

Summary
Town of Rhinebeck Re-Organizational Meeting
Consent Agenda
Monday, January 5, 2026

For more information regarding this meeting's agenda and resolutions, go to Rhinebeck Town Government Agenda webpage at <https://ecode360.com/RH0960/document/753214647.pdf>

Present: Supervisor Elizabeth Spinzia
 Councilperson Debbie Hecht
 Councilperson Allan Scherr
 Councilperson Chad Kleitsch
 Councilperson Dana Colleen Peterson

Resolutions

The Town Board (TB) addressed 39 organizational resolutions, passing all unanimously. Below is a summary of the major organizational resolutions addressed and passed by the TB. Other organizational resolutions addressed by the board may be viewed on the town's website noted in the opening paragraph.

Resolution No. 2026-001 – 2026 Schedule of TB Meetings

TB meetings are usually held on Monday evenings, starting at 6:00 PM. The Rhinebeck TB will hold its regular meetings for 2026 on the following dates:

January 26	August 10
February 23	September 14
February 24	October 13 (Tuesday)
March 9	November 9
March 23	December 14
April 13	
April 27	
May 11	
June 8	
July 13	
January 4, 2027 (Annual Organizational Meeting)	
January 4, 2027 (First Regular Board Meeting)	

Resolution No. 2026-007 – Salary Schedule (2025 Salary and 2026 Salary)

Councilperson (\$12,000 - \$15,000)

Supervisor (\$67,725 - \$73,500)

Resolution No. 2026-008 – Town Board Liaisons

The following Town Board members are hereby appointed as liaisons to the following departments, boards and committees for the year 2026:

Councilperson Chad Kleitsch – (Maintenance Dept, Recreation Committee, PANDA and Transfer Station.)

Councilperson Allan Scherr – (IT-Technology and Email, Planning Board, HAPAC, and Justice Courts)

Supervisor Elizabeth Spinzia – (Assessors, Bookkeeper/Finance, Personnel, Cemetery, Highway Dept., Board of Assessment Review, Town Historian, and Emergency Services)

Councilperson Debbie Hecht – (Communications Committee, Historic Preservation, CAB, Recreation Department w/ Kleitsch, and Dog Control 2/ Peterson)

Councilperson Dana Peterson - (Amtrak to Village Trail, Dog Control, ZBA and Building Dept.)

Resolution No. 2026-009 – Appointment of Attorney to the Town

The TB has retained the firm of Drake Loeb PLLC (Michael Barfield) as attorney to the Town for the year 2026. The hourly fee for attorneys is \$250 and \$100 per hour for paralegals for Town Board matters other than litigation. For litigation in New York State Courts, the fee is \$350 per hour for attorneys and \$100 per hour for paralegals.

Resolution No. 2026-010 – Appointment of Planning and Zoning Attorney

The TB appointed John, Lyons, Esq., for the purpose of providing legal advice to the Town on planning and zoning matters at a rate of \$200 per hour.

Resolution No. 2026-011 – Appointment of Tax Certiorari & Zoning Prosecution Attorney

The TB appointed Michael Barfield at Drake Loeb, PLLC for the purpose of handling tax certiorari (appeal) matters and zoning violations at a rate of \$225 per hour for legal services.

Resolution No. 2026-012 – Appointment of Town Special Prosecutor

The TB appointed Kerri Yamashita, Esq., for the position of Special Prosecutor for the Town of Rhinebeck Justice Court at a rate of \$140 per hour. The Special Prosecutor will handle the prosecution of vehicle and traffic law violations, zoning violations, and all other matters as set forth in the resolution of the Town Board and pursuant to the authorization of Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi from 2024.

Resolution No. 2026-013 – Appointment of Land Use Attorney

The TB has retained the law firm of Zarin & Steinmetz, LLP, to provide legal input and services at protecting the town's local resources. The hourly rates for this representation are: \$625.00 for Michael Zarin's time, \$595.00 for my time, and \$575.00 for Jody Cross's time. Hourly rates for associate attorneys range from \$395.00 to \$495.00 and \$250.00 per hour for our paralegals.

Resolution No. 2026-014 – Reappointment to the Conservation Advisory Board (CAB)
The TB reappointed George Baker as chairperson of the CAB and Craig Oleszewski as a member of the CAB.

Resolution No. 2026-016 – Appointment of Planning/Zoning Consulting Engineer (CPL)
The TB has retained the firm of CPL (Engineering & Planning) for planning and zoning projects For 2026 at various rates for specific services ranging from \$100 to \$225 per hour.

Resolution No. 2026-017 – Appointment to Rhinebeck Historic and Archaeological Preservation Advisory Committee (HAPAC)
The TB has appointed Warren Temple Smith as chair on the HAPAC for a one-year term, expiring on December 31, 2026.

Resolution No. 2026-019 - Appointment of Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC)
The TB reappointed Tom Connolly as chair for 2026 and Meghan Cahill as a committee member of the RAC with a two-year term expiring on 12/31/2027. Village Board Trustee Eleanor Pupko will continue as the village liaison to this committee.

Resolution No. 2026-020 – Appointment of Planning Board Member and Chairperson
The TB reappointed Melodye Moore as a member and chairperson of the Planning Board for 2026 and Craig Oleszewski as a member for a seven-year term ending in 2032.

Resolution No. 2026-021 – Appointment of Fire Inspectors
The TB reappointed Edmund Matuk as the town's fire inspector for 2026.

Resolution No. 2026-024 - Appointment of Workforce Housing (WHC) Chair and Members
The TB reappointed Jonathan Mensch as a member and chairperson of the WHC for 2026 and Sue Hartshorn, Nina Lynch, and Sally Mazzarella reappointed as members to the WHC for 2-year terms expiring on December 31, 2027.

Resolution No. 2026-0265– Appointment of Town Historian and Deputy Historian
The TB reappointed Susan Fitzgerald as the town's historian and Michael Frazier as the deputy historian for 2026.

Resolution No. 2026-027 – Appointment of Cemetery Committee Members and Chairperson
The TB reappointed Suzanne Kelly as Chairperson of the Cemetery Committee for 2026.

Resolution No. 2026-028 – Appointment of Member and Chairperson to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)
The TB reappointed Richard Kopycianski as a (5-year term) member and Scott Bergin and chairperson (one-year term) of the ZBA for 2026.

Resolution 2026-030 – New Public Hours at Town Hall

The Town Hall will be open to the public during these days and hours:

Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (closed for lunch from 12:30 – 1:30)
Friday 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Resolution 2026-031 – Dog Control Officers (DCO)

Patricia Wind is reappointed as the DCO for 2026. The other DCO position remains open until a second DCO is hired.

Resolution 2026-036 – Ethics Board Member

Joe Gelb and Vicki Haak are reappointed each to a three-year term, expiring on December 31, 2028.

Resolution 2026-037 – Town Planner

Planning4Places, a professional planning service for the purposes of providing advice, reviewing projects and testifying in court if needed, at a rate of \$165 per hour, has been reappointed as the Town Planner for 2026.

Resolution 2026-038 – Communications Committee Members

Beth Comstock and Chris Travers have been reappointed as the members of the Communications Committee for 2026.
