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TOWN OF JAY

Human Services Committee

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MINUTES FOR THE TOWN OF JAY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE – JUNE 4, 2026

ATTENDEES: Robin Licari, Chair, Lynn Ladieu, Wally Walters

ABSENT: Kathy Connelly

BLIGHT WITHIN THE TOWN: Town of Jay Transfer and Recycling Centers has been updated for 2026

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: Doreen Abrahamsen, Essex County Transportation Coordinator estimates that 58 people used the bus at the TOPS Parking lot in Au Sable Forks in the month of April. Doreen is unable to determine how many people disembark at the TOPS parking lot.

EXPANDING HEALTH CARE: The Town of Jay now has 6 Mercy Care Volunteers

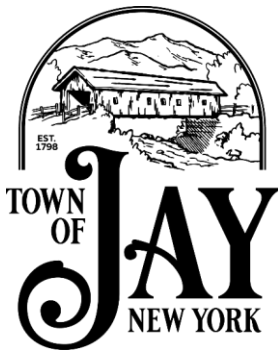
CHILD CARE AND DAY CARE: Robin reports nothing new except for an introduction to Jim (last name unknown) from the Adirondack Community Foundation by Tim Rowland. Jim has been reporting pursuing day care projects in the Adirondacks. Robin has emailed Jim asking for a time to talk. No response currently.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: Robin reports a very successful Vivid Life Fun Run in the Town of Jay. There were 98 people registered to race with many children and young families. The event was a fun. Essex County Suicide Prevention Coalition has decided to hold their race again next year in the Town of Jay due to the success of the event. Vivid Life Fun Run was established to reduce stigma and increase awareness regarding suicide prevention. T-Shirts had the covered bridge on the back with the slogan "For Every Bridge You Cross, We're Here With You."

YOUTH AND RECREATION: Many families and children of all ages attended the Vivid Life Fun Run in the Town of Jay on June 4th.

FOOD PANTRY: Robin reports tremendous success rescuing food from Hannaford and the American Red Cross distribution center giving Pepperidge Farm products. She reports a decision by the Church to expand space for the Food Pantry, and this will include a new freezer. The new freezer will be donated by an anonymous donor and will be delivered this week. Robin talks about meeting with Regional Food Bank CPO, Michael Aaron Poindexter who stated that the St. James Episcopal Church Ecumenical Food Pantry will probably not receive the NYS HPNAP grant because the Food Pantry has not been open long enough to qualify. This grant would have allowed the Food Pantry money to buy from the Regional Food Bank. Robin reports that she is not able to utilize products from the Regional Food Bank because of the cost for large quantities of product. She has to buy products in lower numbers at grocery stores. If she ordered everything the Food Pantry needed, the cost would be about \$700. She eliminates products from the order until she is ordering about \$250 in products. She could buy more products from the Regional Food Bank if she had the HPNAP grant. Robin will continue to follow up on the HPNAP grant. Often Hannaford products are on sale at a lower cost than at the Regional Food Bank. Robin talks about the Shop the Dock option which is to go to Latham to pick up free items at the Dock. Robin unaware of the quality of this food. She talks about the need for more storage space outside the Church and will talk to Town Supervisor about finding a place for storage.

CELL PHONE COVERAGE: Lynn talks about an article she read in Lake Placid newspaper about expanding broadband and cell phone coverage in the Town of Jay. Wally states that the Attorney General's Office has not set standard of cell



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phone coverage as an emergency service. Wally talks about multiple tragedies locally due to lack of cell phone coverage in an emergency. Wally states Matt is attempting to acquire the map that shows coverage in the Town. Wally is unaware of the status of installment. This is just a small part of the larger solution. APA will allow cell phone towers. However, Verizon is a privately owned company.

Town has received a \$150,000 grant to expand WIFI coverage in frequently used public spots. Town continues to have limited cell phone coverage and does not cover the Acres.

VOLUNTEERISM: Robin talks about the growing number of people willing to volunteer and that most of the Volunteers for the Vivid Life Run were people volunteering at the food pantry.

Wally talks about the Comprehensive Plan. A major problem identified by the Special Planning Committee has been affordability and affordable housing. Housing assessments have doubled since 2019 creating a problem for affordable housing for renters. STRs are more lucrative than long-term rentals. Wally talks about a possible plan of having a new housing area where STRs are not allowed and residents would be able to buy homes at affordable prices. Robin agrees with this plan.

NEXT MEETING: August 6, 2026 at 6:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT: