October 21, 2026

Work Meeting

Town Board: Mayor Kerry Barney, Russel Riggs, Gary Goble, Kerri Justus and Kurt Sawyer

Staff: Carly Burrows

Summary of the Town work meeting:

Topic: Draft of Cargo Container Amendment

The meeting focused on possible revisions to the town's cargo storage container ordinance. Mayor Kerry Barney urged the group to keep changes limited and straightforward, noting that earlier ordinance revisions had required substantial work and that repeated, case-specific amendments could create further complications.

- **Permit fee:** Council Members discussed the existing $50 cargo-container permit fee and whether it is consistent with fees for other structures. Mayor Kerry Barney said the fee helps cover paperwork and checking placement; Councilor Riggs explained that building permit fees were intended to help offset the town's cost of building inspection services.
- **Limits by zoning district:** Councilor Riggs proposed one container per residential parcel, three per commercial parcel, up to six on a six-acre agricultural parcel, and no limit in industrial zones. Council members debated whether agricultural properties should receive higher limits, and whether those limits would be fair and appropriate given the containers' visibility and effect on the town's appearance. These figures were suggestions for discussion, not adopted limits.
- **Setbacks and placement:** Council members considered adding greater setbacks for agricultural properties that could have multiple containers, so the containers would be less visible from roads. The group discussed removing a restriction on relocating a container within a property, provided it still meets applicable requirements.
- **Vacant lots and use:** Councilor Riggs questioned whether containers should be allowed on vacant lots, expressing concern about containers becoming eyesores or being used to support temporary stays without a permanent structure. The group also discussed the existing restriction against using containers as living quarters and the challenges of inspecting them if converted for housing.

- **Appearance:** Councilor Riggs suggested limiting permitted colors to earth tones, such as tan, beige, and light brown. A participant noted that color preferences and how a container blends with its surroundings can vary.

Outcome and Next Step

No final ordinance language or changes were approved during the discussion. The group's next step is to prepare a written draft of proposed revisions, including possible agricultural setbacks and other discussed changes, for review at a future meeting.