

TOWN OF CAMBRIA TOWN BOARD

November 6, 2025

The regular meeting of the Town of Cambria Town Board was held at 7:00 pm on the 6th day of November 2025 at Cambria Town Hall, 4160 Upper Mountain Road, Sanborn, New York.

BOARD MEMBERS' PRESENT:

Matthew Foe, Supervisor
Louise Brachmann, Councilwoman
Jeffrey S. Hurtgam, Councilman
Benjamin D. Musall, Councilman
Randy M. Roberts, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT:

Tamara J. Cooper, Town Clerk
Abe Platt, Attorney
Steve Kroening, Highway Superintendent
Approx. 16 interested individuals

Following salute to the flag Supervisor Foe gave a brief statement. He thanked all those who came out to vote. Now that the results are in, everyone must work together. The Town must move forward in a positive, cost-effective and transparent manner to make things work for the community.

The following public hearing notice was read by the Town Clerk:

Town of Cambria

Notice of Public Hearing

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of Cambria will conduct public hearings on the matters referred to herein at the Town Hall, 4160 Upper Mountain Road, Town of Cambria, NY on the 6th day of November 2025 at 7:00 PM. Said public hearings shall be as follows:

1. Any objections to the 2025 Assessment Roll for the following Districts:

Amount to be Raised by Taxes:

Cambria Water District.....	\$634,443.00
Cambria Fire District.....	\$634,658.00
Cambria Refuse & Garbage District.....	\$505,873.00
Cambria Sewer District No. 1.....	\$377,222.00
Cambria Drainage District	\$ 47,748.00

All persons interested shall be heard at the public hearing to be held by the Town Board as aforesaid relative to assessments and amounts to be raised in said districts.

2. Fire Contracts: The Town Board of the Town of Cambria will consider allocations as follows and authorization to enter into contracts with fire companies protecting areas of said Town for fire protection. The fire companies and amounts to be allocated for the year 2026 are as follows:

Cambria Volunteer Fire Company	\$266,870.00
Cambria Volunteer Fire Company Ambulance Service	\$ 62,671.00
Pekin Fire Company	\$232,973.00
Pekin EMS Contract	\$ 44,224.00
Sanborn Fire Company	\$ 20,401.00

With an additional allocation of \$35,000.00 for the Service Award Program.

3. The Town Board will conduct a public hearing on the 2026 Preliminary Budget. A copy of the 2026 Preliminary budget is available at the office of the Town Clerk, 4160 Upper Mountain Road, Town of Cambria, NY, where it may be inspected by any interested person during regular office hours. The proposed salaries of the elected officials are hereby specified:

Supervisor	\$35,000.00	
Councilman	\$9,171.00	each
Justice	\$26,000.00	each
Town Clerk	\$67,288.00	
Tax Collector	\$8,320.00	
Highway Superintendent	\$78,000.00	

Further Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 495, the Exemption Report that shows total assessed values on the final assessment roll that was used in the budgetary process that is exempt from taxation is on file with the 2026 Preliminary Budget.

All parties in interest and citizens will be heard at the public hearings to be held as aforesaid.

Supervisor Foe indicated that the Town's budget is 7.6 million. That is up about \$322,000.00 from last years budget. The Town Board make significant cuts by about \$140,000.00 to \$160,000.00 from what the Preliminary Budget was. The Town is on track with past budgets. This year includes 3 additions that weren't anticipated to the health care along with an 18% increase. Supervisor Foe indicated that his proposed salary is \$35,000.00. He understands that it is a jump. Mr. MacSwan never took an increase and Mr. Ellis was always less than 2%. Last year Mr. MacSwan chose to have his deputy pay increase to \$15,000.00 in order to be here 3 days a week. That is no longer the case.

7:10 pm

Supervisor Foe opened the Public Hearing.

The following people spoke during the public hearing:

Mary Brenzel-Thrall Rd.

Duncan Ross-Townline Rd.

Charlotte Patterson-Townline Rd.

Gina Merlo-Green Rd.

Mike Zanutto-Plank Rd.

There were brief discussions regarding the cost of living and the increases across-the-board for employees. This ranged anywhere from 4% to 1200%. The 1,200% was explained as a previous highway employee was previously paid a stipend to take care of the park and since retired is now receiving a salary for Park Director. It was questioned whether the park takes in enough money to justify this increase. Discussion regarding park activities, a suggestion for the Town to send out a survey to ascertain what residents would want at the park, walking paths and dog friendliness of the park were also discussed. As far as other salary increases, one position was eliminated, and some positions have an added workload. There was a brief discussion regarding compensation for an increase in one area and a reduction in another. This will be contemplated in the future. Duties of Deputy Supervisor and Town Board members were also discussed.

7:45 pm

Supervisor Foe closed the Public Hearing.

Supervisor Foe called the regular meeting to order and the Town Board members took action on the following matters:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Hurtgam and seconded by Councilman Musall it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Town Board meetings of October 6; October 9; October 14 and October 16, 2025.

Ayes: Foe, Brachmann, Hurtgam, Musall, Roberts -Motion Carried-

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Having been reviewed by the Town Board, the following claims were presented for payment:

November 6, 2025

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Cemetery	\$ 19.59
Drainage	\$ 13,443.84
Fire	\$ 716.00
General	\$ 147,879.37
Highway	\$ 51,170.26
Refuse	\$ 39,843.14
Sewer	\$ 763.71
Water Operating	\$ 4,768.28

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Roberts and seconded by Councilman Hurtgam it was resolved to approve the abstract of audited vouchers dated November 6, 2025, be approved as read by the Town Clerk.

Ayes: Foe, Brachmann, Hurtgam, Musall, Roberts -Motion Carried-

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS 2026 BUDGET

APPROVAL OF 2025 ASSESSMENT ROLL/SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Roberts and seconded by Councilwoman Brachmann it was resolved to approve the 2025 Assessment Roll and the amounts to be raised by taxes for the Special Districts as set forth in the notice of public hearing.

The question of the resolution was put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows:

MATTHEW P. FOE voting AYE
LOUISE BRACHMANN voting AYE
JEFFREY S. HURTGAM voting AYE
BENJAMIN MUSALL voting AYE
RANDY ROBERTS voting AYE

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

APPROVAL OF FIRE PROTECTION/AMBULANCE SERVICE CONTRACTS

Upon a motion duly made by Councilwoman Brachmann and seconded by Councilman Hurtgam it was resolved to approve the Fire and Ambulance contracts and allocation of funds for the Service Award Program as set forth in the Notice of Public Hearing.

The question of the resolution was put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows:

**MATTHEW P. FOE voting AYE
LOUISE BRACHMANN voting AYE
JEFFREY S. HURTGAM voting AYE
BENJAMIN MUSALL voting AYE
RANDY ROBERTS voting AYE**

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

2026 BUDGET

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Hurtgam and seconded by Councilman Musall, it was resolved to adopt the 2026 Preliminary Budget with total appropriations of \$7,601,109.00.

The question of the adoption of the forgoing Resolution was put to a roll call vote, which resulted as follows:

**MATTHEW P. FOE voting AYE
LOUISE BRACHMANN voting AYE
JEFFREY S. HURTGAM voting AYE
BENJAMIN MUSALL voting AYE
RANDY ROBERTS voting AYE**

The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

(A copy of the 2026 Adopted Budget is included and made a part of these Minutes).

REVISED: UNPAID WATER, SEWER, REFUSE CHARGES FOR TAX LEVY

The Town Board was provided with a revised listing of the unpaid Water/Sewer/Refuse/Town charges to be placed as a lien upon the real property for which services were provided. A copy of the listing is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Hurtgam and seconded by Councilman Roberts, it was resolved to place a lien on the Real Property for which services were provided in the amounts of: Unpaid Water: \$12,170.49; Unpaid Sewer: \$1,874.40; Unpaid Refuse: \$964.70; Water Late Fee: \$20,700.00. Town Charges: \$787.50 for a grand total of \$36,497.09.

The question of the resolution was put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows:

**MATTHEW P. FOE voting AYE
LOUISE BRACHMANN voting AYE
JEFFREY S. HURTGAM voting AYE
BENJAMIN MUSALL voting AYE
RANDY ROBERTS voting AYE**

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

REPORTS

SUPERVISOR

Supervisor Foe reported as follows:

Bear Ridge Solar- There was a preliminary discussion about where the Town is going and what the opportunities are for community solar, community benefits and/or for PILOT. The Town has been informed by Niagara County that they will not accept a PILOT less than \$4,000.00. What this does is puts Cambria at the bottom of the totem pole. Schools get the most, then the County and the Town gets what is left over. If it comes to fruition the Town will receive significantly less than \$100,000.00 a year for this project. The negotiation process is beginning.

Supervisor Foe reported that the Town has one Bond Anticipation Notice (BAN) in the amount of \$107,000.00 that will be paid off and then the Town will be debt free. In addition to this, the Town last year had to take out of General Reserve approximately \$800,000.00 this is down to approximately \$400,00.00 this year. The Town is under the tax cap by around \$60,000.00.

TOWN CLERK REPORTS

Tamara J. Cooper, Town Clerk, reported as follows:

- Town Clerk Report October: Total Receipts: \$ 20,861.47
- Building Inspector Report October: Total fees collected: \$ 4,232.40
- Estimated value of construction: \$ 676,857.00
- In receipt of an addendum to a prior ethics complaint and a rezoning application-both have been given to the Town Board for their review.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Steven Kroening, Highway Superintendent reported as follows:

HIGHWAY:

- Finishing mowing roadsides.
- Brush pick up ended.
- Still off-road ditching (Pascoe Park).
- Gearing up for winter season.

CEMETERY

- Cemetery water lines are drained and winterized.

WATER

- Changing out meters.
- Picking up irrigation meters.

SEWER

No report.

BLDGS & GROUNDS

No report.

PROCUREMENT PURCHASES

HIGHWAY 2025-17 5110.04 \$4,007.73

Road Striping- Plank Rd. and Blackman Rd.

Accent Stripe Inc. 3275 N. Benzing Rd. Orchard Park 14127

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Musall and seconded by Councilwoman Brachmann, it was resolved to accept the proposal from Accent Stripe, Orchard Park, NY in the amount of \$4,007.73 for road striping for Plank Rd. and Blackman Rd. (Niagara County BID)

Ayes: Foe, Brachmann, Hurtgam, Musall, Roberts

-Motion Carried-

ATTORNEY

Attorney Platt indicated that he is looking forward to working with the new boards as they come online to help them establish their administrative governing plan and procedures. He is glad they are going to be getting off the ground because they will provide a valuable service.

TOWN BOARD COMMITTEES

Ethics Board

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Hurtgam and seconded by Councilman Musall, it was resolved to appoint Gina Merlo, Green Road 1-year term to expire 12/31/2026; Ruth Pattison, Church Road 2-year term to expire 12/31/2027; Linda Hardt, Ridge Road 3-year term to expire 12/31/2028.

Ayes: Foe, Brachmann, Hurtgam, Musall

-Motion Carried-

Stepped down from dais-did not vote: Roberts

Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Review Board

Upon a motion duly made by Councilwoman Brachmann and seconded by Councilman Roberts, it was resolved to appoint Roger Palmer, Subbera Road; Karl Brenzel, Thrall Road; Michael DiPasquale, Baer Road; Jason Wolski, N. Ridge Road; and Mike Zanutto, Plank Road. No Term.

Ayes: Foe, Brachmann, Hurtgam, Musall, Roberts

-Motion Carried-

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS

RECREATION:

Councilman Hurtgam reported as follows:

- Town Park committee met and would like to offer Veteran memorial flags (banners) to Town residents; past or present. Their cost will be \$400.00 per flag/banner, installation to start next year. Applications will be in the Town Clerk's office and on the website.
- Veterans Day program 11/11/2025 at 11:00 am. Light refreshments to follow.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:

Councilwoman Brachmann reported as follows:

- Not enough people for a quorum for the October meeting so it has been rescheduled to November 10 at 7:00 pm. The November meeting will be held the following Monday at 6:30 pm.

PLANNING BOARD:

Councilman Roberts reported as follows:

- The Planning Board had one applicant for a site plan approval on Lockport Junction Road for an office/warehouse and some rental units for business.

HIGHWAY/WATER:

Councilman Musall reported as follows:

- Three interviews for the highway mechanic position to be held in the morning.
- Salt barn is full, and the price hasn't gone up too much.

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

Upon recommendation from the Town Assessor a motion duly made by Councilwoman Brachmann and seconded by Councilman Hurtgam, it was resolved to re-appoint Joanne Wollaber, Lower Mountain Road to the Board of Assessment Review Board for a term to expire September 30, 2030.

Ayes: Foe, Brachmann, Hurtgam, Musall, Roberts

-Motion Carried-

PDD REFERRAL-5182 Ridge Road

WHEREAS, on October 23, 2025, the Town Board received an application for the establishment of a Planned Development District proposed to be located at the premises commonly known as 5182 Ridge Road, Lockport, New York 14094 (SBL# 79.00-2-19.12).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby refers to the aforementioned application for the establishment of a Planned Development District to the Town of Cambria Planning Board for initial consideration.

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Musall and seconded by Councilwoman Brachmann, it was resolved to approve the resolution to refer the application for 5182 Ridge Road for the establishment of a Planned Development District to the Town of Cambria Planning Board for initial consideration.

Ayes: Foe, Brachmann, Hurtgam, Musall, Roberts

-Motion Carried-

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Supervisor Foe indicated that the Board is in receipt of a resignation letter from Randy Roberts from the position of Deputy Supervisor effective immediately. The Board appreciates all the effort he has put forth in that position and

thanked him for his service.

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Hurtgam and seconded by Councilwoman Brachmann, it was resolved to accept with regret the resignation from Randy Roberts as Deputy Supervisor effective immediately.

Ayes: Foe, Brachmann, Hurtgam, Musall

-Motion Carried-

Supervisor Foe appointed Benjamin Musall, Lower Mountain Road as Deputy Supervisor effective after he takes the oath of office.

ATTORNEY PLATT

Attorney Platt suggested that the Town Board make a motion to defer the ethics complaint addendum to the Board of Ethics.

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Hurtgam and seconded by Councilwoman Brachmann, it was resolved to defer the ethics complaint addendum to the Board of Ethics.

Ayes: Foe, Brachmann, Hurtgam, Musall, Roberts

-Motion Carried-

CONCERNS OF THE CITIZENS

Dave Godfrey – Legislator reported on the following:

- There will be county committee meetings coming up that are open to the public.
- Preliminary Budget will be presented on December 2nd.

Mary Brenzel-Thrall Road

Ms. Brenzel brought up the fact that there has been a Board of Ethics in place for years contrary to what the Town Board indicated in the recent past.

Supervisor Foe indicated that the members of that board had not taken their oaths and therefore all seats were vacant.

Supervisor Foe invited anyone who has questions about the budget to make an appointment and come and see him or his Account Clerk and they will answer questions.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned by motion made by Councilman Hurtgam and seconded by Councilwoman Brachmann. Time: 8:10 pm.

Ayes: Foe, Brachmann, Hurtgam, Musall, Roberts

-Motion Carried-

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara J. Cooper, Town Clerk