

## **TOWN BOARD MEETING – MARCH 18, 2026**

The Town Board Meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 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  
Supervisor Fred Costello  
Councilmember Stephanie Bassler  
Absent: Councilmember Mike Ivino

### **PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR:**

Beautiful Saugerties: Winston Farm – gave a presentation with several speakers focusing on the western portion, which is 500 acres. Presentation is on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

Janet Asiaian – totally agree that rezoning property could be brilliant but certain things have to be protected.

Elizabeth Reece – several concerns regarding the process with BESS; would like temporary moratorium on battery storage.

Martin Steingesser – issue of polarization and information can become slanted. Does not like having only three minutes to make a point.

Dia Mansbach – talked about why we need so much electricity; only better if truly renewable.

Paul Ruben – specific project water demand needs to be broken down for aquifer accuracy regarding Winston Farm.

Debra Sanchez – pros and cons with sodium and lithium batteries, needs to be better and safer for environment.

Richard Azoff – strong support for battery storage facility; a series of units would make a big difference.

Catherine Rumble – when solar panels are put on all roofs, we should have excessive power available. Battery storage units have caught on fire giving serious concerns.

Gaetana Ciarlante – in the 1950s we were told not to drink water from the Hudson and not to eat fish from there. We should not count on that for viable water source for drinking.

Diana Harris – who thought of putting homes on side the creek, places are being compromised.

Marian Posick – think high risk of fire with BESS. Can the value of Winston Farm decrease if BESS goes in?

Linda Krauss – read excerpt from previous article given by Supervisor concerning zoning

**SUPERVISOR’S COMMENTS:**

Winston Farm’s environmentally constrained areas are being considered and open space is used in constructive way. Alternative water resources are plentiful in the town. Green & Clean Days are April 18-19 and 25-26. See Town Clerk’s Office for information.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Bassler to approve the minutes of Budget Workshop of March 4, 2026; Public Hearing of March 4, 2026 regarding installation and maintenance of Knox boxes at all commercial, non-residential and multi-family buildings and structures for emergency services; Pre-Board and Town Board Meeting of March 4, 2026, carried.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

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

General Fund	\$262,355.53
General Outside Village	19,087.92
Highway	95,973.52
Capital Projects	162,510.10
Ambulance District	139,734.42
Lighting District	7,449.87
Sewer O&M	14,376.90
Water O&M	201,744.83
Trust & Agency	52,484.85

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

John Hanzl, Water & Sewer – nothing to report

Ray Mayone, Highway – starting clean up in town with sweeper and ditches; damage came when snowbanks had to get pushed back farther.

Greg Chorvas, Parks – working through drainage issues and on generator pad/posts. Jaycee Park basketball court being worked on and we are getting quotes on fixing the tennis courts.

Thank you to Mr. Hanzl for stepping in to fix the bathroom at the ice rink while a big event was going on.

Chief Swart, Police – police physical agility test held at Cantine recently; in service training starts next week.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilmember Barr – CAC is looking for a volunteer coordinator for the Climate Smart Task Force; the Saugerties Library has been approached by NYSDOT about providing a bike borrowing program.

Councilmember Thornton – TV 23 job description is being up-dated and posting for job should be listed soon; STAC meets April 14; craft vendors will be at the food festival July 3.

Councilmember Bassler – HPC celebrated Susan Poretz' last meeting of 25 years of volunteering and they are also recognizing Finger ground Cemetery as historic area and being restored; 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary events are coming up this summer; CPC meets March 26, Arts Commission meeting March 23 and Housing Advisory meets on April 6.

## **MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS:**

Motion made by Councilmember Bassler, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to re-appoint Stefan Yarabek to the Historic Preservation Commission with a 4 year term to expire on March 31, 2030.

Vote: Adopted – 4 Yes (Councilmember Ivino absent)

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Supervisor Costello to approve the proclamations, as on file, regarding the 2026 Sports Hall of Fame Inductees (all inductees get a proclamation with the same language): Kevin Beaver, Bob Francello, Shane Geisler (posthumously), Lars Hauck and Ruben Lindo.

Discussion: Supervisor Costello added that this is a very talented group of athletes. Brendan Amodio will be receiving the President's Award.

Vote: Adopted – 4 Yes (Councilmember Ivino absent)

Motion made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to approve adding Trade Masters, owner John Kotsides, PO Box 490, High Falls, NY 12440, 914-388-0206, [john@trademasters.com](mailto:john@trademasters.com) to be added to the Town of Saugerties Energy Code Compliance Inspectors List (Mr. Kotsides has supplied all necessary paperwork).

Vote: Adopted – 4 Yes (Councilmember Ivino absent)

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Barr to do a budget adjustment from the 2025 budget to the 2026 budget from line item A00.3-3120.101 in the amount of \$53,160.00 to line item A00.3-3120.424 for the purchase of a 2026 F-150 Police Responder Pickup Truck that was ordered on state bid, as per the recommendation of the Chief of Police and town account.

Discussion: Chief Swart said that they tried to order this in 2025.

Vote: Adopted – 4 Yes (Councilmember Ivino absent)

Motion made by Councilmember Bassler, seconded by Councilmember Barr to allow the Chief of Police to sign the Equipment Loan Agreement between the County of Ulster and the Town of Saugerties, as on file, in regards to the loan of the police equipment such as breath test equipment, lidars and radar units.

Discussion: Chief Swart added that these are on loan from STOP DWI

Vote: Adopted – 4 Yes (Councilmember Ivino absent)

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to move James Jarman from a part time MEO position to full time Laborer’s position to fill a vacancy in the Highway Department at a rate of pay of \$29.84 per hour, effective March 19, 2026 as per the recommendation of Raymond Mayone, Highway Superintendent.

Discussion: Ray added that James is a big asset being a previous part timer and experience with tree work.

Vote: Adopted – 4 Yes (Councilmember Ivino absent)

Motion made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to move part time Police Officer Christopher Collins to a full time position at a Step 6 per the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the PBA, effective March 23, 2026.

Discussion: Chief Swart said that Mr Collins has been working for us part time and is a great field trainer.

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Bassler to adjourn Town Board Meeting at 8:55 p.m., carried.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS;**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026**

**Pre-Board Meeting**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Town Board Meeting**

**7:00 p.m.**

*Meeting was closed in memory of Paul Donlon.*

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Town Clerk