

TOWN BOARD MEETING – MARCH 4, 2026

The Town Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 4, 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 was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with the following members present:

Councilmember Bill Barr
Councilmember Leeanne Thornton
Councilmember Mike Ivino (arriving at 7:30 p.m.)
Councilmember Stephanie Bassler
Supervisor Fred Costello

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Philip Ferland – gave hand out and thanked the building department and town board for response to concerns.

Linda Krouse – concerned about battery plant and the Governor wants electric vehicles, how will that effect growth. What are the credentials of the town board to make a decision about a battery plant.

Elizabeth Reece – invitation to attend information meeting on March 25; on original FOIL request, concerned about transparency and if the Town Attorney is the Appeal Officer, is this true for all appeals. Attended the CPC meeting – not welcoming and nothing to do with zoning. There is a gap with information to the public.

Samantha Dederick – currently the chair of CPC and we are going through changes.

Mia Masbach – wants clarification of BESS project and believes there is a conflict of interest with Councilmember Ivino as well as all the other hats he wears. We have a right to know the town board members positions on this subject.

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR:

Ulster County Legislator Ann Peters – would like a positive relationship and also working on county level senior tax exemptions, bus safety issues and well testing for PFOS. Encouraged public relations with holding a meet and greet this coming Sunday.

SUPERVISOR’S COMMENTS:

Thank you to Jorge Lopez for filming the meeting this evening and thanks to Elizabeth Reece for her past work in filming the meetings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Ivino to approve the minutes of Public Hearing on February 11, 2026 regarding the adoption of a local law to amend public hearing notice procedures for the zoning law; Pre-Board and Town Board Meeting on February 11, 2026, carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

General Fund	\$163,844.47
General Outside Village	17,635.69
Highway	44,806.06
Capital Projects	1,283.96
Ambulance District	139,734.42
Lighting District	33.50
Sewer O&M	2,142.98
Water O&M	4,627.10
Central Hudson	2,191.42

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Jon Lowrey, Deputy Highway Superintendent – busy the last couple months and all the guys are going above and beyond cleaning up for spring.

Chief Swart – new officer completed field training and another from the academy ready to advance.

John Hanzl, Water & Sewer Department – 6 water main breaks the last couple weeks, thank you to our highway department for all the help.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Barr – thank the highway department for clearing roads from snow and ice; we are looking into STR impact; May 30 is the Library street fair; and CAC is concerned about Winston Farm water.

Councilmember Thornton – TV23 met and will have zoom with Granicus to answer some questions; STAC is asking for support for walkway on west side of 9W on a competitive TAP

grant; grant for Bristol Beach is submitted; splashpad fundraiser on July 3 at Cantine and Brooks BBQ on May 21.

Councilmember Bassler – HUD is federally funded with 127 households accounted for and need to make tough decisions; HPC and historian are working on celebration this summer; CPC has been working very effectively on goals and are reestablishing mission; housing grant awarded to Town of Saugerties for \$115,000.00 and a working committee has been established to look at zoning regarding BESS.

Councilmember Ivino – Diaz receiving new ambulance and other vehicles are being updated; animal shelter has had 23 adopted year to date, thank you to all the supporters – fundraisers are upcoming. There is a project worthy of Eagle or Silver Scout award if anyone needs a project.

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS:

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to approve the resolution, as on file, adopting Local Law #2 of 2026 in regards to the installation and maintenance of Knox boxes at all commercial, non-residential and multi-family buildings and structures for emergency services.

Discussion: Councilmember Ivino said that this is a big stride to better provide services.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Supervisor Costello to approve John Kenny of Kenny Property Solutions, 72 Glan Ridge Road, Red Hook, NY 12571 347-247-2136, to be added to the list of Third Party Electrical Inspectors for the Town of Saugerties.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Councilmember Barr to approve Empire Testing Solutions, 1180 High Hill Road, Earlton, NY 12058 518-265-1613, owner Michael Veeder, Jr. to be added to the Town of Saugerties Energy Code Compliance Inspectors List.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Bassler, seconded by Councilmember Barr to allow the supervisor to sign the Proposal for Continued Professional Services, as on file, for the 2026 post closure Landfill Sampling and Reporting with LaBella Associates.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Supervisor Costello authorizing Transfer Station Department Head, Douglas F. Myer, the right to enter into a purchase agreement with Wastequip Corp, 1079 State Route 20, New Lebanon, NY 12125 utilizing Sourcewell Contract # 010825-WQI for the purchase of one (1) cubic yard heavy duty rectangle Roll Off Container for the purchase price of \$7,801.00.

Discussion: Doug Myer confirmed that this is one to replace a roll off bought in 2015.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to approve the resolution, as on file, to support the submission of a 2025 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to appoint Katie Hamor to the Comprehensive Planning Committee for the remainder of 2026.

Discussion: Councilmember Bassler said she is looking forward to working together.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Bassler, seconded by Supervisor Costello to accept the resignation of Aden Hughes from the Comprehensive Planning Committee, effective February 24, 2026.

Discussion: Councilmember Bassler appreciates his time and leadership; Councilmember Thornton said Aden served as a valuable member for many years.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Supervisor Costello to accept the resignation of Frank Orlando from the Assessor's Office, effective February 27, 2026.

Discussion: Supervisor Costello said Frank was the Assessor for 18 years and kept us trending at 100%, we wish him luck.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Supervisor Costello to terminate the employment of Corey Litts from a full time Motor Equipment Operator's position at the Highway Department, effective February 10, 2026 and as per the recommendation of Raymond Mayone, Highway Superintendent.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Councilmember Barr to hire Christopher Wiltbank as a full time Motor Equipment Operator at a rate of pay of \$31.33, effective March 5, 2026 and as per the recommendation of Raymond Mayone, Highway Superintendent.

Discussion: Ray added that Christopher will be a good addition to the department.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Barr authorizing Superintendent of Highways, Raymond Mayone to piggyback off of the Town of Mamakating-

Wurstboro, NY bid award dated April 18, 2024 with Amthor Welding Service, Inc. for the purchase of one (1) new 2025 Navistar Model HV507 6-wheel plow truck at a purchase price of \$284,800.00. Purchase of this truck is pending the final award of the 2026 NYSDOT CHIPS grant program annual allotment. If sufficient funding is awarded, it will be paid for with the CHIPS account code DBO 3-5110.463.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Bassler, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to accept the resignation of Vincent DeMarco from the Water & Sewer Department effective February 11, 2026.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Supervisor Costello to authorize the supervisor to sign the Agreement & General Release the Town of Saugerties and Vincent DeMarco pending town attorney approval.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to allow the supervisor to sign the Product Integration Agreement between Brand In Entertainment and the Town of Saugerties pertaining to the ice rink pending town attorney approval.

Discussion: Supervisor Costello added that this is a small independent film

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilman Ivino to deny the FOIL Appeal filed by Elizabeth Reece on February 22, 2026 on the grounds set forth in the letter from George W. Redder, Attorney for the Town of Saugerties to Elizabeth Reece dated March 2, 2026.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Bassler to adjourn Town Board Meeting at 8:17 p.m., carried.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

**Pre-Board Meeting
Town Board Meeting**

**6:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.**

Town Clerk