of which are otherwise provided for by law:

|                                      |            |    |  |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----|--|
| Conservation Licenses - DECALS       | Commission | \$ |  |
| Marriage Licenses No. _____ to _____ | @          |    |  |
| Marriage Certificates                | @          |    |  |
| Marriage Transcripts                 | @          |    |  |
| Registrar Fees                       | @          |    |  |
| Migratory Bird Stamps                | @          |    |  |

|               |                                                                      |    |              |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------|
| A 1255        | TOTAL TOWN CLERK FEES                                                | \$ |              |
| A 1010 - 1090 | REAL PROPERTY TAXES \$ _____ INTEREST and PENALTIES \$ _____         |    |              |
| A 2001        | PARK and RECREATION CHARGES                                          |    |              |
| A 2110        | ZONING FEES \$ _____ A 2115 PLANNING FEES \$ _____                   |    |              |
| A 2530        | GAMES OF CHANCE TOWN SHARE ..... LICENSE \$ _____ FEE \$ _____ TOTAL |    |              |
| A 2540        | BINGO TOWN SHARE ..... LICENSE \$ _____ FEE \$ _____ TOTAL           |    |              |
| A 2544        | DOG LICENSE - SPAYED AND NEUTERED <u>2 FS 4 MN</u> <u>BA</u>         |    | <u>42.00</u> |
|               | DOG LICENSE - UNSPAYED AND UNNEUTERED                                |    |              |
|               | PUREBRED LICENSE                                                     |    |              |
| A 2545        | OTHER LICENSES                                                       |    |              |
| A 2555        | BUILDING PERMITS                                                     |    |              |
| A 2590        | OTHER PERMITS                                                        |    |              |
| A 2655        | MINOR SALES                                                          |    |              |
| A 2770        | OTHER UNCLASSIFIED REVENUES                                          |    |              |

TOTAL TOWN REVENUES TO SUPERVISOR..... \$ 42.00

Amount paid to NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER for Games of Chance Licenses  
Amount paid to NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER for State Share of Bingo Licenses  
Amount paid to NEW YORK STATE D.E.C. for Conservation Licenses - DECALS  
Amount paid to COUNTY TREASURER for Dog Licenses  
Amount paid to NEW YORK STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT for Marriage Licenses  
Amount paid to NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURE & MARKETS for Unspayed / Unneutered Dogs  
Amount paid to NEW YORK STATE for Sales Tax on Sale of Dogs

\*Received Payment of these amounts:

TOTAL DISBURSED..... \$ 42.00

March 9 20 26

Don H Supervisor

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF Essex, TOWN OF St. Armand

, being duly sworn, says that I am the Clerk  
of the Town of  
that the foregoing is a full and true statement  
of all Fees and Moneys received by me during the month above stated, excepting only such Fees the application and payment of which are otherwise provided for  
by law.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20

Patricia J. Danah Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ Notary Public



# Adirondack Daily Enterprise

## **How a more flexible grid could save New York billions**

Julia Calderon's power used to go out regularly. She lives in a rural part of Orange County, New York, near the New Jersey border, and remembers once having to bury an ice cream cake in the snow to keep it from melting on her daughter's birthday. "Somehow it worked okay. ... We're so used to it," she said of the outages.

But when a major winter storm hit last month, she wasn't worried. She hasn't lost power for more than a few seconds at a time since getting a battery installed in her garage a few years ago. The battery doesn't just help keep her lights on; it helps keep her neighbors' on, too, and reduce strain on the whole electric grid.

That's because Calderon's battery is connected to hundreds of others in a network known as a "virtual power plant" that allows her utility to redistribute her unused energy.

Scaled up, such a network could transform New York's grid. Tapping into the collective power of millions of smart devices in homes and businesses to balance electricity needs, experts say, would make the grid more reliable, help phase out polluting power plants, and save billions each year on energy bills.

Calderon got her battery for free through a pilot program run by the utility company Orange & Rockland and the solar company Sunrun. The 350 households participating can deliver close to 50 megawatts of power to the grid at peak times — about enough to supply Calderon's entire small town of Warwick for a couple of hours. And they're saving money: Calderon's electric bill drops as low as \$40 some months, she said, and she spends less on energy overall even with the \$70 a month she pays to lease her solar panels.

The concept of virtual power plants is gaining traction among energy experts, who say such programs could be instrumental in coming years as the state grapples with rising energy demand and soaring energy bills.

New York was early to embrace the idea, but efforts to implement it at scale have faltered. Governor Kathy Hochul ordered the state power authority to build three virtual power plants in 2022, but none have yet materialized. Analysts say utilities are unlikely to act without more regulatory pressure, and lawmakers say they've heard little from environmental groups about the approach.

This year, Hochul's executive budget proposal included \$33 million to subsidize households who register new smart thermostats, in what she's called a "clever" approach to lowering bills. Virtual power plant proponents say it's a start. But what would it take to bring the approach into the mainstream?

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How a 'flexible' grid works

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In a traditional electric grid, power flows essentially in one direction: from central power plants to homes and businesses. In a "flexible" grid, powered in part by virtual power plants, those homes and businesses take on a new role. Not only can they supply power back to the grid with rooftop solar and batteries, but their devices — smart thermostats and electric vehicles, for example — can communicate with each other and with grid operators to respond to the system's demands.

Under the traditional model, utilities have to keep an army of power plants, substations, and wires on standby at all times, in preparation for peak times like hot summer days. The costs of maintaining that system show up on every energy bill, even when customers are using less energy.

“It’s built for the hottest couple of days or hours of the year, but customers are paying for it all year long,” said Richard Kauffman, who served as the state’s energy czar from 2013 to 2019 and chaired the board of the energy authority NYSERDA until last year.

The more you use technology to spread out demand and adapt to the grid’s needs, the less utilities rely on costly infrastructure to meet the peak — and the less utility spending shows up on customers’ bills.

Some New Yorkers already have the kinds of devices needed for this approach. Others would need to install them, with costs ranging from about \$200 for thermostats to \$10,000 or more for home batteries. (Many utilities already offer incentives to help defray those costs.) Then, crucially, they would need to give their utility or a third-party provider some control over the devices. On a sweltering summer day when air conditioners are blasting, a utility might nudge participants’ thermostats up by a couple of degrees, but still allow them to override the controls.

In the Orange & Rockland program, participants allow the utility to call on their batteries when needed, but Calderon says she hasn’t noticed.

Christian Woods, who manages the pilot, said that participants always retain 20 percent of their battery life in case of emergencies.

According to a state-commissioned report by the Brattle Group consultancy last year, if hundreds of thousands of customers participated in such efforts, New Yorkers could save at least \$2.4 billion annually by 2040. And many of the savings could be achieved sooner.

Virtual power plants could also allay New York’s growing reliability concerns.

The New York Independent System Operator, the nonprofit that manages the state’s grid, has warned that New York may not have enough energy to

meet demand over the next decade, as large energy users like data centers come online and the state electrifies homes and transportation. New York City, it said, could face a gap as soon as next summer. Even last summer, NYISO had to activate emergency protocols during a worse-than-expected heat wave.

In response (and to some controversy), NYISO recommended the state delay the retirement of multiple fossil fuel plants, including high-polluting peaker plants in New York City, and strongly consider the construction of new ones.

Some experts argue that virtual power plants offer a cheaper, cleaner way to close the gap. A 2023 Brattle analysis found that the networks can backstop the grid as reliably as an average-sized gas peaker plant, for about half the price.

What are the downsides?

Panayiotis Moutis, a professor of electrical engineering at the City College of New York, said that, in theory, virtual power plants “can be a perfect replacement” for dirty peakers. But coordinating enough devices to meet demand in a city like New York is no small feat.

Asking utilities with aging IT systems to adopt technologies that can remotely sense and control hundreds of thousands of devices in individual homes is “a very big leap,” he said.

Grid operators also worry about participants opting out at critical times. On average, one in five participants in National Grid’s smart thermostat program overrode the utility controls last year, Syracuse.com reported.

Some consumer advocates, meanwhile, warn that grid flexibility programs need strong privacy protections. “No customer should be required to trade control over their personal data in exchange for modest utility bill relief,” wrote the Public Utility Law Project of New York in recent comments about the governor’s smart thermostat proposal.

Some of the companies working with utilities to scale up the model have mixed track records.

Calderon said she faced issues with Sunrun. Her roof sprung a leak not long after she had solar panels installed, for example, and she had to pony up more than \$2,000 to get it fixed, while waiting months for the company's customer service to get back to her.

Chris Rauscher, the company's head of grid services, said that, "as the industry leader, Sunrun is always trying to better our practices as well as bring the entire industry along and create uniform codes of conduct to ensure that that type of thing doesn't happen." (Sunrun is the largest us installer of home solar and battery systems.)

—

New York's track record

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New York's shift toward a more flexible grid has come in fits and starts over the years.

In 2014, then-Governor Andrew Cuomo made it a centerpiece of his energy agenda, in an initiative known as "Reforming the Energy Vision," or rev. That effort plods on today, with offshoots like the Orange County battery program, but has largely failed to bring about the kind of energy revolution it promised.

In 2022, Hochul directed the New York Power Authority to create at least three virtual power plants by the end of that year. It has yet to complete a single one. (Spokesperson Susan Craig said NYPA is still working on one on Long Island; it issued a detailed project report late last year and is working with the local utility to assess next steps.) In 2024, Hochul launched her own effort at wider reforms — a regulatory proceeding aimed at creating a "Grid of the Future" by bringing flexible technologies into the mainstream. Its core mandate is to issue more recommendations, and it is currently running six months behind.

This year marks the first time Hochul is putting state budget funds toward the approach. She wants to pay households \$300 over the course of a year for registering a new smart thermostat with their utilities. Her administration hopes that will lead about 100,000 households to sign up, roughly doubling enrollment in existing utility programs.

Hochul's proposal would open up about 100 megawatts of capacity on the grid, or the equivalent of a small power plant. That's a small fraction of the potential. Last year's Brattle Group report found that fully harnessing grid flexibility could unlock some 8.5 gigawatts by 2040 — equivalent to one-fifth of peak electric demand.

Other states and countries have vaulted ahead with the idea. In Vermont, the utility Green Mountain Power leases home batteries to residents that it can draw on when the grid is strained, as it did during a heat wave last summer. The 5,000-home network serves as the utility's largest backup resource for moments of peak demand.

Across the country, major corporate utilities and rural electric cooperatives alike are adopting similar models. California assembled more than 700 megawatts' worth of home batteries in less than three years. In a test last summer, the network matched the output of a large traditional power plant at peak evening hours. (Funding issues last year left the California program in limbo.) At a renewable energy conference last fall, Joe Silver, a product manager at the battery storage company NineDot Energy, said it was time "to stop treating existing and proven technology like it is science fiction."

"Our grid of the future," he said of New York, "is increasingly looking like the grid of today in other states."

What's the holdup?

For many clean energy advocates, the fundamental obstacle to a more flexible grid lies in the utility business model. Utilities make their money by building infrastructure and earning a state-approved return on the investments. That gives them very little incentive to pursue software-driven solutions that could reduce the need for grid upgrades, said Jen

Downing, a former top official at the us Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office.

Kauffman, the former state energy czar, said the core mission of New York's rev proceeding was to change that. It introduced new ways for utilities to be rewarded for performance, but didn't fundamentally change the equation, he said: "Utilities, I don't believe, have embraced this as an opportunity."

Jigar Shah, a clean energy entrepreneur who led the federal Loan Programs Office from 2021 to 2025, said the status quo has prevailed because state agencies have passed the buck on the issue.

"There's no architect for change in New York state," he said. Breaking the impasse would likely require new legislation, he said, along the lines of bills recently passed in Virginia, Illinois, and Colorado.

Asked about the state's halting progress, Hochul administration officials highlighted tens of millions of dollars spent on a variety of smart grid initiatives in recent years. Public Service Commission spokesperson James Denn acknowledged that New York trails California in aggregating home batteries, but said a "Bring Your Own Battery" initiative launched in April has shown promise.

"A lot of these investments take time to come to fruition, and the regulatory world is very long-lived," Public Service Commission Chair Rory Christian told New York Focus in January.

"We want to make sure that the investments we make are going to be sustainable."

He cited a recent commission order to Con Edison directing the utility "to find everything under the kitchen sink" to meet New York City's projected power shortages without increasing pollution as the next step in accelerating the state's longstanding efforts toward a more flexible grid.

State lawmakers contacted by New York Focus said the approach has not been on their agendas. Senate energy committee chair Kevin Parker said he

was eager to explore demand-side efforts but that his colleagues were largely unfamiliar with them.

Senator Kristen Gonzalez, who chairs the chamber's tech committee, likewise said she hasn't heard much from advocates about the approach.

Hochul's smart thermostat proposal, and wider concerns about energy affordability, could push the conversation further into the mainstream this year.

Woods, who runs the Orange & Rockland pilot, said he was keen to see such efforts get more funding. He said the utility's executives "love our program" and disputed that the industry has been holding things up.

"Even if you wrote me a blank check," he said, "the hardest thing about virtual power plants [is that] we can't make the customer do anything."

Calderon, in Warwick, doesn't know why so many of her neighbors were reluctant to join the battery program. Despite the hiccups installing her system, she said, the added reliability and lower monthly bills have brought her more peace of mind.

"I think it's well worth it," she said.

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This story originally appeared in New York Focus, a non-profit news publication investigating how power works in New York state. Sign up for their newsletter at <https://tinyurl.com/368trn9p>.

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