

TOWN OF CANAAN- MAY 11TH, 2026

RESOLUTION 84- 2026 TO ADDRESS RISING ELECTRIC COSTS

At the regular meeting of the Canaan Town Board, held at the Canaan Town Hall, 1647 County Route 5, Canaan, New York, duly called and held on the 11th day of May 2026, the following Resolution was proposed and seconded:

A RESOLUTION URGING AN IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF ELECTRIC DELIVERY CHARGES, DEMANDING STRONGER COST CONTROLS AND TRANSPARENCY, AND AUTHORIZING FORMAL COMPLAINTS TO THE NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION CONCERNING RISING ELECTRIC COSTS

WHEREAS, SENIORS, AND SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE TOWN OF CANAAN ARE FACING REPEATED AND GROWING INCREASES IN ELECTRIC BILLS THAT ARE CREATING SEVERE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP FOR HOUSEHOLDS AND HARMING THE LOCAL ECONOMY;

AND

WHEREAS, MUCH OF THESE INCREASES RESULT NOT FROM HIGHER ENERGY USE BUT FROM rising delivery charges, fees, and rate adjustments imposed by taxing authorities and NYSEG; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Public Service Commission regulates and approves electric delivery charges and rate structures and is charged with ensuring that utility rates are just, reasonable, and affordable; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has received numerous complaints from residents who cannot afford basic electric service and who are concerned about the frequency, size, and lack of transparency of recent and ongoing rate increases; and

WHEREAS, rural and low-density communities like Canaan are disproportionately affected by delivery-charge increases and cost-recovery practices that do not sufficiently account for affordability, equity, and cumulative burden on ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds continued approval of rate increases without stronger cost controls, greater transparency, and meaningful affordability protections to be contrary to the public interest; and

WHEREAS, continued reliance on fossil fuels increases greenhouse gas emissions that harm climate and can contribute to weather-related power outages;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Canaan hereby urges the New York State Public Service Commission to promptly and thoroughly review electric delivery charges, recent rate increases, and cost-recovery practices affecting NYSEG customers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board requests the Public Service Commission to prioritize ratepayer affordability, require increased transparency from NYSEG, and demand verifiable cost-containment and operational efficiency before approving any future rate increases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board requests the Public Service Commission to control the impact of the buildout of data centers on residential rates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board opposes rate increases that transfer rising operational, infrastructure, or administrative costs to ratepayers without clear justification or sufficient protections for rural communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board urges NYSEG to give priority to procuring renewable energy over fossil-fuel generation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to file formal complaints, submit written comments, and provide supporting documents to the New York State Public Service Commission on behalf of the Town and its residents to challenge excessive electric costs and seek regulatory relief; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall send copies of this resolution to the New York State Public Service Commission, NYSEG, the Governor of New York, members of the State Legislature, and neighboring NYSEG-served municipalities, and shall encourage coordinated action among affected towns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution takes effect immediately upon adoption.

Resolution by _____

Seconded by _____

Upon the question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Town Board Members voted “Aye” or “Nay” for said Resolution:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Supervisor Brenda Adams _____

Councilperson Brian Lifsec _____

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale _____

Councilperson Victoria Mills _____

Councilperson Frank Wood _____

The following Town Board members voted “NAY” in opposition thereto:

The Resolution, having been approved by a majority vote of the Town Board, was declared duly adopted by the Supervisor of the Town of Canaan.

I, Sandra Bevens, the Town Clerk of Canaan, New York, do hereby affirm that this is a true, legal, copy of the resolution as passed by the Town Board on May 11th, 2026.

Sandra Bevens

Canaan Town Clerk

Seal of Municipality