

**TOWN OF BERNE
ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Giebelhaus called the Regular Town Board Meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call attendance was taken- present were Supervisor Giebelhaus, Councilmember Bunzey, Councilmember Duncan, Councilmember laCour, and Councilmember Miller, constituting a quorum. Also present were Town Clerk De Oliveira, Deputy Town Clerk Herrera, Highway Superintendent Stempel, and Town Attorney McHugh.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Bunzey seconded by Councilmember laCour to accept and approve the meeting minutes of the March 11, 2026 meeting minutes, Supervisor Giebelhaus and Councilmembers Bunzey, Duncan, laCour, and Miller all voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one signed up to speak

NEW BUSINESS / RESOLUTIONS

Introduce Local Law No. 1-2026 – “Changing Grievance Day”

Supervisor Giebelhaus introduced Local Law No. 1-2026 to change Grievance Day to June 2nd to accommodate scheduling conflicts. A motion was made by Supervisor Giebelhaus seconded by Councilmember Bunzey to schedule a Public Hearing for April 8, 2026 at 6:30 PM and for the Town Clerk to publish legal notice Supervisor Giebelhaus and Councilmembers Bunzey, Duncan, laCour, and Miller all voted aye.

The entirety of the draft law will be included at the end of these minutes.

Siewart Grinder Pump Proposals for Repairs & Replacements

Discussion was held regarding proposals received for the Siewart Grinder Pump. A motion was made by Supervisor Giebelhaus seconded by Councilmember Duncan, to accept the proposal from Siewart to repair quote # DH769362 in an amount of \$2,289.00 and to replace quote # DH472074 in an amount of \$4,139.00 and to encumber blanket PO under Contract No. 2026-05 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8000

Requisition No. 2026-90 from SS- 8110.4 CONTRACTUAL to Siewart Equipment of 10 Corporate Circle Abany NY 12203

Roll Call Vote:

- Supervisor Giebelhaus — Aye
- Councilmember Bunzey — Aye
- Councilmember Duncan — Aye
- Councilmember laCour — Aye
- Councilmember Miller — Aye

Resolution carried.

Bond Resolution: Letter of Engagement

Discussion was held regarding the Bond Resolution and Letter of Engagement from Chale and Rodenhausen for Bond Counsel in the pursuit of purchasing highway trucks, the same firm used previously to secure funds for the DEC Mandated Sewer Disinfection Project.

Supervisor Giebelhaus made a motion seconded by Councilmember Bunzey to approve the Town Supervisor to enter the letter of engagement for Bond Counsel for Highway Trucks with Chale and Rodenhausen on the proposal dated March 24, 2026

Roll Call Vote:

- Supervisor Giebelhaus — Aye
- Councilmember Bunzey — Aye
- Councilmember Duncan — Aye
- Councilmember laCour — Aye
- Councilmember Miller — Aye

Resolution carried.

Discussion Contract with BST Accounting Firm

Partner Brendan Kennedy and CPA Laura Grippin were present from BST to discuss the scope of services including that the success of the Town of Berne would also be the success of their firm. They were excited to be working together and helping to establish a clean slate. Discussion was held regarding entering into contract with BST Accounting Firm. Concerns on pricing came up and the Board was put at ease that entry level work would be delegated according to help keep things budget based.

Supervisor Giebelhaus made a motion seconded by Councilmember Bunzey to engage in services with BST for accounting services, Supervisor Giebelhaus, Councilmember Bunzey, Duncan, la Cour and Miller all voting aye.

Motion carried.

Kiwanis Parade Donation & Road Closures on Monday May 25, 2026

A motion was made by Supervisor Giebelhaus seconded by Councilmember Miller to approve a \$150 donation to the Kiwanis Parade in honor of Memorial Day and authorize the Town Clerk to request road closures associated with the Albany County Sheriff's Department,

Roll Call Vote:

- Supervisor Giebelhaus — Aye
- Councilmember Bunzey — Aye
- Councilmember Duncan — Aye
- Councilmember laCour — Aye
- Councilmember Miller — Aye

Resolution carried.

Board of Assessment Review Appointments

Supervisor Giebelhaus made a motion seconded by Councilmember Bunzey to appoint James Kaufman to the Board of Assessment Review for a 5-year term commencing on September 30, 2030 effective immediately to serve the Town of Berne for Grievance Day, Supervisor Giebelhaus and Councilmembers Bunzey, Duncan, laCour, and Miller all voted aye.

May 9th Town Park Fundraiser Fee

An email was submitted to the Town Board discussing a Fundraiser to be held on May 9th at the Berne Memorial Town Park for Blood Cancer by a resident, requesting the fee to be waived by the Town Board- Councilmember Duncan offered to personally donate the funds to support the event. Town Clerk De Oliveira would notify the resident and add to the Park's Schedule

Resolution No. 39

A motion was made by Supervisor Giebelhaus seconded by Councilmember Bunzey:

“A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO NEGOTIATE THE PURCHASE PRICE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1652 HELDERBERG TRAIL, BERNE, NY 12023 ALSO KNOWN AS MASONIC LODGE AND PROVIDING FOR A ROLL-CALL VOTE”

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Berne has identified a potential need for additional municipal space and/or community facilities; and

WHEREAS, The Town Board wishes to authorize preliminary negotiations to determine a fair and reasonable purchase price and terms for said property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Berne hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to enter into negotiations with the owner(s) of the property located at 1652 Helderberg Trail, Berne, New York, for the purpose of determining a potential purchase price and terms of acquisition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any proposed agreement for purchase shall be subject to approval by the Town Board, and where applicable, compliance with all legal requirements including permissive referendum, appraisal, and environmental review under SEQRA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to consult with legal counsel, real estate professionals, and other advisors as necessary to assist in such negotiations. Passed by the following vote of all the Town Council Members elected voting in favor

Roll Call Vote:

- Supervisor Giebelhaus — Aye
- Councilmember Bunzey — Aye
- Councilmember Duncan — Aye
- Councilmember laCour — Aye
- Councilmember Miller — Aye

Resolution carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Supervisor Giebelhaus, seconded by Councilmember Bunzey, to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin De Oliveira
Town Clerk, Town of Berne

TOWN OF BERNE
LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF THE YEAR 2026
A LOCAL LAW “CHANGING GRIEVANCE DAY”

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Berne as follows:

- §1. Legislative Authority; Supersession of State Law.**
- §2. Legislative Intent.**
- §3. Grievance Day Established.**
- §4. Inconsistency.**
- §5. Severability.**
- §6. Effective Date.**
- §7. Numerical/Lettering Designations.**

§1. Legislative Authority; Supersession of State Law.

This article is enacted pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law §512, which enables a Town to enact a local law to change grievance day from the fourth Tuesday of May. This article supercedes and is in place of the date for the hearing of complaints set forth in subsection 10 §512 of the Real Property Tax Law.

§2. Legislative Intent.

The Town of Berne in the County of Albany employs an assessor who is at the same time employed by another assessing unit. Pursuant to the authority granted by §512, Subdivision 1-a of Real Property Tax Law, the Town of Berne desires to establish a date for the meeting of the Board of Assessment Review other than that provided in Subdivision 1 of §512 of the Real Property Tax Law.

§3. Grievance Day Established.

The Town of Berne hereby adopts as and for its Grievance Day the first Tuesday in June and as many days thereafter as the Board of Assessment Review deems necessary when such Board shall meet to hear complaints in relation to assessments pursuant to §512 of the New York State Real Property Tax Law.

§4. Inconsistency.

All other laws and ordinances of the Town of Berne that are inconsistent with the provisions of this local law are hereby repealed; provided however, that such repeal shall

only be to the extent of such inconsistency and in all other respects this local law shall be in addition to such other local laws or ordinances regulating and governing the subject matter covered by this local law.

§5. Severability.

If any portion of this Local Law or the application thereof shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remaining portions of this Local Law.

§6. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall become effective immediately upon filing with the NYS Secretary of State in conformity with NYS Municipal Home Rule Law.

§7. Numerical/Lettering Designations.

The chapter designation and numerical/lettering designations of the sections and article(s) included in this local law shall be delegated to the discretion of General Code Publishers, which may renumber the chapter, sections and article(s) included in this local law as necessary to accommodate incorporation of this local law in the Code of the Town of Berne.