

WORKSHOP – AUGUST 12, 2026

A Workshop was held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Frank D. Greco Multi-Purpose Building located on the corner of Market and Robinson Streets in the Village of Saugerties with the following members present:

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

Discussions included up-coming budget inquires, Village water reimbursement and HUD wanting health insurance paid by the town. Members questioned if HUD should remain in town hall or find another venue.

Town Clerk

PRE-BOARD MEETING – AUGUST 12, 2026

A Pre-Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Frank D. Greco Multi-Purpose Building located on the corner of Market and Robinson Streets in the Village of Saugerties with the following members present:

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

All were in agreement to move motions forward to the agenda.

Town Clerk

TOWN BOARD MEETING – AUGUST 12, 2026

The Town Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. 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
Councilmember Mike Ivino
Councilmember Stephanie Bassler
Supervisor Fred Costello

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Dia Mansbach – appreciate consultation of CODE RED. Questioned Councilmember Bassler about BESS Working Group, Councilmember Bassler said that the group convenes to work on draft zoning law; it is an invited group which includes planning consultant and building inspector Sean Weaver.

Eric Delmar – complex conflicts with BESS, village is in harms way and it will ruin our way of life. The town should step up and fight to protect the village.

Catherine Rumble – disturbing number of units around the country with battery storage which we do not need.

Eileen Ryan – threat of cyber-attacks; what are the safeguards planned against cyber-attacks.

Pat Fairhurst – against the battery storage plant in the town and the village; wants moratorium and make Saugerties the 99th town to ban storage.

Joan Buck – has site specific analysis been received that was requested from the town board in June. Supervisor Costello explained that Key Capture has the right to the planning process since they are in Industrial Zone. Town Board will not get the document, Planning Board will.

Karen Citizen – gave Councilmember Ivino two minutes to explain the benefit/benefits, Councilmember Ivino responded that the town is hiring a third party consultant as one of the motions on the agenda.

Stephen Shafer – if we lived more modestly, we wouldn't need all the extra to keep everything going.

Deborah Sanchez – asked about Kingston being trained in fire; Councilmember Ivino clarified that Kingston is the Hazmat Unit for Ulster County. Questioned if there is any study on decline of battery usage; Supervisor Costello will ask for a decommissioning plan/bond.

Lou Skaar – congratulate the village board to put moratorium, they heard us and the town board needs to hear us.

Bill Farrell – Mike Ivino said our fire department is prepared for this – long term storage is exploding all over the place, lithium is toxic.

Janet Asiain – have to determine private wishes and not behind closed doors, can't possibly know what the community wants.

Susan Becker – grateful that residents speak up about concerns, we need the town board to listen to us, we will hold you accountable.

Sam Dederick – neighbor complaining about a rooster in rural area, they feel only their happiness matters. Don't give away rural rights, please protect our rural community.

Joanne Pagano Weber – not convinced that BESS is good for our town; concerned about condition of beach that is algae ridden.

Erin Chappelle - \$150,000.00/year is all that the town will get to have BESS – Supervisor Costello says that this is not confirmed. Also, sent a letter to the board about Veteran Exemptions and no one has responded.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

Supervisor Costello explained that the board has brought many entities in to research BESS project; town board does take the job very seriously. It can be very difficult to tell real news from fake/AI, need to do your research, trust information but verify. No decisions have been made behind closed doors, we will work in support of the Planning Board. A group visited BESS facility in Buffalo which is equipped with specific instructions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Ivino to accept the minutes of Workshop, Pre-Board and Town Board Meetings of July 15, 2026 and Emergency Town Board Meeting on August 4, 2026, carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Barr to accept the bills as presented, carried.

General Fund	\$141,768.98
General Outside Village	44,432.30
Highway	54,118.24
Capital Projects	640,406.16
Ambulance District	139,734.42
Lighting District	34.31
Sewer O&M	3,853.57
Water O&M	11,565.01

Malden Sewer	15,418.58
Central Hudson	35,084.00

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

John Hanzl, Water & Sewer – nothing to report

KJ Swart, Police Chief – National Night Out – community event to foster police department and youth, great night. Planning for Garlic Festival; patrols are set up with Comfort Inn at the expense of the hotel owner. On August 13, there will be physical agility exam at the high school.

Greg Chorvas, Parks Rec/Bldg & Grounds – playground at Jaycee Field will open on Friday but we experienced erosion on item #4 so we may put in blacktop. Erosion on fields because of copious amount of rain; some tree damage. Ice rink opened on August 2 and has been very busy. CFA grant has been submitted. Thank you to City of Kingston to clean catch basins and drainage.

Jon Lowrey, Highway – two weeks ago we had 9 road closures, within 48 hours roads were back up and running. Drainage project is being done in front of the highway department. A mini-burst happened last Saturday closing five roads but were fixed within four hours.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Barr – Ethics Committee will have a meeting on August 25 and may be looking for clerical help. Also, on August 25 there will be a drinking water plan meeting, stakeholders survey has been submitted to Cornell and surveys are on the website – input is wanted.

Councilmember Thornton – Lifespring has 134 enrolled and you can still sign up by August 21. Touch-a-truck will be October 25 with the proceeds going to the Animal Shelter; Artist Studio Tour was held August 8-9; Historical Society has Augusta Savage exhibit at the Lamb Center; STAC is working on a different traffic pattern for the Garlic Festival because of the Malden Turnpike bridge out.

Councilmember Ivino – the beach is run by the Village but we share the Harvester to keep chestnut/milfoil somewhat under control; the town will follow a zero waste set up at the Garlic Festival. Thank you to Ray and John for help recently, it is appreciated. On September 17 5:00-8:00 there will be an Animal Shelter fundraiser at Mariners.

Councilmember Bassler – wished speakers from the public comment would stay to hear all the work going on in town. Augusta Savage celebrated on August 1 throughout the County and Shout Out Saugerties has applied for a grant for a bust to be displayed at the Library. HUD had shortfall from federal money but has been restored. We need more suitable landlords. Supervisor Costello extended his thanks to Councilmember Bassler for doing work on the grant.

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS:

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Councilmember Bassler to appoint Kim Smith, Saugerties Deputy Town Clerk, as Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics for the remainder of 2026.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Bassler, seconded by Councilmember Barr to approve the standard IRS allowance for mileage reimbursement at a rate of 76 cents per mile, effective July 1, 2026.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Supervisor Costello to move Alton Weeks to the position of Heavy Motor Equipment Operator for the Highway Department at \$32.75 per hour, effective August 13, 2026 and as per the recommendation of Raymond Mayone, Highway Superintendent.

Discussion: Ray added that Alton is very talented with equipment and should have a long future with the highway department.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Councilmember Ivino authorizing Highway Superintendent Raymond Mayone to purchase one (1) new 2027 Dodge Ram 5500 Reg Cab Chassis 4x4 truck with a 9' Rugby Eliminator Steel $\frac{3}{4}$ yard dump body and snow plow package via New York State OGS contract #PC6942SBM Group 40440, Award 23166 at a purchase price of \$74,437.00. This truck will be paid for from DBO 3-5110.463 to be reimbursed with CHIPS funding.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Ivino to allow the Town of Saugerties Supervisor to certify an application to be submitted on behalf of the Town of Saugerties Justice Court to the Justice Court Assistance Program for grant funds for the 2026-2027 grant cycle for an amount up to \$30,000.00 (pertaining to SecureScan Document Scanning).

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to allow the Town of Saugerties Supervisor to sign a letter of authorization in regards to allowing a representative of the Pietkiewicz Family to go before the Town of Saugerties Planning Board to pursue a lot line revision between parcels 29.29-1-27 and 29.29-1-28.

Discussion: Supervisor Costello clarified that The Pietkiewicz Family will bear all costs of revision.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Bassler, seconded by Councilmember Barr to approve the sealed bid, opened June 11, 2026, from Richers Electric, in the amount of \$330,000.00, for supply and installation of one (1) new Rehlko 500REOZJC 30Phase, 277-480 Volt Diesel Emergency Backup Generator System for the Ice Arena Chiller. To include one (1) new KCS-AMVC-1200S Transfer Switch and new electrical service, along with all related and required wiring, materials and supplies. Funds to cover aforementioned costs from Sam's Grant #25834 (\$76,018.66), previously dedicated (October 19, 2022) Recreation Trust Funds (\$103,570.00), Climate Smart Grant (\$36,499.00), Ice Arena Surplus Revenues 2024 (\$48,579.00) and 2025 Surplus Revenues (\$40,697.00), along with 2026 budgeted line item #A7110.490 (\$10,000.00) and Line item #A7110.491 (\$15,000.00), as per the recommendation of the Parks & Buildings Superintendent, and further, as per approval of the Town CPA.

Discussion: Greg Chorvas explained that the original plan was too expensive, now split between two projects which will also make it available as a certified Red Cross Shelter.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to add to the Parks & Buildings call out list, Hudson Darmain at a pay rate of \$17.50/hour as per the recommendation of the Parks & Buildings Superintendent.

Discussion: Greg Chorvas added that Hudson takes on initiative and is a nice, polite gentlemen.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to allow the supervisor to sign the proposal with Code Red Consultants, LLC, as on file, regarding Key Capture Energy Battery Storage System Services.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to award the sealed bid for the demolition of debris from 638 Route 212, Saugerties, NY to Washington Estates Transport, Inc. in the amount of \$28,500.00.

Discussion: Councilmember Ivino added that this structure had fire damage and is a safety concern.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Councilmember Bassler to approve setting the following public hearing dates of September 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. and October 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. regarding proposed Local Law Amending Chapter 245, Zoning, pertaining to Indoor Agricultural and Horticultural Specialties.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Bassler, seconded by Councilmember Barr to approve Melinda Huerta as a part time clerk at a pay rate of \$25.00 per hour effective August 19, 2026 for 30

hours a week per the recommendation of the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Department Administrator Sean Weaver.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to approve Dylan Hanenberg as a part time Municipal Code Assistant at a rate of \$25.00 per hour/30 hours a week, effective August 17, 2026 per the recommendation of the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Department Administrator Sean Weaver.

Discussion: Councilmember Ivino added that Dylan is currently in the middle of completion of the classes.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Councilmember Bassler to authorize the Supervisor to sign and submit a \$97,400.00 grant application to the Hudson River Foundation for the Lower Esopus Stream Management Plan Grant program in support of Project 44 – Tributary Stabilization at Esopus Bend, the town's match for the project will not exceed \$19,480.00.

Discussion: Councilmember Bassler added that this is for design engineering at Kalina Drive.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to allow the supervisor to sign a letter of support in regards to Riverkeeper's proposed lower Esopus Septic and Phosphorus Assessment: A Pathway to Future Investment to the Hudson River Foundation's Lower Esopus Stream Management Plan Grants.

Discussion: Supervisor Costello said would like to make this as useful and recreational as much as possible. Councilmember Barr explained that the lower Esopus is in the town but the beach is in the Village.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Barr to adjourn Town Board Meeting at 9:07 p.m., carried.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Public Hearing	6:00 p.m.
Pre-Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Town Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.

Meeting closed in memory of Ray Scally, Elda Zulick, Jimmy Murphy and Janice Martin.

Town Clerk