

Summary
Town of Rhinebeck Town Board Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 24, 2026

For more information regarding this meeting's agenda and all the resolutions, go to Rhinebeck Town Government Agenda webpage at <https://ecode360.com/RH0960/document/753231589.pdf>

Present:	Supervisor Elizabeth Spinzia	espinzia@rhinebeckny.gov
	Deputy Supervisor Debbie Hecht	dhecht@rhinebeckny.gov
	Councilperson Allan Scherr	ascherr@rhinebeckny.gov
	Councilperson Dana Colleen Peterson	dcpeterson@rhinebeckny.gov
Absent:	Councilperson Chad Kleitsch	ckleitsch@rhinebeckny.gov

Announcements

County/Town Tax Bills have been mailed. Payment is due on or before February 28 (Saturday), 2026. Payments can be made at the town hall.

The Town Board meeting for Monday, March 9, 2026 has been cancelled and will be held on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Resolutions

The following is a summary of the main resolutions passed by the Town Board TB at this meeting.

Resolution 2026-085 – Parking at Stone Church Ball Field and Use of Roadway at Old Town Landfill by the Landsman Kill Trail Association for Event Parking

The TB approved the use of Stone Church Road for parking at the Landsman Kill Trail Association's equestrian event on Sunday, May 17, 2026. The Trail Association will be required to provide insurance with acceptable protection from any liability of the Town.

Resolution 2026-088 – Assessor Salary

The TB approved retaining Jennifer Mund as Town Assessor with an annual salary of \$35,000, without benefits or vacations, beginning March 1, 2026.

Resolution 2026-090 – Peddling License for Trinity Solar

The TB approved the application for a six month peddling permit submitted by Trinity Solar allowing for one of its employees to go door-to-door informing homeowners of the benefits of solar energy.

Resolution 2026-093 – Service Contract for Fertilization at Recreation Park Turf Field by Lawn Doctor

The TB approved the contract renewal for Lawn Doctor to fertilize the grass adjacent to the turf field with “All-Natural Fertilization Only” for a total cost of \$572.10. The fertilizer will not contain any weed killer.

Resolution 2026-094 – Recreational Volleyball Program Refunds

Being that the Recreational Volleyball Program is cancelled due to insufficient enrollment, the TB approved refunding the registration fee to those residents who registered for the program.

Town Board Discussion Items

Rhinebeck Villas Planning Board Application – Letter from concerned citizens and letter from DEC.

Members of the 9G community, where the proposed Rhinebeck Villas Hotel project would be located, submitted a letter to the TB, and attended the meeting to discuss their concerns. Before they spoke, town attorney, Michael Barfield, explained that since this matter is currently before the town planning board, the members of the TB could not weigh in or take any action on their letter or concerns.

Mr. Barfield did explain that in the February 10, 2026 letter from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to the hotel’s architects and engineers, the DEC stated the following:

- The March 17, 2025 application for a new permit allowing for State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System was deemed incomplete. Additional technical comments submitted on May 5, 2025, were deemed incomplete as well.
- Any treated discharge from the treatment plant must be discharged into a stream. There does not appear to be a clear, continuous stream on the site.

Residents from the area presented these concerns to the TB:

Traffic Safety - The project increases traffic volumes and turns on Route 9G near the Middle Road intersection. Although a left-turn lane is proposed, the developer’s report does not indicate peak-hour usage, sight distance, or safety impacts.

Water Supply and Impacts on Neighboring Wells - The project proposes continuous groundwater withdrawal to serve a 60-room hotel. Impacts to local drinking water supply and groundwater sustainability, especially during a drought, are potentially significant considerations under the SEQRA review and should be part of the “hard look” taken at this aspect of the project.

Wastewater Treatment Design and Environmental Risk - The proposed on-site sewage treatment system raises environmental and operational concerns affecting wetlands, groundwater, scenic resources, and adjacent properties. Discharge from the sewerage treatment plant eventually would enter the Rhinebeck Kill, via an unnamed intermittent stream. The unpleasant smell from this discharge could have a serious negative impact on adjacent properties. A comprehensive assessment of long-term effects is needed.

Scale of the Project - The scale of this project is problematic at the site location. Such hospitality projects should be moved closer to the village area.

- One resident asked the TB to look at the long-term effects similar projects had on the towns of Wappingers and Hyde Park. Permitting a project of this kind will set a precedent, allowing for other similar “hospitality” projects to be constructed in Rhinebeck.
- Deputy Supervisor Debbie Hecht stated that the issue regarding increased tourism in the Rhinebeck area needs to be addressed. Supervisor Spinzia added that the town planner might have to be consulted on tourist growth projects.

To view the full report regarding this matter, scroll down to pages 73-78 on the agenda’s page.

Additional Information

Additional information, not discussed at this TB meeting, can be found at <https://www.rhinebeckny.gov> .

Topics

- Rhinecliff Train Station Renovation
- River to Trail (Alta) Project
- Newly Adopted Parking Regulations
- Amended Short Term Rental (Local Law 2 of 2025)

The next TB meeting will be held on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM.