

TOWN BOARD MEETING – MAY 6, 2026

The Town Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 6, 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 Arts Commission – Nina Schmidbauer, Andrew Rein and Robert Langdon presented work that has been done in 2025 and goals for 2026. There will be 46 artists on the studio tour this year and they thank the Village liaison Jeannine Mayer and Town liaison Stephanie Bassler for their help along the way.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

William Maliha – BESS is a Korean owned business with highly toxic gases and can liquify lung tissue along with birth defects. Do no harm.

Maureen Maliha – invisible threats are not spoken about, security risk reality, Central Hudson grid unique vulnerability, KCE can not promise it will be safe. Our state is not for sale.

Deborah Sanchez – who would benefit from this, did the town receive money? We are not against green energy. Zoning should be done for the best of the town, not for the developers. Supervisor Costello said that no negotiations are taking place.

Ted Maroney – concerned on lack of emergency response. Type 1 Action full EAF should be done by KCE. Public would have time to respond we need to trust the process to continue.

Ted Skaar – chemical engineer and Hazmat trainer; main concern is for fellow colleagues, very expensive for extensive training, where would the money come from.

Lou Skaar – concerned about the high school, Cantine, Cahill Elementary – who will take care of the students, they are our future.

Dia Mansbach – transparency and open meetings law regarding BESS; several FOIL requests were made and not responded to, this is not going above and beyond. Complete comments are on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

Elizabeth Reece – what is the BESS proposed area zoned as and are there talks of rezoning the industrial zoning. Complete comments are on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

Gail Grice – need to move forward with green energy, effective and clean.

Stephen Shafer – BESS on Tomsons Road has merit but need complete SEQRA review.

Kathy Gordon – step toward mitigating climate change but many questions remain, process needs to play out. Public engagement is critical and part of official record. Our elected officials care about our town.

Mary Pocsik – read fictitious letter five years into the future of battery storage fire. Please slow down because we cannot turn back.

Peter Solow – fossil fuels are destroying us; something needs to be done and battery storage has to be part of the solution.

Skip Arthur – the CAC February 19th meeting was in compliance with the law.

Sean Brooks – Cahill, the high school and a preschool all would be affected if BESS fire happened which would be devastating.

Pat Reynolds – shortage of housing now, where would everyone go if there was an evacuation.

SUPERVISOR’S COMMENTS:

There have been a lot of opinions and not based on facts regarding the battery storage. FOILS have been answered and multiple forms have been made available. We need to think ahead with energy; SEQRA will decide and we will not intervene with the process. Recommend to all to watch the NYSERDA presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Barr to approve the minutes of Public Hearing on April 15, 2026; Pre-Board and Town Board Meetings on April 15, 2026, carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

General Fund	\$35,526.69
General Outside Village	3,176.13
Highway	9,493.07
Capital Projects	1,050.00
Lighting District	33.50
Sewer O&M	170.57
Water O&M	14.57
Central Hudson	39,429.11

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Greg Chorvas – widening traffic pattern on Moser Drive; Terpening dock getting estimates for repair; attended virtual meeting with grant writer.

Chief Swart – looking into grant money; officers are out on the streets doing their job.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Barr – CAC finalized the climate action plan and former cement plant has plan on website; working on draft of tree commission.

Councilmember Thornton – trail system for mountain bikes is being worked on and funds are being raised. May 21 Brooks BBQ fundraiser for the splashpad. July 4th the Kiersted House will have their museum open along with the American Legion after the 5k.

Councilmember Ivino – fire department will not see an increase in their budget because of battery storage, the City of Kingston/UC Hazmat already has equipment. Animal Shelter is holding their annual Blue Jean Ball fundraiser this month.

Councilmember Bassler – cemetery guardians are doing great work; if you can volunteer or help financially, it would be appreciated. Housing Advisory met and Arts Commission did a great presentation earlier this evening, thank you.

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS:

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Supervisor Costello to approve the proclamation, as on file, regarding Child Care Providers Day.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Bassler, seconded by Supervisor Costello to accept the resignation of Police Dispatcher Nicole D. Decker, effective April 12, 2026.

Discussion: Chief Swart added wishing her the best.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to appoint Mike Campbell to the Cable Access Committee for the remainder of 2026.

Discussion: Councilmember Thornton added that he was a Charter Member, very happy to have him back.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to approve Myles Gordon as a part time Seasonal employee at a rate of \$18.00/hour per the recommendation of the Parks & Buildings Superintendent.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Barr authorizing the Supervisor to sign a Notice of Discipline with respect to a particular individual.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Supervisor Costello to approve the Preliminary List of staffing for the 2026 Summer Youth Recreation Program (on file) as per the recommendation of the Summer Youth Recreation Director and the Parks & Buildings Superintendent.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Ivino to adjourn Town Board Meeting at 9:21 p.m., carried.

The meeting was closed in memory of Dorothy Christianson, Marjorie Ciarlante, Gerard Brice, John Norton, Jr., and Mike Patterson.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Pre-Board Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Town Board Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Town Clerk