

TOWN BOARD MEETING – APRIL 15, 2026

The Town Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Frank D. Greco Multi-Purpose Building located at 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:

Saugerties Community & Stop Saugerties Battery Energy Storage: Proposed Saugerties BESS Battery Energy Storage Systems. Presentation was given by individuals of side effects, concerns and reasons why the town board should not support this endeavor.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Eric Delmar – huge opposition to BESS installations; fires are uncommon but uncommonly horrible. Saugerties will not benefit. Why are we even entertaining this project?

Ted Maroney – supports battery storage, batteries capture excess energy. Some concerns are valid but others are not; transparency is the key issue. Full SEQRA review should be done.

Janet Asiain – read points made previously by Paul Rubin regarding Winston Farm. Full written comments are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Janelle O'Rourke – owners of Winston Farm have not provided details of plan, they want blanket approval. Complete written comments are on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

Beverly D'Andrea – read letter from Beacon resident that battery storage is not clean or green, battery fires burn for days.

Patrick Sheehan – local residents bear costs and none of the benefits. NYSERDA is looking to take local control. Town of Saugerties is stuck with this because of surrounding industrial environment.

Lisa Flanagan – 59-95 degrees is the optimal temp for battery storage. Abrupt swings in temperatures unpredictable since containers are simple steel containers. Having the town board look at Winston Farms and BESS at the same time is unnerving.

Stephen Shafer – rising demands for electricity and wind and solar are variable. BESS can store and shift energy where needed.

Janet Greenberg – information has not been provided regarding evacuation zone, if need to disclose on real estate, impact on fire department, local businesses, tourism and quality of life.

Samantha Dederick – everyone expects to have electricity. At first I was skeptical of BESS but looking at it further, we have to store sustainable energy – batteries are batteries.

Bob Dederick – echos sentiments of Stephen Shafer and Samantha, say Yes to BESS. People that own Winston Farm, they own it, they should do what they want with their property.

Susan Weeks – following climate change since 1988 – overriding issue – we are not just burning fossil fuels, we are burning our future. Urgent matter to accept BESS and we need to mitigate risk.

SUPERVISOR’S COMMENTS:

Green & Clean Days weekends are coming up, please sign up at the Town Clerk’s Office at Town Hall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Ivino to approve the minutes of Pre-Board and Town Board Meeting of April 1, 2026, carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

General Fund	\$135,269.90
General Outside Village	7,502.44
Highway	35,937.85
Capital Projects	10,577.00
Ambulance District	139,734.42
Sewer O&M	139,225.08
Water O&M	1.07
Central Hudson	37,225.08

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Swart – monthly report on file at the town clerk’s office. Participated in Hoops for Conclusion and rifle safety has been held.

John Hanzl, Water & Sewer – cleaning hydrants in the Glasco area

Ray Mayone – all plows are off and cleaned. Platte Clove will be closed down another 4 weeks for repairs; yard repairs have been done due to winter weather and sweeper has been out.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Barr – on April 17 the library will have a historic lecture at 6:00 p.m.; CAC held Repair Café on March 7 and repaired 120+ items – upcoming one in the near future.

Councilmember Thornton – TV23 resumes received, interviews are being planned; thank you to Jorge Lopez for filming the meeting tonight; SAC town and village reps are implementing new sidewalks on 9W near RYAN House – there will be traffic delays. July 3 food truck festival with craft vendors, July 4 5k race before the parade. A new art display will be unveiled this Friday night near the Reis parking lot. Brooks BBQ on May 21 for the Splashpad.

Councilmember Ivino – Animal Shelter has the footings poured for the new shelter and 20 adoptions have happened in March and the Blue Jeans Ball is coming up at Fortune Manor. Diaz received a new ambulance and Brian Breithaupt is retiring from 30+ years of service at the ambulance. May 18 will be a blood drive held at Cedar Grove Fire Department.

Councilmember Bassler – Housing Advisory met April 6 regarding affordable housing solution and you can check out Saugerties Earth Week on the web.

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS:

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Supervisor Costello to approve the proclamation, as on file, pertaining to May as American Legion Poppy Month.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Bassler, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), as on file, between the Town of Saugerties and the Communications Workers of America (CWA).

Discussion: Supervisor Costello added that this will extend for four years.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Ivino to authorize a refund of \$200.00 to Elizabeth Reece related to the denial of the Zoning Board of Appeals interpretation fee pertaining to a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to be development by Key Capture Energy (Company) and to be located at 7 Tomsons Road, Saugerties, NY on premises owned by KMP Realty Holdings II LLC SBL #18.1-4-5.100.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to approve the resolution, as on file, adopting Local Law #3 of 2026 regarding Amending Chapter 190 of the Municipal Code – Sewer Use Law.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Barr to declare as surplus and no longer of any use to the Town of Saugerties one 2017 Ford Explorer, Vin #1FM5K85HGB83315 as per the recommendation of the Building Inspector.

Discussion: Supervisor Costello added that this vehicle is being replaced with EV with funding through CSTF.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Supervisor Costello to authorize the Building Inspector to dispose of and award to the highest bidder one 2017 Ford Explorer Vin #1FM5K85HGB83315 via Auctions International.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Barr to adjourn Town Board Meeting at 8:28 p.m., carried.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Pre-Board Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Town Board Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Meeting was closed in memory of Paul Formisano, Anna Jones, Dawn Chlud, Sarah Joan Brandt, Jennifer Haefle and Arzi McKeown.

Town Clerk