

TOWN OF BEEKMAN

TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 28, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor **Laureen Abbatantuono** called the Regular Meeting of the Town Board to order at **7:04 p.m.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed for members of the military, first responders, and those serving overseas.

ROLL CALL

Present:

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

Also Present:

- Town Attorney Michael Hayes
- Deputy Town Clerk Samantha Lopez-Mejorado
- Department Heads and members of the public

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Local Law – Battery Energy Storage Systems

Supervisor Abbatantuono opened the Public Hearing regarding the proposed Local Law regulating Battery Energy Storage Systems.

The Town Attorney reviewed the purpose of the proposed law and summarized comments received from the Town Planning Board and Dutchess County Planning.

Discussion Summary

The Board discussed:

- Planning Board recommendations requiring placards identifying residential battery energy storage systems.
- Notification procedures for the Beekman Fire District.
- Emergency response considerations.
- Dutchess County Planning comments regarding Tier 1 system thresholds.
- The Board determined the proposed thresholds should remain unchanged while incorporating the Planning Board recommendations.

Councilwoman Kate Blake was recognized for the significant work completed in preparing the proposed legislation.

Public Comment

No comments were received.

Motion to Close Public Hearing

Motion: Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Gina Ragusa

Vote: Unanimously Approved

Motion Carried.

SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Abbatantuono provided updates regarding:

- Community Day planning
 - Upcoming Town events
 - Volunteer participation
 - Appreciation to sponsors and committee members assisting with Town activities.
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PROCLAMATION

David Ruger Recognition

Supervisor Abbatantuono presented a proclamation recognizing David Ruger for his dedication to improving the Town through environmental stewardship and public safety initiatives.

The Supervisor acknowledged David's work with the New York State Department of Transportation to improve roadway safety along Route 216 and Depot Hill Road.

The Town Board congratulated Mr. Ruger and thanked him for his continued service to the community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Town Board acknowledged the minutes of the previous Town Board Meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (Agenda Items)

Cheryl Puletz

Ms. Puletz addressed the Board regarding recent public criticism of the Ethics Committee.

Discussion Summary

Ms. Puletz explained:

- The Ethics Committee's statutory responsibilities.

- That no formal ethics complaints were currently pending.
- Concerns regarding misinformation circulated on social media.
- Her decision to resign from the Ethics Committee.

Supervisor Abbatantuono thanked Ms. Puletz for her years of volunteer service and recognized her commitment to the Town.

RESOLUTION NO. 4:28:26-1

Proclaiming May as Mental Health Awareness Month

Motion: Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Gina Ragusa

Discussion Summary

The Board recognized Mental Health Awareness Month and encouraged public awareness while promoting available mental health resources throughout the community.

Roll Call Vote

Board Member	Vote
Councilwoman Sharon Wohrman	Aye
Councilman Mersin Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Gina Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Kate Blake	Aye
Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono	Aye

Resolution Approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 4:28:26-2

Accepting the Resignation of the Building Inspector

Motion: Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Kate Blake

Discussion Summary

The Supervisor read the resignation letter into the record.

Board members expressed appreciation for the Building Inspector's dedication and professionalism and wished her success in her new position.

Roll Call Vote

Board Member	Vote
Councilwoman Sharon Wohrman	Aye
Councilman Mersin Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Gina Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Kate Blake	Aye
Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono	Aye

Resolution Approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 4:28:26-3

Accepting the Resignation of a Maintenance Employee

Motion: Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Gina Ragusa

Discussion Summary

No discussion.

Roll Call Vote

Board Member	Vote
Councilwoman Sharon Wohrman	Aye
Councilman Mersin Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Gina Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Kate Blake	Aye
Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono	Aye

Resolution Approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 4:28:26-4

Payment of Claims

Motion: Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Kate Blake

Discussion Summary

No discussion.

Roll Call Vote

Board Member	Vote
Councilwoman Sharon Wohrman	Aye
Councilman Mersin Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Gina Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Kate Blake	Aye
Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono	Aye

Resolution Approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 4:28:26-5

Authorizing Termination of the Neve Landscaping Contract

Motion: Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Kate Blake

Discussion Summary

The Board discussed the existing landscaping contract and the need to move forward with new procurement.

Discussion included:

- Requests for Proposals had been issued.
- Multiple proposals had been received.
- Review of contractor performance.

- Evaluation of whether some maintenance work could be completed by Town staff.
- Continued assessment of service levels and associated costs.

Roll Call Vote

Board Member	Vote
Councilwoman Sharon Wohrman	Nay
Councilman Mersin Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Gina Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Kate Blake	Aye
Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono	Aye

Resolution Approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 4:28:26-6

Adopting Local Law No. 2 of 2026 – Battery Energy Storage Systems

Motion: Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Kate Blake

Discussion Summary

Following the close of the Public Hearing, the Board considered adoption of Local Law No. 2 of 2026 regulating Battery Energy Storage Systems.

Discussion included:

- Incorporating recommendations received from the Planning Board.
- Requiring placards identifying residential battery energy storage systems.
- Notification procedures for the Beekman Fire District.
- Consideration of comments received from Dutchess County Planning.
- Acknowledgement of the extensive work completed in preparing the legislation.

Friendly Amendment

A friendly amendment was introduced to incorporate the Planning Board recommendation requiring residential battery storage systems to display emergency identification placards.

Motion to Amend: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Blake

Approved by Unanimous Consent.

Roll Call Vote

Board Member	Vote
Councilwoman Sharon Wohrman	Aye
Councilman Mersin Capollari	Aye
Councilwoman Gina Ragusa	Aye
Councilwoman Kate Blake	Aye
Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono	Aye

Resolution Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Several residents addressed the Board regarding Town operations, road maintenance, ethics concerns, code enforcement, and future Town projects.

Board members and staff responded to questions as appropriate and thanked residents for their comments.

BOARD DISCUSSION

The Town Board discussed several ongoing projects including:

- Community Day planning
- Highway operations
- Building Department staffing
- Upcoming procurement items
- Future capital projects
- Grant opportunities

No formal action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Town Board, Supervisor Abbatantuono asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Gina Ragusa

All in favor: Aye.

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Samantha Lopez-Mejorado
Deputy Town Clerk
Town of Beekman