PRE-BOARD MEETING - OCTOBER 21, 2026

The Pre-Board Meting was held on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 6:30pm at the Frank D. Greco Multi-Purpose Building located at the corner of Market and Robinsons Streets in Village of Saugerties with the following members present:

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

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Deputy Town Clerk

TOWN BOARD MEETING – October 21, 2026

The Town Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Frank D. Greco Multi-Purpose Building located at the corner of Market and Robinsons Streets in Village of Saugerties. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with the following members present:

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

PRIVILAGE OF THE FLOOR:

Code Red Consultants, Proposed Saugerties BESS Battery Energy Storage Systems. Presentation was given by Jay Ierardi, Ph. D., of Code Red. Presentation included PowerPoint discussing the following topics: Understanding Principal Hazards, Lessons learned from the Past, Agencies involved in a BESS Incident, Current codes and standards, Hazard and Mitigation Analysis.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

William Maliha- Thanked Jay for “One hell of a presentation”. Handed out informational packet put together by his wife entitled “Dangers not addressed” regarding BESS (which will be on file at the Town Clerks office). The town needs to take a look at the environmental effects this will have on our area. He supports BESS in Saugerties but would like the town to wait a year or two until further advances are made.

Sam Dederick – The Towns proposed 2026 Community Climate Action Plan states that the town will be 100% electric. This proposed plan has not been circulated for 90 days as it must be. If we adopt this as, is it will cause Zoning changes. Electricity bills are up over 400%, what does the Town Board plan on doing about this?

Daniel McCarthy – Extremely concerned with tractor trailer traffic on Lauren Tice Road. He is asking the Town to keep existing signs up, enforce the signs already there and give tickets to truckers that disobey.

Josepha Gutelius – Opposed to BESS/Key Capture. Thank you, Code Red, for great presentation, but she is worried about cyber-attacks. The Orange County specialist couldn’t even convince his own community that BESS was a safe choice. AI didn’t exist when Zoning Laws were written.

Geatana Ciarlante – Opposed to BESS. Upset there was no Public Hearing for the people to weigh in on topic of the water bill automatic increase when the village does.

Stephen Shafer – Supports the concept of BESS. Thank you to Town Board and Code Red for the presentation.

Dia Mansbach – Upset because we kept this BESS project a secret for almost a year before telling the public about it. And then the Town uses our already too high taxes to hire this company who admittedly works for whoever pays them.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS:

Adoption of a Climate Change Plan itself won’t change anything. We need to take action. As a Town we have greatly reduced our carbon footprint already.

We did not hide any applications. There was communication regarding BESS with the Building Department that the Town Board was not aware of. The Town Board will continue to be open and transparent. We have no problems hiring subject matter experts, like Code Red, as

specialists/third party experts, and charging the applicants those fees. Resident tax dollars will not be paying.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, second by Councilmember Ivino to approve the Pre-Board, Town Board and Budget Workshop of October 7,2026, and the Public Hearing of October 7, 2026: Regarding proposed Local Law Amending Chapter 245, Zoning-Indoor Agricultural and Horticultural Specialties, carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, second by Councilmember Thornton to approve the bills as presented, carried.

General Fund	$51,966.17
General Outside Village	$529.46
Highway	$53,518.45
Capital Projects	$272,568.08
Ambulance District	$0
Lighting District	$1,978.62
Sewer O&M	$1,827.39
Water O&M	$2,097.38
Central Hudson	$1,171.51

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Greg Chorvas/Parks and Buildings: Hutton field fence close to completion. Little League paying for materials and Parks and Rec doing the labor. Touch a Truck event is this Sunday 10/25. There have been three recent acts of vandalism, restitution is being made.

Ray Mayone/Highway: Finished infrastructure on 1st Street in Malden. A full patch crew is out currently.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Barr – Last week Ulster County implemented a plan for Tax Relief to Disabled Veterans. Barr drafted a law for Saugerties and sent to the town attorneys.

Councilmember Thornton – STAT committee met last week. There is an opening for a board member on Saugerties Transportation Committee. The town did not receive the TAP Grant. TV23: stay tuned for more cooking shows, and Thursday movie nights are back. You can purchase Boys and Girls Club Raffle Tickets online or at Boys and Girls Club. Lifespring now at 175 members. Splashpad meeting next week, 2 companies in the running. Touch-a-truck is at the Large Pavilion this coming Sunday 12-3. Story's Farms donated 100 pumpkins for the event. The Chamber Auction is also this Sunday at SPAF.

Councilmember Ivino – Animal Shelter skeleton of new building in place. The only funds we have used up until now are all entirely from fundraising.

Councilmember Bassler - HUD has new regulations for landlords. We have a housing shortage for our residents. Planning Committee meets tomorrow night. Historical Preservation Commission regularly meeting, residents encouraged to attend. General Election coming up soon. Visit vote.org for info.

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS:

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Supervisor Costello to adopt a general policy that will allow the Town to automatically add the increase(s) to the Town's water/sewer rates any time the Village raises the water/sewer rates.
Vote: Adopted- 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Bassler, seconded by Supervisor Costello to adopt the Climate Smart Task Force's Community Climate Action Plan, as on file, which provides strategies for the Town to achieve a reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions of up to 24% by 2040.
Discussion: Board is concerned that the plan lacks specificity. Board agrees concept is phenomenal, but with out the plan being more specific they worry about the interpretation by future boards.

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Ivino to table The Climate Smart Task Force's Community Climate Action Plan, until the board has an opportunity to review and amend this plan.
Vote: Tabled- 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to move Joshua Kurz from the position of Part-time Police Officer to the position of Full-Time Police Officer at the starting rate of $28.26 per hour, effective October 26, 2026.
Vote: Adopted- 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to move James Jarman to the position of Motor Equipment Operator for the Highway Department at a rate of pay of $31.33 per hour effective 10/22/2026 as per the recommendation of Raymond Mayone, Highway Superintendent.
Vote: Adopted- 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Bassler to accept the Resignation/Retirement of Highway Superintendent Raymond Mayone with his last day being October 30, 2026.
Vote: Adopted- 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Supervisor Costello to appoint Jonathan Lowrey as Acting Highway Superintendent until an election takes place for the position, effective 10/31/2026.
Vote: Adopted- 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Bassler, seconded by Councilmember Barr to accept the resignation of Lou Klepner from the Saugerties Transportation Advisory Council, effective immediately.
Vote: Adopted- 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Supervisor Costello to appoint Jonathan Lowrey to the Saugerties Transportation Advisory Council for the remainder of 2026, effective immediately.
Vote: Adopted- 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Councilmember Barr to declare surplus and no longer of use to the Town of Saugerties, the following:

One (1) 1997, Toro Workman, Model 3300, as per the recommendation of the Parks & Building Superintendent.

One (1) 2005 Ford F550 (#49) Dual Wheel Dump, VIN# 1FDAF57P45EB32655, as per the recommendation of the Parks & Building Superintendent.

One (1) 2006 John Deere 2x4 Utility Gator (#JDG2), Serial #W04X2ED001518, as per the recommendation of the Parks & Building Superintendent.

One (1) 2003 Stone, one (1) yard Concrete Mixer, as per the recommendation of the Parks & Building Superintendent.
Vote: Adopted- 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Ivino to dispose of the aforementioned equipment via the most revenue producing means, which may include Metal Salvage Reclamation, as per the recommendation of the Parks & Building Superintendent.
Vote: Adopted- 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Supervisor Costello to hire Melanie A. Gardiner to the position of Part-time Crossing Guard at the rate of $19.00 per hour, effective October 26,2026.
Vote: Adopted- 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Supervisor Costello to Adjourn at 9:41pm, carried.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

Wednesday November 4, 2026	**Public Hearing**	**6:00 p.m.**
	Exceed the 2% Tax Cap	
	Public Hearing	**6:30 p.m.**
	2027 Budget	
	Pre-Board Meeting	**following hearings**
	Town Board Meeting	**7:00 p.m.**

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Deputy Town Clerk