

TOWN OF BEEKMAN

TOWN BOARD

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 12, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Town Hall, 4 Main Street, Poughquag, New York

ATTENDANCE

Present

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

Also Present

- Town Attorney Michael Towey
 - Members of the Public
 - Library Director Carol Fortier
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CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Laureen Abbatantuono called the Regular Meeting of the Town Board to order at 7:00 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, police, fire departments, and those serving overseas.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Abbatantuono recognized National Clerk's Week and expressed appreciation to Town Clerk Alicia Turechalk and staff members Samantha and Trish for their dedication and service to the Town. She also recognized National Police Week and thanked all members of law enforcement for their service.

Additional announcements included:

- Donations being accepted by the Friends of the Beekman Library.
 - Arlington Central School District budget vote scheduled for May 19, 2026.
 - National Women's Health Week activities sponsored by Dutchess County.
 - Dutchess County Office for the Aging Annual Picnic on August 19, 2026.
 - Beekman Athletic Club clothing drive scheduled for May 30, 2026.
 - Relay for Life scheduled for June 6, 2026.
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SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Beekman Library Strategic Plan Presentation

Library Director Carol Fortier presented the Beekman Library's Strategic Plan for the next three years. Ms. Fortier reviewed demographic information, circulation statistics, program attendance, community needs, and goals aimed at strengthening community engagement and literacy.

She discussed plans to expand programming space and improve services for children and families. Ms. Fortier also highlighted collaborative programs, civic engagement initiatives, and digital literacy opportunities offered by the library.

Supervisor Abbatantuono thanked Ms. Fortier for her years of service and wished her well on her upcoming retirement. Members of the Library Board were introduced, and discussion followed regarding community gathering opportunities and the loss of passport services previously offered by the library.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments on agenda items.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 05:12:26-1: Declaring Resolution No. 12:09:25-4 Invalid

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Ragusa

Discussion Summary

The Board discussed reversing a prior resolution establishing a contingency and tax stabilization reserve fund because required permissive referendum procedures had not been completed.

Friendly Amendment

Councilman Capollari proposed removing duplicate language from the second paragraph of the resolution.

Seconded: Councilwoman Wohrman

Roll Call Vote on Friendly Amendment

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

Friendly Amendment Approved.

Roll Call Vote on Resolution as Amended

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

Resolution Approved.

Resolution 05:12:26-2: Accepting the Resignation of Ethics Board Member Committee Member

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Ragusa

Discussion Summary

Board members thanked Carol Ewin for her years of service and expressed disappointment that circumstances had led to her resignation.

Roll Call Vote

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 05:12:26-3: Accepting the Resignation of Ethics Board Member Committee Member

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Ragusa

Discussion Summary

The Board thanked Cheryl Puletz for her years of service and discussed the challenges facing volunteers serving on Town boards.

Discussion followed regarding maintaining membership on the Ethics Board and recruiting additional volunteers.

Roll Call Vote

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 05:12:26-4: Appointment of Building Inspector II

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Blake

Discussion Summary

The Supervisor reported that three candidates had been interviewed. Janet was selected for the position and would provide cost savings to the Town compared with the prior position.

Roll Call Vote

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

Resolution Approved.

Resolution 05:12:26-5: Amending Duties and Salary of the Secretary to the Supervisor

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Ragusa

Discussion Summary

Councilman Capollari raised concerns regarding payroll segregation and guidance from the Office of the State Comptroller. Board members agreed that further review was warranted to avoid potential audit issues and to ensure payroll responsibilities were assigned appropriately.

Action Taken

The original motion was rescinded and the resolution was tabled for future consideration.

Resolution Tabled.

Resolution 05:12:26-6: Adopting Local Law No. 2 of 2026

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Blake

Discussion Summary

The Board confirmed that the public hearing had been closed and proceeded with adoption of Local Law No. 2 of 2026.

Roll Call Vote

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 05:12:26-7: Approval of Shared Services Contract for Animal Control

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Ragusa

Discussion Summary

The Board discussed participating municipalities and confirmed that issues involving one municipality had been resolved.

Roll Call Vote

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 05:12:26-8: Authorizing Contracting of Lawn Maintenance Services

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Ragusa

Friendly Amendments

Councilman Capollari proposed correcting references from the Doherty Park Capital Project Fund to the Contingency Fund and to adjust the contingency line item the contingency amount from \$18,300 to \$17,892.

Seconded: Councilwoman Wohrman

Roll Call Vote on Friendly Amendments

Roll Call Vote

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

Friendly Amendments Approved.

Roll Call Vote on Resolution as Amended

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

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Resolution Approved.

Resolution 05:12:26-9: Payment of Claims

Motion: Supervisor Abbatantuono

Seconded: Councilwoman Ragusa

Discussion Summary

Councilman Capollari abstained because he had not yet reviewed the vouchers and supporting documentation.

Roll Call Vote

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

Resolution Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Bill Crane, 254 Gardner Hollow Road

Mr. Crane addressed the Board regarding proposed changes to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and encouraged residents to contact state officials regarding the issue.

Jennifer Capollari, 26 Biltmore Drive

Ms. Capollari discussed the Stone Ridge Estates water and sewer matter and expressed concerns regarding legal and engineering costs being incurred before residents had an opportunity to fully discuss alternatives with the Town.

She requested that residents be given an opportunity to present information and participate in discussions before additional expenses were incurred.

Board Discussion Regarding Stone Ridge Estates

Supervisor Abbatantuono advised that the County had become involved and that the Board wished to provide residents with an opportunity to explore a private option for operation of the water and sewer infrastructure. Residents would be given until the second meeting in June to present a proposal.

Board members reiterated that they were attempting to work collaboratively with residents and emphasized that any future decisions would be made with the best interests of both the homeowners and the Town as a whole in mind.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Abbatantuono announced that Grievance Day would be held on May 26, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Due to Grievance Day, the next Regular Town Board Meeting would be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Abbatantuono requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was adjourned at approximately 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicia Turechalk

Town Clerk

Town of Beekman