

**Minutes for a Ticonderoga 2026 Budget Workshop with Any Other Lawful Business
commencing at 8:00 a.m. on August 21, 2025.**

Present: Mark A. Wright, Supervisor
Dave Woods, Councilman
Joyce Cooper, Councilwoman
Tom Thatcher, Councilman
Heath Towne, Councilman
Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk

Others: Becky Norton and Amy Beeman from the Finance Department

Workshop #1: 08/21/2025 0800-1100
Workshop #2: 08/27/2025 0800-1100
Workshop #3: 09/04/2025 1300-1500
Workshop #4: 09/09/2025 0800-1100
Workshop #5: 09/12/2025 0800-1100
Workshop #6: 09/18/2025 1300-1500
Workshop #7: 10/16/2025 1300-1500
Workshop #8: 10/24/2025 0800-1000

Budget Workshop #1

Resolution #347-2025 brought by Tom Thatcher, seconded by Dave Woods to award the 102 Race Track Road Rehabilitation/Police Department Improvement Project to Gallo Construction Corp. in the bid amount of \$339,500. **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Joyce Cooper – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Heath Towne – Aye. **Opposed** – none. **Carried.**

Resolution #348-2025 brought by Dave Woods, seconded by Tom Thatcher to sign a contract between the Town of Ticonderoga and Gallo Construction Corp. for the 102 Race Track Road Rehabilitation/Police Department Improvement Project pending review by the Town Attorney and to issue a notice to proceed. **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Joyce Cooper – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Heath Towne – Aye. **Opposed** – none. **Carried.**

Resolution #349-2025 brought by Mark Wright, seconded by Tom Thatcher authorizing the Supervisor to execute NYS DOT Sponsor Application for Payment (FIN 190-1) certificate No. 3 for reimbursement (\$532.38) on the Airport Apron Expansion Project (Design). **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Joyce Cooper – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Heath Towne – Aye. **Opposed** – none. **Carried.**

Resolution #350-2025 brought by Heath Towne, seconded by Tom Thatcher authorizing the Supervisor to execute an agreement with the Essex County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) and execute a payment in the amount of \$50,000 of occupancy tax funding to the ECIDA for distribution to approved applicants of the Ticonderoga Microgrant Enterprise (TiME) program. **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Joyce Cooper – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Heath Towne – Aye. **Opposed** – none. **Carried.**

Resolution #351-2025 brought by Tom Thatcher, seconded by Joyce Cooper to publish the Notice of completion of the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Financial Report. **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Joyce Cooper – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Heath Towne – Aye. **Opposed** – none. **Carried.**

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Resolution #352-2025 brought by Joyce Cooper, seconded by Dave Woods to establish a rule on the Alcohol Permit that established businesses in the Town will be exempt from paying the permit fee and returning the \$50.00 fee paid by the Knights Banquet Hall for their Fallfest Alcohol Permit. **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Joyce Cooper – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Heath Towne – Aye. **Opposed** – none. **Carried.**

DISCUSSION: Arrow Bank request. Discussion held – Zoning Officer Dave Burrows will be asked to follow up with the bank.

General Comments

This is a first look – still waiting on critical data.

Fund balance uses for 2026 and beyond while awaiting reimbursement.

Expect DRI expenditures soon.

Expect Airport apron expansion costs.

HR Consultant job evaluation study.

Interviews completed 8/13.

No unexpected issues noticed during interviews.

Report is in work using an algorithm and point system (defendable).

Assume we will again pass a local law to exceed the tax cap.

Rescind if our adopted budget does not require.

Budget Requests

Requests sent to Departments 7/30. Due 8/18.

Requests sent to partner organizations 7/18. Due 8/18.

Challenges with 2026 budget.

Reale Settlement

Must budget in the sewer fund for a 10-year debt payment schedule.

New labor relations contracts for 2026-2028

Plan to hold all costs/benefits at current level (salary 3%).

LR consultant (Honeywell) brief to Board 9/11 @ 4pm before board meeting.

Insurance increases – final numbers unknown.

Gold 6: 14.55%; Gold 17: 15.9%

Expect final rate approval in September

County EMS Stabilization Program

Ti EMS has 6 partially county funded positions.

County is reorganizing that program which includes eliminating those county positions.

Town will receive max \$100K county funding under the stabilization plan.

Met w/County EMS reps 8/1.

Met w/County Manager 8/11.

Ticonderoga will have a waiver for 1 year...funding will continue during that period.

District contractor is responsible for providing an acceptable budget to the Town.

EMS bill before Governor.

If passed, removes expenditures for emergency medical services from the limit on real property tax levies by local governments.

This means those costs are not accounted for in tax cap.

Assumed no change and construct budget as was done for 2025.

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Wages/Stipends/etc.

Propose no salary freezes for 2025.

Min. wage increases from \$15.50 to NYS mandated 2026 level of \$16.00.

Elected and non-union staff: +2% or +3%.

HR consultant recommendations may affect and reset baselines.

CSEA and PD wage increases approved through contract are TBD.

Stipends: maintain at current values. Raised in 2023/24.

Should be adequate for a few years.

Not a heavy lift considering duties involved.

Town Historian salary - \$1820 – HOLD at 2025 level.

Cemetery Sexton salary - \$7772 - HOLD at 2025 level.

Lifeguard salary is competitive. Still difficulty in getting applicants.

Vacation buyback - examine.

Holiday pay - examine.

Code Enforcement Budget A3620. [Codes will appear at a later date]

They requested additional software package for 2026.

Codes must brief the Board to justify.

Town Board Budget A1010.

Supervisor Budget A1220.

Municipal Court Budget A1100 - 1st Look. [Court will appear at a later date]

Desk audit conducted by County. This does not drive the salary, only job title.

Court asking for a part time clerk at same rate as police clerk.

Court asking “levilization salary” of \$11,569 for clerk (making salary \$62,280 in ’26)

Nearly identical to Town Clerk, Code Enforcement, Senior Finance Clerk

Overtime remains a concern. Total hours for 2025 to date vs. budgeted?

Must decide what we are doing for court security.

Currently budgeted as PT for number of hours (assumes police officer).

A Capital Reserves.

Should build up senior bus reserve. Possible replacement in ’26 or ’27.

\$10K has gone into fund each year.

Current amount?

Consider new capital reserve for Kissing Bridge (needs work).

Finance Budget A1310/A1370.

Animal Control

Dog Control Budget A3510.

Community Beautification A8510.

Parks & Recs.

Historian.

Retirees.

Mitch Cole added to 2026 budget.

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Miscellaneous

Do we create a PT ice rink position?

Other?

Workshop closed at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk