

Ruth Groff – Monthly Board Report February 2026

My job continues to envelop all aspects of town business, with a plethora of topics including taxpayer questions, day-to-day administration, meetings with external organizations and internal committees, personnel issues, and coordinating the Town Board meeting agenda with the Town Clerks.

As I temporarily oversee the Planning Department, I rely on the professional input from MRB Group and current staff. We recently hired Nathaniel Rogers to fill the position of Planner, and I am receiving positive feedback from both the MRB Group and our current staff. Coming to us from Cayuga County Planning, he has hit the ground running. I recently assigned Nathaniel the task of locating the last town center plan that was developed many years ago. With his background, my hopes are that he can help me get the Town Board involved in breathing some new life into discussions about what to do with those plans and what to do with the many acres of land that the town owns.

I continue to act as the grant administrator for the Zoning Update grant from the New York Department of State.

I have been a member of the negotiating team for the Yellow Barn Solar (YBS) project, with guidance from Matt Eldred at the law firm of Harter, Secrest, & Emery. Matt has a state-wide reputation of being one of the best attorneys specializing in energy. Together with Joseph Wetmore and the team from Groton, we are in the final stretch of the process with YBS and the New York State Office of Renewable Energy Sitings (ORES).

EXTERNAL COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS:

Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG): January 22, 3pm

Darby Kylie, representing the Tompkins County Water Resource Council (TCWRC), gave a presentation about Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of phosphorous in Cayuga Lake. The slides that were presented identified the sources of phosphorous loading as well as the required reductions via land use. TCWRC has asked for recommendations for the type of training that would be most effective, and to what audience.

There had been four committees within TCCOG, but it was recommended that three of them are no longer viable or needed, and two additional working groups were formed.

A resolution was put forth regarding structure and administration of TCCOG. That resolution received several amendments during the meeting, and the amended resolution passed unanimously.

Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission (Bolton Point):

- **Personnel and Organization Committee:** January 28, 1pm
The committee approved the December minutes, then heard reports from the Shop Steward, Production Manager, Distribution Manager, Finance Manager, Human Resources Manager, and General Manager. The Shop Steward had nothing new to report. The Production and Distribution Managers shared lists of trainings that their staff attended. The General Manager told of events that he and his staff participated in, as well as upcoming events with BOCES, TC3, and professional events that BP attends or participates in. Human Resources explained plans for

the coming year, and the Finance Manager shared the roll out of new rates for the municipalities, preparations for the annual audit, and highlighted plans for the year.

- **Budget and Finance Committee:** February 5, 3:45pm
The financials continue to stay in line with prior years and with budget, and there were no questions about the vouchers. The Audit Engagement letter was signed.
- **Commissioners' Meeting:** February 5, 4:00pm
The Commissioners approved the January minutes, then heard reports from the Production Manager, Distribution Manager, Finance Manager, Human Resources Manager, and General Manager. The Production and Distribution Managers shared lists of trainings that their staff attended. The General Manager told of events that he and or his staff participated in, as well as upcoming events with BOCES, TC3, and professional events that BP attends or participates in.

Town Supervisors: February 9, 10am

The meetings are generally without an agenda but rather are a forum for Town Supervisors within Tompkins County to meet and discuss issues that are faced by Supervisors, sort of a lessons-learned session to share with each other so we can be more efficient in our jobs. The new Supervisor for the Town of Groton, Crystal Young, was introduced to the group.

Group of Six: February 12, 10am

This group is comprised of the Supervisors and Mayors from the six municipalities that utilize and have an agreement with the Ithaca Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Ithaca Tompkins County Transportation Council – Policy Committee: February 17, 1pm

INTERNAL COMMITTEES AND/OR MEETINGS:

January 2 – Had lunch with Ray Burger, Planning Director for Town of Dryden, and Nathaniel Rogers, Planner for Town of Lansing, to introduce the two of them and to talk about best practices for a planning department.

January 3 – Met with representatives from the Village of Cayuga Heights and the Village of Lansing to discuss the Town of Lansing's suggested edits to the intermunicipal sewer agreement. Some sections were agreed upon right away, but some will require a little research and data analysis by the Town Engineer.

February 4:

8am – Personnel Management Committee

10am – Meet and greet for the Collier's consultants and Nathaniel Rogers, who has agreed to be the Chair of the Zoning Advisory Committee.

11am – Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Committee: Brought Mike Moseley up to date on the outcome of the meeting with the villages, and reviewed an update on the Brickyard Road/Buck Road water main replacement.

3:30pm – met with Dean Shea to come up with questions for the Planning Board alternate interviews

February 5 – Attended the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Committee meeting, where they elected a chair and vice-chair.

February 6 – Monthly check in meeting with NYS Department of State (DOS) and consultants from Collier's to review compliance with grant requirements. The Collier's team shared their draft community participation plan with Allison, our representative from the DOS. They have scheduled the public participation for March 10 at Town Hall.

February 9 – I performed the mandatory annual Justice Court Audit.

February 10 – I participated in the interviews of candidates for Planning Board Alternate Members.

February 19 – Monthly review of Department of Public Works (DPW) project with the construction manager.