

WORKSHOP – JULY 15, 2026

A brief workshop was held before the Town Board Meeting on July 15, 2026 at 6:15 p.m. with all board members present.

Councilmember Bassler would like more sharing/collaboration as to what is going with different projects in the town. Another workshop will be held in August before the town board meeting.

Town Clerk

TOWN BOARD MEETING – JULY 15, 2026

The Town Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, July 15, 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

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR:

Key Capture Energy: presentation on BESS technology given by Paul Williamson and Joel Vyduna including technical overview, fire safety and sound. Complete report is on file at the Town Clerk's Office. A Q&A session was held after the presentation which lasted over an hour.

Suzanne Bennett – informed everyone of a tribute scheduled for Augusta Savage on August 1 at the Orpheum from 1:00 – 3:00 and an exhibit will be held at 4:00 at the Lamb Center. Suzanne requested that August 1st be named Augusta Savage Day for the Town of Saugerties and the Town Board unanimously agreed to do so, adding a motion to this agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Barbara Budik – supports Black Walnut Farm to join Tissal Road for easier and safer access and also to be included in the water and sewer hook ups. Supervisor Costello said there is still a significant amount of planning that needs to be done to make it a reality.

Mark Hoffstatter – Blue Stone Park has had long standing problems and we are looking for resolutions. Supervisor Costello met with an engineer and hope to do much of the work in-house. Councilmember Ivino believes there is a voltage problem.

Elizabeth Strum – thank you for having Key Capture tonight, it is important to shore up the grid. We will be safer with battery storage.

Ann Life – wanted to personally invite the town board members to the Artist Tour the weekend of August 8-9.

SUPERVISOR’S COMMENTS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Ivino to approve the minutes of Pre-Board and Town Board Meeting on June 17, 2026, carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Barr to approve the bills as presented:

General Fund	\$180,302.85
General Outside Village	9,924.97
Highway	86,384.35
Ambulance District	139,734.42
Sewer O&M	1,753.45
Water O&M	1,739.45
Malden Sewer	3,492.90
Central Hudson	34,277.74

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Barr – scheduling meeting with department heads; library board has two positions open and the 2027 draft budget is available and they have voted to override the tax cap.

Councilmember Thornton – thank all for participation at the food trucks on July 3rd and we received the state grant for \$605,000.00 for the Splashpad! New TV23 Coordinator has been very busy and is filming the meeting tonight. STAC met regarding Simmons Street project.

Councilmember Bassler excused herself from the meeting.

Councilmember Ivino – nothing to report

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS:

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Ivino to approve the Standard Workday and Reporting resolution, as on file, for elected and appointed officials as requested by the NYS Retirement System.

Vote: Adopted – 4 Yes (Councilmember Bassler absent)

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to approve the Grant Disbursement Agreement for DASNY Grant 28341 in the amount of \$100,000.00 to be used to pay for costs incurred in building the new Saugerties Animal Shelter and to authorize Supervisor Costello to sign documents requested by this grant.

Vote: Adopted – 4 Yes (Councilmember Bassler absent)

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Supervisor Costello to move animal shelter employee Claire Ruppert from part time to full time effective immediately, as per the recommendation of the Animal Shelter Manager/Animal Control Officer.

Vote: Adopted – 4 Yes (Councilmember Bassler absent)

Motion made by Councilmember Thornton, seconded by Supervisor Costello to promote Aaron Reynolds from the rank of Patrolman to the rank of Detective with a weekly stipend of \$88.66, effective July 6, 2026.

Discussion: Supervisor Costello added that we are restoring the roster to fill vacancies.

Vote: Adopted – 4 Yes (Councilmember Bassler absent)

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Ivino to move Jeff Jayson from the position of Volunteer Police Officer to the position of part time Police Officer at the rate of \$30.00 per hour, effective July 20, 2026.

Vote: Adopted – 4 Yes (Councilmember Bassler absent)

Motion made by Councilmember Ivino, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to add to the Summer Youth Recreation Program, with pay rates consistent with the previously approved Salary Schedule, Brian Breithaupt (Medical Director), Laura Percivalle (Medical Director), Lucia Vasquez (Sports Director), as per the recommendation of the Summer Youth Recreation Director.

Vote: Adopted – 4 Yes (Councilmember Bassler absent)

Motion made by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Thornton to add to the Summer Youth Recreation Program's Waiting List and the departments call out list Hannah Mills, Wylie Smith, Xiomyra Marquark, Carter Nelson as per the recommendation of the Summer Youth Recreation Director and the Parks & Buildings Superintendent.

Vote: Adopted – 4 Yes (Councilmember Bassler absent)

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Ivino to authorize a proclamation to memorialize August 1, 2026 as Augusta Savage Day.

Vote: Adopted – 4 Yes (Councilmember Bassler absent)

Motion made by Supervisor Costello, seconded by Councilmember Barr to adjourn the Town Board Meeting at 10:02 p.m., carried.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Town Board Workshop

6:00 p.m.

Pre-Board Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Town Board Meeting

7:00 p.m.

The meeting closed in memory of Bob Saturn, John Harris, Peter Marcello, Jamie Fine, Roger Myer, Pam Christiana and John Osenni.

Town Clerk