

Summary

Rhinebeck Regular Town Board Meeting

Monday, February 24, 2025

For more information regarding this meeting's agenda and resolutions, go to Rhinebeck Town Government Agenda webpage at <https://ecode360.com/RH0960/documents/Agendas> . Scroll down and click on the **Town Board** meeting agenda for February 24, 2025.

Present: Supervisor Elizabeth Spinzia
 Deputy Supervisor Chauncey Walker
 Councilperson Allan Scherr
 Councilperson Chad Kleitsch
 Councilperson Dana Peterson

Announcements

Town Neighbor Meeting ■ Tuesday, March 4th, 6:00 PM at the Morton (Rhinecliff) Library. An informal meeting will be held allowing residents to come and talk about issues or concerns they have within the community.

Rhinecliff Parking Presentation – Tuesday, March 11th, 6:00 PM at the Morton (Rhinecliff) Library. The Town Supervisor, along with members of the TB, the Highway Superintendent and representatives from LaBella Associates will hold a meeting to discuss the proposed parking plan for the hamlet. This meeting is open to all town residents.

Resolutions

The Town Board (TB) addressed 9 resolutions, passing all 9 unanimously. Below is a summary of the major resolutions addressed and passed. Other resolutions addressed by the board may be viewed on the town's website as noted in the opening paragraph.

2025-080 – Planning/Zoning Boards (PB/ZBA) Fee Revisions

The Planning Board Clerk has informed the TB of escrow account shortfalls due to the increase in consultant fees and other items on the fee schedule that need to be addressed. The clerk submitted a schedule of proposed fees and escrow changes which the TB approved.

To view this complete list of changes, go to <https://ecode360.com/RH0960/documents/Agendas> . Scroll down to the Town Board meeting agenda for February 24, 2025. Once there, open the agenda and scroll down to pages 2 & 3 where the revised fees are located.

2025-081 – Parking at the Stone Church Ball Field and Use of Roadway at the Old Town Landfill by the Landsman Kill Trail Association for Event Parking

The TB approved the request from the Landsman Kill Trail Association to use the town-owned roadway at the old landfill and the Stone Church baseball field parking lot. These sites will be used

for vehicles and trailers at an equestrian event called the “Spring Hunter Pace” to be held on Sunday, May 18, 2025. The Recreation Director and Supervisor of Grounds and Maintenance have determined this event will not interfere with the use of the ballfield or create any issues.

2025-083 – Recreation Program (Aqua Zumba)

The TB approved the Recreation Department’s proposal for the Aqua Zumba Program to be held at the town pool.

Cost: \$10 per individual class
\$40 per 5-class session
\$50 per 6-class session

Instructor: Kathy Curry Gardinier

Dates/Times:

Sundays 8:45 - 9:30 AM (3 Sessions)

5/25, 6/1, 6/8, 6/15, 6/22, 6/29, 7/6, 7/13, 7/20, 7/27, 8/3, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24, 8/31, 9/7, 9/14 & 9/21

Wednesdays 5:30 - 6:15 PM (2 Sessions)

6/18, 6/25, 7/2, 7/16, 7/23 (No Class 7/9 – Swim Meet) 7/30, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20 & 8/27

Fridays 6:45 -7:30 PM (2 Sessions)

6/20, 6/27, (No Class 7/4), 7/11, 7/18 & 7/25

Discussion Items

Rhinecliff Parking Plan Update – Councilperson Kleitsch held a preliminary meeting with residents of the Hamlet of Rhinecliff, discussing the Labella-proposed parking plan for the hamlet. Residents expressed their strong concerns regarding the recommendation of turning Orchard Street into a one-way road which would allow for on-street parking. Councilperson Peterson added that some Rhinecliff residents also had issues with the placement of “No Parking” signs throughout the hamlet.

When Kleitsch and Supervisor Spinzia talked about the possible one-way road change for Orchard Street, Spinzia expressed her concerns over safety and liability issues. According to Spinzia, if the residents want to keep Orchard Street as a two-way street, then “on-street” parking would not be allowed, eliminating any overnight parking for local residents.

There will be a town meeting at the Morton Library on March 11th at 6:00 PM to present the proposed parking plan. Spinzia stated that this meeting is open to all the residents in the Town of Rhinebeck since they, as taxpayers, have a stake in this matter. However, any questions or comments about the proposed plan might have to take place at a town hall meeting at a future date.

Community Choice Aggregate (CCA) Update – Supervisor Spinzia stated that the Town will not be going forward with the planned CCA contract (fixed rate, 100% renewable energy source) with Joule Assets at this time due to unacceptable supply billing rates offered by Joule. Joule’s

original offer for 100% renewable energy supply rate was fixed at 11.22 cents per kWh. Central Hudson's (CH) average supply rate for the past 12 months was 7.93 cents per kWh. As of February 12, 2025, the standard rate was 10.33 cents per kWh. Back on January 13th, the rate was 7.99 cents per kWh.¹

It is proposed that the Town enter into a five-month (July 1st – November 31st) interim contract with Joule at the rate of 11.22 cents per kWh. It is hoped that in the next five months the electric supply rate with Joule will decrease, making the CCA more affordable to the town's residents. The TB will discuss and vote on this interim contract proposal at the March meeting.

Supervisor Spinzia also mentioned that the TB might consider passing a resolution addressing the costly delivery rate CH is charging all area residents, whether they "opt in" or "opt out" of the CCA agreement. If passed, the TB would send it to our state representatives, Sarahana Shrestha and Michelle Hinchey, asking them to intercede and propose legislation that would offer relief to their constituents from these excessive delivery rates.

For more information on the CCA agreement between the Town and Joule Assets, go to the Summary: Rhinebeck Regular Town Board Meeting, for Monday, February 10, 2025 at this site.

New Business

- Supervisor Spinzia announced that she, along with town attorney, Warren Replansky, Highway Superintendent, Bob Wyant, and others will hold a Zoom meeting regarding any issues and concerns over a proposal to have the private road within the Locust Hill WHP turned into a town road.
- Spinzia announced that she, along with other TB, PB, and ZBA members, town land use attorney, Michael Zarin, and former town councilperson, Josh Pulver, will be holding a Zoom meeting regarding Pulver's plan to help streamline and ease the application process (site plan approval and special use permits) before the Planning Board.
- Spinzia announced that she, along with other TB members and town planning and zoning attorney, John Lyons, will be holding a Zoom meeting concerning the ZBA's variance determination regarding Brookmeade's commercial use on its property and its impact on Rural Countryside, 5-Acre (RC5) zoning areas.
- Spinzia announced that the TB will need to consider forming a committee that will look into non-conforming hospitality uses on some local farms within Historic/Preservation, 20-Acre (HP20) zoning areas.

The next TB meeting will be held on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

¹ Central Hudson Gas & Electric Supply Prices (February, 2025), found at <https://www.cenhud.com/en/account-resources/rates/gas--electric-supply-prices/>