Town of Morehouse
Meeting Agenda
January 6, 2026
7:00 PM at the Morehouse Recreation Center

Call meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Open to the Public for Comments/Questions

Closed to the Public

Motion to accept the Meeting Minutes as printed from December 9, 2025, Board Meeting.

Motion to accept Officers Reports

Motion Authorizing Payment of the General Fund and Highway Fund Invoices

Motion to approve the following appointments:

Administrative Assistant: Karen M. Fernandez

Deputy Town Supervisor: MaryAnn Mosher

Depute Town Clerk: Jennifer Tichenor.

Deputy Town Clerk: Brianne Bellidoro

Town Attorney: William P. Schmitt, Esq.

Town Historian: Stephanie L. Tichenor

Deputy Historian: Jennifer Tichenor

Deputy Historian: Brianne Bellidoro

Deputy Historians, when utilized, are compensated at the hourly rate of the Deputy Clerk.

Deputy Highway Superintendent: Vacant

Zoning and Code Enforcement Official: Leonard Croote Jr.

Animal Control Officer: William Uebele

Deputy Animal Control Officer: Priscilla Uebele

Motion designating the Hamilton County Express as the official town newspaper

Designation of Board Members Committees:

Streetlights and Cemeteries: MaryAnn Mosher and Sonya DeVuyst

Re-evaluation and Assessment: MaryAnn Mosher and William Uebele

Insurance: William Uebele and MaryAnn Mosher

Buildings and Highway: Brian Taylor and William Uebele

Solid Waste: Brian Taylor and MaryAnn Mosher

Tourism, Promotion and Economic Development: MaryAnn Mosher and Sonya DeVuyst

Recreation Center and Recreation Center Projects: Sonya DeVuyst and William Uebele

Snowmobile Trails: Brian Taylor and William Uebele

Planning Board Appointment

Motion for reappointment of Wayne Flemming to the Planning Board from January 1, 2026, until December 31, 2030.

Edward Sherman 12-31-28
Carol Garvin 12-31-29
Wayne Fleming 12-31-30
Leonard Croote Jr. 12-31-26
James Luck Sr. 12-31-27

Motion to approve Resolution 26-1-1, Authorizing payment of Utility Bills and Contractual Obligations

Motion to approve Resolution 26-1-2, Adopting the Town of Morehouse Investment Policy and Guidelines.

Motion to approve Resolution 26-1-3, Approving Investment Policy – Designation of Banks approved for Deposits

Motion to approve Resolution 26-1-4, Authorizing Blanket Undertakings Insurance for all Town of Morehouse Officers and Employees.
Motion to approve Resolution 26-1-5, Setting the Rate for Travel Allowance

Motion to approve Resolution 26-1-6, Authorizing the Purchase of Cooking Equipment for the Town Rec Center.

Motion to approve Resolution 26-1-7, Authorizing Continued Participation in the NYCLASS Municipal Cooperation Agreement

Motion to approve Resolution 26-1-8, Supporting Opposition to Government Mandated Natural Gas Bans

Motion setting the dates for Morehouse Town Board Meeting for the year 2026. Regular monthly Board Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Town Rec Center.

Motion to authorize attendance at the annual Association of Towns training scheduled in February if any town officials decide to do so.

Hamilton County Accounting Services (Direct Deposit) Status?

Boiler Repair at the Recreation Center

Furnace Review at the Town Garage

Furnace repair at Town Garage

IRS/Social Security Record Discrepancy 2022

IRS Issue 2023

All Employee Mandatory Training

Update on Cell Tower

Snowmobile Trails/Grooming Update:

Fireworks:

Open to the Public for comments or questions.

Closed to the Public.

Motion to go into Executive Session, Personnel Issue.

Motion to Reconvene:

Motion to Adjourn:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-1-1

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF UTILITY BILLS AND CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

DATED: JANUARY 6, 2025

BY: _____

WHEREAS, the Town of Morehouse recognizes that certain utility and contractual bills need to be paid in a timely manner as to not incur late fees, and

WHEREAS, New York Town Law § 118(2) permits the Town Board to authorize the payment of utility claims and contractual in advance of the audit of such claims, and

WHEREAS, paying said utility claims and contractual, in a prompt manner, will avoid disruption of these needed services, and

WHEREAS, vouchers for all utility claims and contractual payment prior to audit shall be presented at the next regular meeting of the Town Board for audit pursuant to the provisions Town Law § 119(1), and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board authorizes the Bookkeeper to remit payments from the respective Town checking accounts.

Seconded by: _____

DeVuyst: _____

Mosher: _____

Uebele: _____

Taylor: _____

Fernandez: _____

_____
Anthony Fernandez
Morehouse Town Supervisor

_____
Stephanie Tichenor
Morehouse Town Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 26-1-2

INVESTMENT POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR THE TOWN OF MOREHOUSE

DATED JANUARY 6, 2026

BY: _____

WHEREAS; The Morehouse Town Board recognizes the need for current and effective Investment Guidelines and Policy in the handling of the town's finances, and

THEREFORE, TO BE RESOLVED, The Town Board hereby adopts the following Investment guidelines and policy for the Town of Morehouse

The objectives of the investment policies of the Town of Morehouse are to minimize risk and to ensure a competitive rate of return. In accordance with this policy, the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to invest all funds, including proceeds of obligations and reserve funds in:

1. Certificates of Deposit issued by a bank or trust company authorized to do business in New York State.
2. Time Deposit Accounts in a bank or trust company are authorized to do business in New York State.
3. The Town Board shall decide on the banks to be utilized annually.

All other local government officials receiving money in their official capacity must deposit such funds in negotiable order of withdrawal accounts.

All investments made pursuant to this investment policy shall comply with the following conditions:

1. FINANCIAL STRENGTHS OF THE INSTITUTION: All trading partners must be credit-worthy. Concentration of investments in financial institutions will be a consideration. The general rule is not to place more than $400,000.00 with any one institution; however sufficient collateral can be a mitigating factor.

2. COLLATERAL – CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT: Shall be fully secured by insurance of FDIC or by obligations of New York State or obligations of the United States or obligations of Federal Agencies, the principal and interest which are guaranteed by the United States, or obligations of a New York State local bank with which the Town of Morehouse has entered into a Custodial Agreement. The market value of collateral shall at all times be equal to the amount of the certificate of deposit.

3. OPERATIONS, AUDIT, AND REPORTING: The Town of Morehouse will encourage certificates of deposit through a competitive or negotiated process involving at least (2) bids for each transaction, when possible and appropriate.

The Town Supervisor shall be authorized to use the United States Postal Service for deliveries to and from banks when reasonable trips are not required or possible.

At least annually, and if practical, at the Organizational Meeting of the Town Board, the members shall review and amend, if necessary, these Investment Guidelines.

Seconded by: _____

DeVuyst: _____

Mosher: _____

Uebele: _____

Taylor: _____

Fernandez: _____

_____ _____

Anthony Fernandez
Morehouse Town Supervisor

Stephanie Tichenor
Morehouse Town Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 26-1-3

INVESTMENT POLICY FOR THE TOWN OF MOREHOUSE-DESIGNATION OF BANKS APPROVED FOR DEPOSIT

DATED JANUARY 6, 2026

BY: _____

WHEREAS; the Investment Policy for the Town of Morehouse is to be renewed on and annual basis, and

WHEREAS, the Town Supervisor recommends the banks where monies are to be deposited, and

WHEREAS, the Town Supervisor recommends the following financial institutions for deposits of town monies:

Town Supervisor: NBT Bank
Town Clerk/Tax Collector: NBT Bank
Town Justice: NBT Bank

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the above-mentioned recommendations be adopted and the Town Supervisor be so authorized.

Seconded by: _____

DeVuyst: _____

Mosher: _____

Uebele: _____

Taylor: _____

Fernandez: _____

_____
Anthony Fernandez
Morehouse Town Supervisor

_____
Stephanie Tichenor
Morehouse Town Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 26-1-4

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BLANKET UNDERTAKINGS FOR ALL TOWN OF MOREHOUSE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

DATED JANUARY 6, 2025

BY: _____

WHEREAS, the Morehouse Town Board has the option of providing a blanket undertaking insurance as opposed to individual undertakings for its elected officials, officers, clerks and employees, and;

WHEREAS, the Morehouse Town Board has chosen in the past to provide blanket undertaking insurance for their officials, officers, clerks and employees, and;

WHEREAS, the New York State Public Officers Law 11 provides that a municipal corporation or district corporation may procure a blanket undertaking policy from a duly authorized corporate surety covering town officials, officers, clerks and employees, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Morehouse is hereby authorized to provide blanket undertakings insurance for its officials, officers, clerks and employees, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said authorization shall include, but not be limited to, the Town Supervisor, Deputy Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, Town Deputy Clerks, Town Justice, Town Tax Collector, Town Assessor, Town Highway Superintendent, Town Deputy Highway Superintendent, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be filed with the Hamilton County Clerk's Office and the Morehouse Town Clerk.

Seconded by: _____

DeVuyst: _____ Mosher: _____

Uebele: _____ Taylor: _____

Fernandez: _____

_____ _____

Anthony Fernandez
Morehouse Town Supervisor

Stephanie Tichenor
Morehouse Town Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 26-1-5

SETTING THE RATE FOR TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

DATED JANUARY 6, 2026

BY: _____

BE It Resolved, the Town of Morehouse will, effective January 1, 2026, compensate auto mileage incurred by employees on behalf of the town at the rate of $.72.5 per mile and that the Town Supervisor be so authorized.

Seconded by: _____

DeVuyst: _____

Mosher: _____

Uebele: _____

Taylor: _____

Fernandez: _____

_____
Anthony Fernandez
Morehouse Town Supervisor

_____
Stephanie Tichenor
Morehouse Town Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 26-1-6

AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF COOKING AND REFERIDGERATION EQUIPMENT FOR THE RECREATION CENTER

DATED: JANAURY 6, 2026

BY: _____

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that cooking equipment in the Town Recreation Center is in need of replacement, and

WHEREAS, the Town Supervisor has received written price quotes for a replacement Stove/Oven Combination, Griddle/with table and a drink refrigerator as follows:

1. WebrestaurantStore.com: $8,376.25
2. KaTom.com: $8,289.63
3. RestaurantSupply.com: $8,819.93
4. Rome Restaurant Equipment: $7,473.00

and

WHEREAS, the equipment listed above from Rome Restaurant Equipment, 6736 Martin Street, Rome, New York, meets the specifications for the said equipment and the Town Supervisor recommends the purchase, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to order the above listed equipment Rome Restaurant Equipment for $7,473.00, and it shall be charged to Account No.1620.0400.

Seconded by: _____

DeVuyst: _____

Mosher: _____

Uebele: _____

Taylor: _____

Fernandez: _____

_____
Anthony Fernandez
Morehouse Town Supervisor

_____
Stephanie Tichenor
Morehouse Town Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 26-1-7

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE NYCLASS PROGRAM

DATED: JANUARY 6, 2026

BY: _____

WHEREAS, New York General Municipal Law, Article 5-G, Section 119-o, empowers municipal corporations [defined in Article 5-G, Section 119-n to include school districts, boards of cooperative educational services, counties, cities, towns and villages and districts] to enter into, amend, cancel, and terminate agreements for the performance among themselves (or one for the other) of their respective function, powers, and duties on a cooperative or contract basis;

WHEREAS, the Town of Morehouse wishes to continue investing portions of its available investment funds in cooperation with other corporations and/or districts pursuant to the NYCLASS Municipal Cooperation Agreement Amended and restated as of August 1, 2023;

WHEREAS, the Town of Morehouse wishes to satisfy the safety and liquidity needs of their funds;

BE IT REOLVED, that the Morehouse Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to continue participation in the NYCLASS program under the terms of the NYCLASS Municipal Cooperation Agreement Amended and Restated as of August 1, 2023.

Seconded by: _____

DeVuyst: _____

Mosher: _____

Uebele: _____

Taylor: _____

Fernandez: _____

Anthony Fernandez	Stephanie Tichenor
Morehouse Town Supervisor	Morehouse Town Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 26-1-8

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSMAN NICK LANGWORTHY'S ENERGY CHOICE ACT (H.R. 3699, S. 1945) AND IN OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT-MANDATED NATURAL GAS BANS

DATED JANUARY 6, 2026

BY: _____

WHEREAS, affordable and reliable energy is essential to the health, safety, and economic prosperity of New York families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, natural gas remains a dependable, cost-effective, and clean-burning energy source used by millions of New Yorkers to heat their homes, cook their food, and power their businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, New York State enacted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which mandates aggressive emissions reductions and serves as the foundation for sweeping energy restrictions, including efforts to phase out natural gas; and

WHEREAS, building on the CLCPA, Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature in 2023 enacted provisions in the state budget banning natural gas and other fossil fuel hookups in most new residential and commercial buildings, effective 2026 for smaller buildings, and 2029 for larger buildings, thereby eliminating consumer choice and limiting access to affordable energy; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul has publicly supported these bans and related measures as part of her administration's climate and energy agenda, despite widespread concerns that such mandates will increase costs, strain grid reliability, and restrict energy diversity; and

WHEREAS, these top-down policies undermine affordability, threaten reliability during peak demand, and strip away the freedom of consumers and businesses to choose the energy sources that best meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Nick Langworthy of New York and Senator Jim Justice of West Virginia introduced the Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945), federal legislation that ensures state and local governments cannot restrict consumer access to natural gas and other affordable energy sources, thereby protecting freedom of choice for New Yorkers and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Choice Act would safeguard households, small businesses, hospitals, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and

preserve access to an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy that strengthens reliability and affordability, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Morehouse, Hamilton County, New York, strongly supports the Energy Choice Act as introduced by Congressman Langworthy (H.R. 3699) and Senator Justice (S. 1945) and stands firmly opposed to New York State's natural gas bans, the CLCPA-driven restrictions, and other state energy mandates that eliminate consumer choice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Morehouse, Hamilton County, New York, urges Congress to pass the Energy Choice Act to defend consumer choice, protect energy affordability, and preserve reliable access to natural gas for New Yorkers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Nick Langworthy, Senator Jim Justice, the New York Congressional delegation, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, and leadership of the New York State Legislature.

Seconded by: _____

DeVuyst: _____

Mosher: _____

Uebele: _____

Taylor: _____

Fernandez: _____

_____	_____
Anthony Fernandez	Stephanie Tichenor
Morehouse Town Supervisor	Morehouse Town Clerk