

TOWN OF BEEKMAN – TOWN BOARD

Minutes for Tuesday, December 23, 2025

The Town of Beekman Town Board met for a regular Town Board meeting on **Tuesday, December 23, 2025**. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Mary Covucci at **6:07 PM**. The following members were present:

- Supervisor Mary Covucci
- Councilman Capollari
- Councilman Lemak
- Councilwoman Wohrman

Also present were Town Clerk **Laureen Abbatantuono** and Town Attorney **Craig Wallace**.

Supervisor Covucci led the Pledge of Allegiance. She pointed out the emergency exits and called for a moment of silence for all those who have served our country.

Supervisor Covucci reviewed the agenda items.

Town Board members read the Resolutions.

Public Comments on the Agenda

- **NONE**

Public Comments

PUBLIC COMMENT

Murray Johnson, 54 Roosevelt Drive, addressed the Board regarding the recently approved \$450,000 capital project for a town-wide reassessment. Ms. Johnson stated that her comments were based on publicly available information and invited correction if any facts were inaccurate.

Ms. Johnson questioned the justification for the reassessment, asking how many residents had requested it and why the Board committed significant funds without clearly explaining the need or potential impacts to residents. He stated that many residents do not understand whether the current 68% assessment level is beneficial or detrimental and have not been informed of the potential positive or negative consequences of a reassessment.

She expressed concern that the Town Assessor was not present and questioned whether the assessor supported the reassessment, had reviewed the scope of work, or could realistically complete the bid and contract process by year's end. Ms. Johnson further questioned why the

issue was not raised earlier and suggested that residents should hear directly from the assessor before funds are expended.

Ms. Johnson stated her belief that the current Board's actions may negatively impact the incoming Board's 2026 budget and expressed disappointment in what she characterized as a lack of transparency and communication. She concluded by stating she looked forward to improved governance in 2026 and extended holiday greetings.

Bill Crane, 254 Gardiner Hollow Road, commented that he respected Ms. Johnson's willingness to express dissent and emphasized the importance of tolerance, civility, and maintaining community relationships despite differing opinions. Mr. Crane also shared a brief holiday joke and extended holiday greetings.

Tony Coviello, Highway Superintendent addressed the Board regarding staffing concerns within the Highway Department. Mr. Coviello stated that since 2021 he has repeatedly requested additional Highway Maintenance Equipment Operator (HMEO) positions and laborer positions through emails and budget requests, many of which he stated went unanswered.

Mr. Coviello expressed concern about a recently passed resolution that ended a laborer position effective December 31, shortly after the start of winter, stating that this action reduced staffing levels during critical operations. He outlined current staffing levels and workload demands, noting responsibility for maintaining approximately 137 lane miles of road with limited personnel and extended work hours.

Mr. Coviello requested that the Town Board pass a resolution restoring the laborer position to a full-time role to support department operations. (refer to the attached)

General Board Comments

NONE

Next Meeting

The next Regular Town Board Meetings are scheduled for:

- **Tuesday, December 30, 2025 at 6:00 PM**

Supervisor Covucci made a motion to adjourn the meeting at **6:27 PM**. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wohrman.

All in Favor: AYE

Respectfully Submitted,
Laureen Abbatantuono
Town Clerk