

**PUBLIC HEARING
LOCAL LAW 1 OF 2026
A LOCAL LAW ALLOWING THE INSERTION OF INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS
IN CERTAIN TAX BILLS MAILED BY THE TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN
TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN
26 GRANGE HALL ROAD,
STEPHENTOWN, NEW YORK 12168
JANUARY 19, 2026**

The Public Hearing of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown was called to order by **Council Diana Clark** at **7:05 PM** at the Town Hall. *Motion was made by: Kidney and Seconded by: DeFreest Jr to open the Public hearing*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

() **Supervisor Philip (PJ) Roder**

(X) **Council Diana Clark**

(X) **Council Kyle Kidney**

(X) **Council John E. DeFreest Jr.**

(X) **Council Tammy Madden**

(X) **Town Clerk Stephanie Hoffman**

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT:

(X) **Alden Goodermote, Highway Superintendent**

(X) **Jennifer VanDeusen, Assessor**

(X) **LEGAL COUNSEL – Craig Crist**

A quorum (X) was () wasn't established.

1 from the Public were present

- **PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED: A LOCAL LAW TO ALLOW THE INSERTION OF INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS IN CERTAIN TAX BILLS MAILED BY THE TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN**

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Reminders to All Participants who would like to speak: (this meeting is on Live Stream and is being recorded)

- *Raise your hand prior to speaking*
- *Announce your name and the Town you reside in.*
- *There is a 3-to-5-minute window for each speaker per Resolution 1 of the fiscal year*
- *Any disruptive conduct will be addressed at any meeting if the Town Board is willfully disrupted by a person or by a group of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of the meeting impossible. The Chair (Town Supervisor) may recess the meeting or order the person, group or groups of persons willfully disrupting the meeting to leave the meeting or to be removed from the meeting. Disruptive conduct includes addressing the Board without first being recognized, not addressing the subject before the Board, repetitiously addressing the same subject, failing to relinquish the podium when requested to do so, or otherwise preventing the Board from conducting its business.*

Legal Counsel Crist made it clear that any materials are strictly for town related business.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 7:07PM

MOTION BY: DEFREEST JR.

SECONDED BY: T. MADDEN

VOTES OF: 4 AYE 0 NAY

****The next Regular Meeting** of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown will be held on **Monday, February 16, 2026**, directly after the closing of the Public Hearings noted above, at the Town Hall located at 26 Grange Hall Road, Stephentown, NY 12168.

Stephanie M. Hoffman

Town Clerk

A LOCAL LAW TO ALLOW THE INSERTION OF INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS IN CERTAIN TAX BILLS MAILED BY
THE TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN
LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF THE YEAR 2026

Be It enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Stephentown as follows:

**A LOCAL LAW TO ALLOW THE INSERTION OF INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS IN CERTAIN TAX BILLS
MAILED BY THE TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN**

Section 1. **TITLE**

This Local Law shall be referred to as “A Local Law to allow the insertion of informational materials in certain tax bills mailed by the Town of Stephentown.”

Section 2. **PURPOSE AND INTENT**

The Town Board of the Town of Stephentown find that section 1826 of the Tax Law of the State of New York generally forbids a municipality from mailing or delivering with tax bills any notice, circular, pamphlet, card or other printed materials unless the insertion of such material is authorized by local law. However, in no case, by local or by practice may a municipality include with a tax bill material that is commercial advertising, political in nature or propaganda. The Town Board wishes to utilize the opportunity to reach the many residents of the Town by inserting notices in tax bills but also wants to do so in a manner that does not violate section 1826 of the Tax Law. Pursuant to the power granted to Towns to adopt local laws pursuant to Section 10(a)(xii) and Section 22 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, it is the intent of the Town Board to authorize the town to include appropriate notices in mailings with tax bills.

Section 3. **ENACTMENT**

The Town of Stephentown does hereby enact the following Local Law:

A. DEFINITIONS

INSERTION – A notice, circular, pamphlet, card, handbill or other enclosure concerning a matter of public concern but excluding any and all material that is political in nature, is propaganda, or is any type of commercial advertising.

TAX BILLS- An annual Tax Bill of the Town of Stephentown or any Special District thereof, or notification of a tax to be levied or assessed by the Town of Stephentown, or any Special District thereof or any receipt from the payment of any tax or levy, but excluding the tax school bill of any School District located partly or wholly within the Town of Stephentown.

B. Insertions shall be included with the tax bill of the Town of Stephentown only if:

1. The type of insertion has been authorized by a resolution of the Town Board.
2. Any new type of insertion is approved by a separate resolution of the Town Board.
3. Any type of insertion approved by the Town Board may be subsequently revoked by resolution of the Town Board.

C. Severability – In the event any section, clause or provision of this local law or its application is adjudged invalid, the same shall be severed and separated from the remainder of the local law and shall not affect the remainder of said local law which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. **ENACTMENT DATE**

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the Office of the New York State Secretary of State