



# Town of Beekman Town Board

Beekman Town Hall  
4 Main Street  
Poughquag, NY 12570

## *Special Meeting of the Town Board*

Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
6:00PM

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

### **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. Swearing in Ceremony
- b. Roll Call of the Town Board
- c. Pledge of Allegiance
- d. Administrative Announcement
- 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. Appointment of the Town Attorney
- 2. Renew Rules for Public Comment at Town Board Meetings
- 3. Appointment of Deputy Supervisor
- 4. Appointment of Town Clerk
- 5. Appointment of the Confidential Secretary to Town Supervisor
- 6. Set Town Board Meeting Schedule for the Year 2026
- 7. Authorizing the Extension of Full Time Laborer
- 8. Authorizing Town Clerk to Advertise for Highway Material Bids
- 9. Authorizing Town Clerk to Advertise for Black Top Material Bids
- 10. Town Board Resolution Freezing the Salaries of all Non-Union Employees
- 11. Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys 2026
- 12. Appointment of Town Prosecutor
- 13. Appointment of Financial Advisor

# **Resolutions**

## **RESOLUTION 01:05:26-1**

### **Appointment of the Town Attorney for the Town of Beekman**

WHEREAS, The Town of Beekman retains counsel for advice on legal matters, and

WHEREAS, the law firm of Abrams Fensterman will provide counsel for said purpose, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Beekman does hereby appoint the law firm of Abrams Fensterman as Town Attorneys for the Town of Beekman to be compensated at the rate(s) of \$250.00 per hour.

## **RESOLUTION 01:05:26-2**

### **Renew Rules for Public Comment**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Beekman hereby adopts the following rules of decorum for all periods of public comment at its Town Board meetings for the year 2026:

The presiding officer shall have, to the fullest extent provided by New York State law, the sole authority to regulate public comment at any meeting as she/he, in his/her sole discretion, shall see fit, including, but not limited to, the authority to set priority for topics of comment and to declare any person to be out of order for failure to follow his or her directives in this regard. In governing the meeting and regulating public comment the presiding officer shall consider, but shall not be strictly bound by the following guidelines:

1. The public shall be allowed to speak during the period of the meeting designated as "Public Comment" or as such other time as a majority of the Town Board shall suspend these rules, or at a duly called public hearing, or any other time required by state law or the Town Code of the Town of Beekman. Speakers must sign-in and provide their name, address (if they so choose) and organization they represent, if applicable. Speakers must be recognized by the presiding officer. During the segment of the meeting designated "Public Comment", speakers shall limit their remarks to three (3) minutes and will be advised by the presiding officer when three (3) minutes have expired. Speakers are requested to conclude their remarks at that time. "Public Comment" is intended to afford persons an opportunity to express opinions on items on the Town Board agenda or general public comment periods. No Speaker shall be declared out of order, prevented from speaking or barred from attendance at any meeting because of any disagreement with the Speaker's position or view on any matter, because of the Speaker's identity or because of any disagreement with the content of relevant testimony. Written comments submitted to the Town Clerk will not be read aloud but included in the minutes. Written comments will negate the opportunity for a (3) minute oral comment.

2. All remarks shall be addressed to the Town Board as a body and not to any member thereof. Speakers shall observe the rules of decorum set forth in Subsection 3 below. Interested parties or their representatives may address the Town Board by written communications. Written communications shall be delivered to the Town Clerk.

#### **3. Rules of decorum**

##### **1. Purposes of rules of decorum.**

1. To ensure that meetings of the Town Board are conducted in a way that allows the business of the Town to be effectively undertaken.

2. To ensure that members of the public who attend meetings of the Town Board can be heard in a fair, impartial manner.
3. To ensure that meetings of the Town Board are conducted in a way which is open to all viewpoints and which is protective of the content of each speaker's speech and expression, yet is free from abusive, distracting or intimidating behavior.
4. To ensure that these rules of decorum are understood by persons attending Town Board meetings.
5. To ban egregious, inappropriate, and obstructive behavior at meetings of the Town Board.

2. Rules for the Speaker.

1. The speaker shall conduct himself or herself in a professional and respectful manner.
2. All remarks shall be directed to the Town Board, and not at Town staff or the public in attendance.
3. The speaker shall not defame, intimidate, make personal affronts, make threats of violence, or use profanity.

3. Rules for the public. Members of the public in the audience shall not engage in any of the following activities during a Town Board meeting:

1. Shouting, Clapping, unruly behavior, distracting side conversations, or speaking out.
2. Defamation, intimidation, personal affronts, threats of violence, or profanity.
3. Behavior that disrupts the orderly conduct of the meeting.

4. Persons Authorized to approach the dais. No person except members of the Town Board and Town Staff shall be permitted to approach the dais without the consent of the presiding officer.

5. Enforcement of rules of decorum.

1. Upon a violation of these rules of decorum, the presiding officer shall request the person or persons violating a rule or rules to cease the violation.
2. If a violation continues, the presiding officer warns the person(s) that he/she may be required to leave the meeting room if a violation continues.
3. If the person or persons does not cease the violation(s) the presiding officer shall declare the person out of order at which time the person or persons will be ordered to leave the meeting room by the presiding officer.

### **RESOLUTION 01:05:26-3     Acknowledging the Appointment of the Deputy Supervisor**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Town Supervisor Laureen Abbantantuano has appointed Kate Blake to hereby serve as Deputy Supervisor for the Town of Beekman for the calendar year 2026.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Kate Blake shall receive a \$2,600.00 salary as set forth in the adopted budget for the Town of Beekman for calendar year 2026 and that said salary shall be payable in 26 bi- weekly installments commencing on January 1, 2026.

**RESOLUTION 01:05:26-4****Appointment of Town Clerk**

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Beekman recognizes the need to appoint a qualified individual to serve as Town Clerk in order to ensure the proper administration of town records, proceedings, and official duties, and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk is responsible for maintaining official records, issuing licenses and permits, recording minutes of meetings, and performing other duties as prescribed by law, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the qualifications of Alicia Turencchalk, and finds said individual to be duly qualified and suitable to serve in this capacity,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Beekman, hereby appoints Alicia Turencchalk to the position of Town Clerk, effective immediately, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appointed Town Clerk shall serve for a term of one year, or until a successor is duly appointed, and shall perform all duties and responsibilities as required by law and the policies of the Town Board, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to take all necessary steps to implement this appointment, including the administration of the oath of office and notification to the appropriate authorities.

**RESOLUTION 01:05:26-5****Acknowledging the Appointment of the Confidential Secretary to the Town Supervisor**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono has tentatively appointed Stephanie Giordano to hereby serve at the pleasure of the Town Supervisor as Confidential Secretary for the Town of Beekman for calendar year 2026,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Stephanie Giordano shall receive an annual salary of \$33,350.00 and said salary shall be payable in 26 bi-weekly installments.

**RESOLUTION 01:05:26-6****Designating the Time and Place for Meeting of the Town Board for the Calendar Year 2026**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Regular Monthly Meetings of the Town Board of the Town of Beekman shall be held at 7:00 PM, at Beekman Town Hall, 4 Main Street, Poughquag, Dutchess County, New York, in the evening of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) and fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Tuesday of each month, or at such other place or time within the Town of Beekman as the Town Board shall from time to time designate, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the meetings of the Town Board, including any adjourned or rescheduled meetings shall be posted in Town Hall on the Town bulletin board and on the Town website. The Town Clerk is directed to take whatever steps are necessary to have such Town Board meetings accurately reflected on the Town bulletin board and Town website.

**RESOLUTION 01:05:26-7****Resolution Extending the Full Time Laborer Position – Highway Department**

WHEREAS, the Town Board previously authorized the creation of a fulltime Laborer position within the Highway Department, with the appointment commencing on October 15, 2025 and scheduled to expire on December 31, 2025, and

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent has advised the Town Board that continued staffing is necessary to meet operational, seasonal, and departmental needs, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds it to be in the best interest to extend the duration of said fulltime Laborer position,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby extends the fulltime Laborer position within the Highway Department through March 31, 2026, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all terms and conditions of employment shall remain in effect as previously established unless otherwise amended by the Town Board, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

**RESOLUTION 01:05:26-8****2026 Highway Material Bids**

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Highways has requested that the Town Clerk advertise in the Poughkeepsie Journal for the 2026 Highway Material Bids, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes and directs the Town Clerk to advertise for highway materials for the 2026 calendar year.

**RESOLUTION 01:05:26-9****2026 Highway Black Top Bids**

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Highways has requested that the Town Clerk advertise in the Poughkeepsie Journal for the 2026 Highway Black Top Bids, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes and directs the Town Clerk to advertise for Highway Black Top Bids for the 2026 calendar year.

**RESOLUTION 01:05:26-10****Resolution Freezing 2026 Salaries for Non-Union Employees**

WHEREAS, the Town Board is responsible for the fiscal management of the Town and for ensuring that expenditures remain aligned with available revenues, and

WHEREAS, current budget conditions require the Town Board to take temporary measures to control personnel related costs, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to implement a temporary freeze on the 2026 salaries for all nonunion employees,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the salaries of all nonunion employees of the Town shall be frozen at their 2025 levels effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further notice, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no salary increases, step adjustments, or other upward compensation changes shall be authorized for nonunion employees during the period of this freeze unless expressly approved by resolution of the Town Board, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01:05:26-11**

**Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys for 2026**

AGREEMENT between the Superintendent of Town Highways of the Town of Beekman, Dutchess County, New York, and the undersigned members of the Town Board.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 284 of the Highway Law, we agree that moneys levied and collected in the Town for the repair and improvement of highways, and received from the State for State Aid for the repair and improvement of highways, shall be expended as follows:

1. GENERAL REPAIRS. The sum of \$450,000.00 shall be set aside to be expended for primary work and general repairs upon 137.02 lane miles of town highways, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or renewals thereof.

2. PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS. The following sums totaling \$492,087.00 shall be set aside to be expended for the permanent improvement of ALL Town Highways:

Executed in duplicate this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2026

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Supervisor

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Councilperson

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Councilperson

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Councilperson

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Councilperson

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County Superintendent of Highways

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Town Superintendent of Highways

Note: This agreement should be signed in duplicate by a majority of the members of the Town Board and by the Town Superintendent. Both copies must be approved by the County Superintendent. One copy must be filed in the Town Clerk's office and one in the County Superintendent's office. COPIES DO NOT HAVE TO BE FILED IN ALBANY.

**RESOLUTION 01:05:26-12****Appointment of Town Prosecutor for the Year 2026**

WHEREAS, the Beekman Town Board appoints a Town Prosecutor to prosecute zoning violations as well as certain traffic and vehicular violations in our local court, and

WHEREAS, a proposal for terms of employment as Town Prosecutor has been received for the year 2026, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby accepts the proposal dated January 1, 2026 from Paul Ackermann, esq., 35 LaGrange Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York, 10603 to serve as the Town of Beekman Prosecutor at a fee of \$8,400.00 annually for monthly court sessions in which the various summonses will be prosecuted in addition to the terms and conditions outlined in the attached contract, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute a contract of employment between the Town of Beekman and Paul Ackermann, esq. as attached, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all requests for reimbursement pursuant to this agreement shall be set forth in a signed and itemized voucher audited and approved by the Town of Beekman Board as required by law.

**RESOLUTION 01:05:26-13****Appointment of Financial Advisor for the Town of Beekman**

WHEREAS, a financial advisor assists in organizing and structuring debt for the best possible rates, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Beekman hereby appoints Thomas M. Carey as the Financial Advisor to the Town of Beekman.