

TOWN BOARD MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

The Town Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Frank D. Greco Multi-Purpose building located on the corner of Market and Robinson Streets in the Village of Saugerties. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with the following members present:

Councilmember Bill Barr
Councilmember Leeanne Thornton
Councilmember Mike Ivino
Councilmember Stephanie Bassler
Supervisor Fred Costello

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR: none

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Maureen Mahlia – several moratoriums throughout the country, doing their sworn duty to their citizens. Will need to file Article 78 proceeding if outcome is not acceptable. We need a moratorium.

William Mahlia – as good stewards we want to save the world from CO2; sodium batteries are on the rise, they are safer and works for our environment.

Deborah Sanchez - Key Capture, LLC will not replace batteries with sodium, will not decrease usage. Hacking is a real concern.

Dia Mansbach – Stephanie Bassler was non-responsive at the last meeting for direct questions that were asked and has not answered an email. Minutes are not posted within two week time frame and not in compliance with open meetings law.

Eileen Ryan – tracking components for infrastructure in place but hackers can trick the system

William Farrell – questioned money put aside for emergency – how much and who is control of it. Sodium is better and available.

Stephen Shafer – NY future energy system requires a grid that operates for everyone, BESS is necessary to sustain sources; wind and solar are unreliable, proposal should be found acceptable.

Beth Murphy – read comments from Susan Weeks – human global warming is alarming.

Technology for batteries is growing. Beth noted that a study from NPR there were 9000 deaths from excess heat; effects places in part of eastern grid, which we are a part of.

Josepha Gutelis – paid volunteer firefighters are opposed to this and say is dangerous to put out. Key Capture is designed the same as ones that have been banned/blocked.

Nicole Roskos – a lot of misinformation and is a Planning Board decision now. We are going to have battery storage and need to do it safely. Everyone needs to do their research. Personally own EV and sit on a lithium battery while functioning.

SUPERVISOR’S COMMENTS:

We can’t make decisions on personal feelings; we live with lithium batteries daily, batteries will be a part of our lives. Energy utility use is allowable in industrial zoned areas. We do not want to have rolling black outs, we need to think of our future. Explained de-commissioning bond.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Ivino to approve the minutes of Workshop on August 12, 2026; Pre-board and Town Board Meeting of August 12, 2026 and Bid Opening on August 12, 2026 regarding disposal of demolition debris, carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Barr to approve the bills as presented, carried.

General Fund	\$454,886.59
General Outside Village	72,795.16
Highway	219,614.22
Capital Projects	641,631.16
Ambulance District	279,468.84
Lighting District	7,040.17
Sewer O&M	9,947.80
Water O&M	33,247.17
Malden Sewer	43,194.97
Central Hudson	40,876.33

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Ray Mayone, Highway Department – paved four roads with the village in shared services; Montano Equipment has been working with us in fixing catch basins/removing rock.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Barr – CAC is supportive of solar and virtual power plans in residential homes. Drinking water study will meet September 22.

Councilmember Thornton – TV23 has a featured story in Hudson Valley One about our new program coordinator, Bronwyn Maloney; Touch-a-Truck will be held October 25 12-3 at Cantine to benefit Saugerties Animal Shelter; Boys & Girls Club holding raffle and Hudson River Riverkeeper is holding activities at the Village Beach on September 19.

Councilmember Ivino – 911 Ceremony will be 6:00 pm at Cantine; Diaz fundraiser planned for September 19; Junk in the Trunk to benefit the Animal Shelter on September 20. Also, railroad crossing work will shut down Ulster Avenue for 2-3 days.

Councilmember Bassler – we will be voting on the new appointment of Teresa Giordano to join the Arts Commission; grant has been submitted on water mitigation. Regretful that the room is now empty after the public comment period because on March 4 a statement was read about clear transparency and answered questions from Ms. Mansbach.

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS:

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to hire Timothy Agosta as a full time Police Officer at the Academy rate of \$26.64 per hour, effective September 7, 2026.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Bassler, seconded by Councilmember Barr to approve the independent accountant’s report on applying agreed-upon procedures, as on file, in regards to the justice court.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to approve a mass gathering permit for the Glasco Fire Company at 139 Liberty Street, Ext., Saugerties, NY for September 19, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a car show.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to allow the Supervisor to sign the Revize Custom Design Web Services Sales Agreement, as on file.
Discussion: Supervisor Costello explained that digital towpath does not have all the “bells and whistles”, this would be an upgrade.
Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to re-appoint Steve Hubbard to the Board of Assessment Review for a five year term from October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2031.
Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Councilmember Barr authorizing the Saugerties Town Supervisor to send a letter to the chair of the Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission stating the town’s report for their letters to the NYS Department of Public Services and the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority requesting initiation of a formal stakeholder process on implementing the Solar Up Now New York Act.
Discussion: Councilmember Barr said that this will authorize municipalities to implement plug in solar and help promote the Governor to sign in to law.
Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Bassler, seconded by Councilmember Ivino to allow the supervisor to sign a letter for Riverkeeper to have NYS Department of Environmental Conservation fund PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances) remediation for closed landfills.
Discussion: Councilmember Barr said that the current rule allows for active landfills and feels should apply to closed landfills and supply funding.
Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Bassler to appoint Teresa Giordano as a member of the Saugerties Arts Commission for the remainder of 2026.
Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Bassler to adjourn Town Board Meeting at 8:20 p.m., carried.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

Wednesday, September 16, 2026	Pre-Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.
	Town Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.

Meeting closed in memory of Jim Gage, Patrick Buonfiglio and Wendy Diaz.

Town Clerk