

TOWN OF BEEKMAN

TOWN BOARD

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 9, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Town Hall, 4 Main Street, Poughquag, NY

ATTENDANCE

Present

- Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono
- Deputy Supervisor Kate Blake
- Councilwoman Gina Ragusa
- Councilman Mersin Capollari
- Councilwoman Sharon Wohrman
- Town Clerk Alicia Turenchalk

Also Present

- Town Attorney Michael Towey
 - Recreation Director Dani Plastini
 - Highway Superintendent Anthony Coviello
 - Legislator Joe Tresca
 - Members of the Public
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CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono called the Regular Meeting of the Town Board to order at 7:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed for all who have served, those currently serving in the military, and all law enforcement personnel.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Abbatantuono welcomed residents in attendance and provided several updates:

- Beekman Elementary School fourth grade students recently visited Town Hall. The Supervisor thanked the teachers and praised the students for their thoughtful questions and exemplary behavior.
 - The Supervisor announced an upcoming meeting with the new NYSEG District Director to establish communication regarding utility concerns affecting residents.
 - An update was provided regarding multiple Comcast service outages. Residents experiencing service interruptions were encouraged to contact Comcast for service credits and to contact the Supervisor's office if assistance was needed.
 - The Town has applied for grant funding, with assistance from Dutchess County Legislator Joe Tresca, including funding for a generator for the Highway Department and a Water Quality Improvement Project grant.
 - The Supervisor expressed concern regarding vandalism to the irrigation system at Sparrow's Nest and encouraged accountability from those responsible.
 - Concerns were also raised regarding reports of ATV riders harassing wildlife, resulting in a deer being struck by a vehicle. Residents were encouraged to speak with their children about respecting wildlife and property.
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RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Recreation Director Dani Plastini provided an update on Recreation Department activities:

- Four new trees were planted at Doherty Park.
- The beach at Recreation Park was cleaned, improved, and refilled in preparation for opening.
- Summer Camp enrollment reached 336 campers and is nearing capacity.
- Camp will begin on June 30, 2026.

- Beach passes are available for purchase, with free access for resident seniors.
- Swim lessons and Mommy & Me classes will begin June 26.
- The Town will celebrate America's 250th Birthday on June 26 with free beach access, food, and entertainment.
- Pavilion and Community Center rentals remain available.
- Community Day is scheduled for July 25, 2026 and will feature vendors, demonstrations, entertainment, activities, food trucks, and fireworks.

The Board thanked Ms. Plastini for her efforts and for her work supporting the Relay for Life event.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Highway Superintendent Anthony Coviello reported on recent Highway Department activities:

- Recreation Park beach improvements were completed.
- More than 400 feet of drainage pipe were installed on Baker Road.
- Catch basins were installed on North and South White Rock Road.
- Extensive tree trimming, roadside maintenance, brush cutting, and mowing operations were completed.
- Drainage improvements were completed on Washburn Road and Wooden Lane.
- All Town roads have been swept.
- The Town received increased CHIPS funding and continued support through the EWR, PAVE NY, and POP programs.
- Rising asphalt and petroleum costs are impacting roadway project budgets.
- Planned paving on North and South White Rock Road may be postponed while Wooden Lane and Washburn Road improvements move forward.
- The Highway Department is evaluating the purchase of a mini-excavator and replacement equipment utilizing rollover CHIPS funds.
- The winning bidder for surplus metal had not yet removed the material from the Highway Department.

The Board thanked Superintendent Coviello and his staff for their work.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Bill Crane, 254 Gardner Hollow Road

Mr. Crane commented on utility tree trimming practices and encouraged flexibility when removing trees near power lines.

Mr. Crane also congratulated Joanne Lombardi and Murray Johnson on their appointments to the Ethics Board and expressed appreciation for their service to the Town.

No further comments were offered.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 06:09:26-1: Approving the Transfer to Doherty Park Capital Project Fund

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Second: Councilwoman Ragusa

Discussion Summary

Councilman Capollari questioned the increase in the requested transfer amount from prior discussions and requested clarification regarding the intended use of the funds and the language within the resolution.

The Board discussed the use of accumulated interest earnings from ARPA funds and the need for additional detail regarding anticipated Doherty Park expenses, including trees, pavilion construction, and related improvements.

Town Attorney advised that the Board could either proceed with the resolution or revise the language and consider it at a future meeting.

Following discussion, the motion was withdrawn and the resolution was tabled for revision and future consideration.

Resolution Tabled.

Resolution 06:09:26-2: Approve Disposal of Obsolete Telephones for Town Hall and Highway Departments

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Second: Councilwoman Ragusa

Discussion Summary

Discussion centered on whether the former phone equipment could be utilized by the previous users before disposal. A call was made and the office is waiting for a response.

Roll Call Vote

Councilwoman Wohrman	Aye
Councilman Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Blake	Aye
Supervisor Abbatantuono	Aye

Resolution Approved.

Resolution 06:09:26-3: Appointment of Joanne Lombardi to the Ethics Board

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Second: Councilwoman Ragusa

Discussion Summary

Supervisor Abbatantuono welcomed Joanne Lombardi and thanked her for her willingness to serve the Town.

Roll Call Vote

Councilwoman Wohrman	Aye
Councilman Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Blake	Aye
Supervisor Abbatantuono	Aye

Resolution Approved.

Resolution 06:09:26-4: Appointment of Murray Johnson to the Ethics Board

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Second: Councilwoman Blake

Discussion Summary

The Board welcomed Murray Johnson and discussed the operation of the Ethics Board.

Friendly Amendment

Councilman Capollari proposed a friendly amendment adding language appointing Murray Johnson as Chair of the Ethics Board.

Second: Councilwoman Blake

Roll Call Vote on Friendly Amendment

Councilwoman Wohrman	Aye
Councilman Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Blake	Aye
Supervisor Abbatantuono	Aye

Friendly Amendment Approved.

Roll Call Vote on Resolution as Amended

Councilwoman Wohrman	Aye
Councilman Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Blake	Aye
Supervisor Abbatantuono	Aye

Resolution Approved.

Resolution 06:09:26-5: Approving the Increase of Initial Escrow Deposit Fee

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Second: Councilwoman Ragusa

Discussion Summary

Councilman Capollari sought clarification regarding references to Local Law No. 1-2022 and the authority to amend fee schedules.

The Board discussed comparative escrow fees utilized by neighboring municipalities and the recommendation provided by Building Inspector Janet.

It was noted that unused escrow funds are refundable and that the increase would reduce the need for repeated replenishment requests.

Roll Call Vote

Councilwoman Wohrman	Aye
Councilman Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Blake	Aye
Supervisor Abbatantuono	Aye

Resolution Approved.

Resolution 06:09:26-6: Approval of Budget Revisions

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Second: Councilwoman Ragusa

Discussion Summary

No Board discussion occurred.

Roll Call Vote

Councilwoman Wohrman	Aye
Councilman Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Blake	Aye
Supervisor Abbatantuono	Aye

Resolution Approved.

Resolution 06:09:26-7: Payment of Claims

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Second: Councilwoman Blake

Discussion Summary

No Board discussion occurred.

Roll Call Vote

Councilwoman Wohrman	Aye
Councilman Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Blake	Aye
Supervisor Abbatantuono	Aye

Resolution Approved.

Resolution 06:09:26-8: Approval of Second Town Board Meeting Change in June Due to Primary Election Day

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Second: Councilwoman Ragusa

Discussion Summary

The Board discussed the conflict between the scheduled Town Board meeting and Primary Election Day. The regular meeting was moved to June 24, 2026. The previously scheduled public hearing would remain on June 23, 2026 in the courtroom.

Roll Call Vote

Councilwoman Wohrman	Aye
Councilman Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Blake	Aye
Supervisor Abbatantuono	Aye

Resolution Approved.

Resolution 06:09:26-9: Acknowledging June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Second: Councilwoman Ragusa

Discussion Summary

Councilman Capollari identified a grammatical issue in the resolution language.

Friendly Amendment

A friendly amendment was offered to strike the word "encourage" and replace it with appropriate punctuation.

Second: Councilwoman Ragusa

Roll Call Vote on Friendly Amendment

Councilwoman Wohrman	Aye
Councilman Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Blake	Aye
Supervisor Abbatantuono	Aye

Friendly Amendment Approved.

Roll Call Vote on Resolution as Amended

Councilwoman Wohrman	Aye
Councilman Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Blake	Aye
Supervisor Abbatantuono	Aye

Resolution Approved.

BOARD COMMENTS

No Board comments were offered.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Bill Crane addressed the Board and shared postcards featuring local pheasants. Riddles were exchanged between Board members and Mr. Crane.

No additional public comments were received.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Town Attorney Michael Towey advised the Board of the need to enter Executive Session to discuss pending and ongoing litigation and settlement discussions.

Motion: Councilwoman Ragusa

Second: Councilwoman Blake

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:19 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned from Executive Session.

Motion: Councilwoman Ragusa

Second: Councilwoman Blake

Roll Call Vote

Councilwoman Wohrman	Aye
Councilman Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Blake	Aye
Supervisor Abbatantuono	Aye

Executive Session was closed. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilwoman Ragusa

Second: Councilwoman Blake

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicia Turenchalk

Town Clerk

Town of Beekman

ATTACHED ARE DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO THE RESOLUTIONS