



Town of Beekman Town Board

Beekman Town Hall
4 Main Street
Poughquag, NY 12570

Special Meeting of the Town Board

Thursday, January 22nd, 2026
6:00PM

Town Board Members

Laureen Abbatantuono, Supervisor
Kate Blake, Deputy Supervisor
Gina Ragusa, Councilwoman
Mersin Capollari, Councilman
Sharon Wohrman, Councilwoman

Alicia Turechalk, Town Clerk

RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Each presentation to the Board made by an individual shall be limited to three (3) minutes in duration, unless extended by agreement by the Town Supervisor/ designee
2. Comments should be directed to the Board. Comments should be made in a respectful manner to the Board and from the Board to the community.

The Town Supervisor or designee may:

- a. Interrupt, warn, or terminate an individual's comment when the comment is personally directed, abusive or obscene.
- b. Request that any individual leave the meeting when that individual fails to observe reasonable decorum.
- c. Call for a recess or an adjournment to another time.

The intent of these rules are:

1. To allow members of the public a fair and adequate opportunity to be heard.
2. To assure that the regular agenda of the Town Board is completed; and
3. To recognize the nature of the Board and community's time and to use that time effectively.

Meeting Agenda

- a. Roll Call of the Town Board
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- d. Administrative Announcement
- e. Public Hearing
 - 1. Battery Storage Moratorium
- e. Public Comment on Agenda Items and Resolutions (3 minutes)
- f. Resolutions
- g. Town Board Items for Discussion
- h. Privilege of the Floor with respect to Agenda & Non-Agenda items (3 minutes)
- i. Adjournment

Resolutions

- 1. Resolution Adopting Local Law No. 1-2026 Enacting a Temporary Moratorium on all Battery Storage System Facilities
- 2. Vehicle Repair for Town Highway Department
- 3. Authorizing Temporary Hire of Data Entry Clerk for Receiver of Taxes

Resolutions

RESOLUTION 01:22:26-1

Resolution Adopting Local Law No. 1-2026

WHEREAS, several Hudson Valley communities are witnessing the introduction of a previously unfamiliar form of Green-adjacent technology in the form of Battery Energy Storage Systems, or “BESS”, and

WHEREAS, BESS facilities generally consist of rows of rechargeable batteries housed in self-contained, interconnected storage units. BESS facilities typically operate by drawing surplus energy from the local power grid during periods of low usage and storing it for later distribution back into the grid during peak demand, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Beekman and local Fire Companies have raised concerns regarding BESS facilities over the presence of highly flammable substances, such as lithium-ion batteries, and possible air and groundwater contamination, and

WHEREAS, following the third fire at a battery energy storage facility in as many months in New York this summer, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced the creation of a state inter-agency working group tasked with ensuring the safety of battery energy storage systems across New York State, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds it imperative that the town undertake a thorough examination of these systems to identify any possible threats to public health, safety and welfare as well as evaluate the potential for environmental degradation, and

WHEREAS, other potentially significant planning concerns associated with BESS facilities such as noise generated by cooling fans may affect the quality of life of our residents, and

WHEREAS, it is essential for the Town of Beekman to enact a temporary moratorium to carefully evaluate the implications of BESS facilities and assess how they impact the Town, its residents, and its fire prevention infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Beekman has determined that the local law is a Type II action in accordance with Section 617.5(c) (36) SEQRA, and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2025, the Town Board adopted a Temporary Moratorium for six months for the same reasons and continued its research, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Beekman continues to actively research best practices with respect to the local regulation of BESS facilities, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that extending the moratorium while it completes its due diligence on proposing the proper regulatory scheme for regulating BESS facilities, and

WHEREAS, a draft local law extending the moratorium was drafted, circulated to, and was before the Town Board members for the statutorily required time for its consideration, and

WHEREAS, a duly noticed public hearing on the local was held on January 22, 2026, at which time all wishing to be heard were heard,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Beekman Town Board hereby adopts the attached Local Laws extending the BESS moratorium for a period of 6 months.

RESOLUTION 01:22:26-2

Approval of Emergency Repair of Highway Vehicle

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent has advised the Town Board that a vehicle in his charge, _____ is in need of emergency repair in order to continue to serve the needs of the community, and

WHEREAS, the cost of the repair will be greater than \$3,000.00 but less than \$20,000.00, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Town's Procurement Policy, the Highway Superintendent obtained written quotes from three vendors for doing the repair, and

WHEREAS, two of the vendors indicated that if they did the repair it could not be completed expeditiously in a manner that would place the vehicle back in service in the time required to serve the community, and

WHEREAS, the third vendor _____, which is also the dealer from whom the vehicle was obtained, could repair the vehicle in a timely manner if it was received by Monday, January 19, 2026 for an estimated price of \$ _____, and

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent delivered the vehicle to the dealer to allow for its timely repair, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds that the repair is necessary, and emergency, and that appropriate due diligence in accordance with the Procurement Policy was performed by the Highway Superintendent,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board approves the expenditure necessary for the repair of said vehicle by _____ based upon an estimated cost of \$ _____.

RESOLUTION 01:22:26-3

Authorizing the Temporary Hire of a Data Entry Clerk to Assist the Receiver of Taxes

WHEREAS, the Receiver of Taxes has experienced an increased workload during the tax collection period, and

WHEREAS, additional clerical assistance is necessary to ensure the accurate and timely processing of tax payments, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds it to be in the best interest of the Town to authorize the hiring of a temporary data entry clerk on a part-time basis,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the hiring of Patricia Troy as temporary data entry person to assist the Receiver of Taxes for 10-15 hours per week, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the total compensation for this temporary position shall not exceed \$3,000 or 150 total hours, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Receiver of Taxes is authorized to supervise the work performed, and the Town Supervisor is authorized to execute any necessary payroll documentation consistent with this resolution.

LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2026
ENACTING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON
ALL BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITIES

SECTION I.
SHORT TITLE

This local law shall be cited as Local Law No. 1 of 2026 of the Town of Beekman and it is entitled the “2026 Temporary Moratorium Law on Battery Energy Storage System Facilities.”

SECTION II.
LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

WHEREAS, several Hudson Valley communities are witnessing the introduction of a previously unfamiliar form of Green-adjacent technology in the form of Battery Energy Storage Systems, or “BESS”; and

WHEREAS, BESS facilities generally consist of rows of rechargeable batteries housed in self-contained, interconnected storage units. BESS facilities typically operate by drawing surplus energy from the local power grid during periods of low usage and storing it for later distribution back into the grid during peak demand; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Beekman and local Fire Companies have raised concerns regarding BESS facilities over the presence of highly flammable substances, such as from lithium-ion batteries, and possible air and groundwater contamination; and

WHEREAS, following the third fire at a battery energy storage facility in as many months in New York this summer, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced the creation of a state inter-agency working group tasked with ensuring the safety of battery energy storage systems across New York State; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds it imperative that the town undertake a thorough examination of these systems to identify any possible threats to public health, safety and welfare as well as evaluate the potential for environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS, other potentially significant planning concerns associated with BESS facilities such as noise generated by cooling fans may affect the quality of life of our residents; and

WHEREAS, it is essential for the Town of Beekman to enact a temporary moratorium to carefully evaluate the implications of BESS facilities and assess how they impact the Town, its residents, and its fire prevention infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2024 the Town Board enacted a nine month Temporary Moratorium on BESS applications while it conducted research and planning for the purposes of developing an appropriate regulatory framework for processing such applications; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2025 the Town Board extended the Temporary Moratorium by an additional six months for the same reasons and continued its research; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board continues to actively research best practices with respect to the local regulation of BESS facilities;

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Beekman has determined that the local law is a Type II action in accordance with Section 617.5(c)(36) SEQRA.

IT IS THEREFORE FOUND BY TOWN OF BEEKMAN TOWN BOARD that the Town of Beekman shall implement a moratorium to allow for a comprehensive and deliberate examination of BESS facilities and the recently introduced state inter-agency working group, with the aim of preserving the Town's ability to address the unique needs and concerns of its community in the realm of battery energy storage system regulations.

SECTION III. AUTHORITY

This moratorium is enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Beekman pursuant to its authority to adopt local laws under Article IV of the New York State Constitution and Municipal Home Rule Law Section 10.

SECTION IV. MORATORIUM

For a period of six (6) months from the effective date of this Local Law, no applications shall be accepted or considered by the Planning Department or the Department of Environmental Control of the Town of Beekman for any battery energy storage system facilities, or stand-alone.

SECTION V. VARIANCES

The Town Board shall have the authority, after a public hearing, to vary or modify the application of any provision of the Local Law upon its determination that strict application of this Local Law would impose practical difficulties or extraordinary hardships upon an application and that the variance granted would not adversely affect that health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of the Town or significantly conflict with the general purposes and intent of this Local Law. Any request for a variance shall be in writing and filed with the Town Clerk and shall include a fee of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for the processing of such application. All such applications shall promptly be referred to the Town Board, which shall conduct a Public Hearing on the application on not less than five (5) days public notice and shall make its decision within thirty (30) days after the close of the Public Hearing.

SECTION VI. SEVERABILITY

The invalidity of any work, section, clause, paragraph, sentence, part or provision of this Local Law shall not affect the validity of any other part of this Local Law which can be given effect without such invalid part or parts.

SECTION VII. REPEAL OF OTHER LAWS

All local laws in conflict with provisions of this Local Law are hereby superseded and suspended for the duration of this moratorium and for any additional period that this Local Law is extended. This Local Law also supersedes, amends and takes precedence over any inconsistent provisions of the New York State Town Law, the Town's Municipal Home Rule powers, pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law Sections 10 and 22. The Town Law provisions intended to be superseded include all the Article 16 of the Town Law, Sections 261-285

inclusive and any other provisions of law that the Town may superseded pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law and the Constitution of the State of New York.

The courts are directed to take notice of this legislative intent and to apply such intent in the event the Town has failed to specify any provisions of law that may require supersession. The Town Board hereby declares that it would have enacted this local law and superseded such inconsistent provisions had it been apparent.

SECTION VIII.
EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall take effect immediately, as provided by law, upon filing with the New York State Secretary of State.

Dated: _____ 2026, Town of Beekman

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD, TOWN OF BEEKMAN

ALICIA TURENCHALK, TOWN CLERK