

Summary
Rhinebeck Regular Town Board Meeting
Monday, February 10, 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 10, 2025.

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

Announcements

Supervisor Spinzia announced that the Town Cemetery Committee received a grant award that will be used towards removing invasive plant species from the grounds, replacing them with native, indigenous plants.

Town Communications Committee will host its first Town Board Community Meeting, Wine & Whine, on Tuesday, March 4th, 6 - 7:30 PM at the Morton Library (Rhinecliff). All are welcome. (See **Resolution 2025-060** - Creation of Communications Committee on pp. 3 & 4.)

The Town Board will be holding a special meeting on Thursday, February 13th at 12 PM at the Town Hall for purposes of reviewing and discussing comments received and the next steps to be taken regarding the Locust Hill, Workforce Housing Project. This meeting is open to the public.

Presentation

Community Choice Aggregate (CCA)

**Electricity Supply Agreement between Competitive
Supplier, Joule Assets, Inc., and the Town of Rhinebeck**

For additional information on this topic, go to **Resolution 2025-061** – Municipal Energy Services Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding with Joule Assets Inc. (CCA) found on p. 4.

Glen Weinberg, a representative from Joule Community Power, spoke about the proposed agreement with the Town as the default electrical supplier - not delivery service - for local residents.

The following issues were discussed by Mr. Weinberg and members of the Town Board.

- Through Joule Community Power, 50% of the energy supply would come from within-state electrical suppliers and the other 50% would come from out-of-state suppliers. Altogether, 100% of the electrical power supply would come from non-fossil, renewable energy sources.
- Joule would become the default supplier, while Central Hudson (CH) would continue delivering the energy and maintaining the poles, wiring, upkeep, and repairs.

- Supervisor Spinzia explained that Joule has no control over the delivery charge (almost 80% of a monthly electric bill) which is solely controlled by CH. She urged town residents to reach out to their state representatives in Albany to address this issue.

NYS Assembly – Sarahana Shrestha at shresthas@nyassembly.gov

NYS Senate – Michelle Hinchey at hinchey@nysenate.gov

- Spinzia mentioned that a number of residents have complained that the supply charge for electricity from CH is much lower than what Joule is currently offering. She stated that CH's supply charge is variable. Though it might be lower than what Joule is currently offering, she explained that the agreed upon rate with Joule will be fixed for two years, whereas CH's current rate could change.
- Spinzia stated that people need to consider opting into this CCA program because it will help the environment by reducing the carbon footprint resulting from the use of fossil fuels powering our electric supply.
- The Supervisor will be meeting with Joule representatives to discuss the final fixed supply charge later this month.
- Below is information presented by Joule Community Power at a webinar in January, 2025.

Indicative Pricing

Source	Start Date	Term	Rate Type	Conventional	50% Renewable	100% Renewable
Central Hudson	Jan-Dec '24	12mo avg	Variable	\$.087 *	N/A	N/A
CCA Bidders	July 2025	24mo	Fixed	N/A	\$.11	\$.12
Lowest Retail Offer	March 2025	24mo	Fixed	N/A	\$.12	\$.13

* Reflects allowable 5% above Central Hudson 12mo average. May only be offered if price is below benchmark (NYS rule).

Resolutions

The Town Board (TB) addressed 21 resolutions, passing all 21 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.

2025-058 - Accepting LaBella Concept Plan for Rhinecliff Parking

Supervisor Spinzia announced that the Town had received numerous letters/emails in opposition to the proposed parking modifications for the Hamlet of Rhinecliff. She, along with Councilperson Dana Peterson, explained that the proposed plan is just the first step in a process that will address the numerous parking issues brought upon, mostly, by Amtrack commuters.

Spinzia announced that maps, outlining the parking modifications, will be posted at the Morton (Rhinecliff) Library, the Starr Library and at the Town Hall. One can also view the complete concept plan for Rhinecliff parking, including street maps, by going to <https://ecode360.com/RH0960/documents/Agendas>. Scroll down to the Town Board meeting agenda for February 10, 2025. Once there, open the agenda and scroll down to pages 58-61 where the plan and maps are located.

The TB accepted the draft parking plan submitted by LaBella Associates and will begin a public discussion and review of the plan. To accommodate parallel parking on one side of the street, certain streets must be converted to one-way. The following streets are proposed to be converted to one-way streets:

Orchard Drive (southbound)
Hutton Street (westbound)
Corning Street (eastbound)
Kelly Street (northbound)

Certain roads were not considered for conversion to one-way due to their importance in the hamlet as well as their proximity to the commercial core. Charles Street and Kelly Street south of the library were not considered because they are important thoroughfares and deemed necessary to keep vehicular flow bidirectional. Jones Street was not considered due to its location in relation to the commercial core. Still to be discussed and determined are the parameters, use and fees for the Town-owned lot on the corner of Shatzell and Charles Streets.

The supervisor also announced that she and Town Highway Superintendent, Bob Wyant, will be holding a meeting addressing the parking modification plan for Rhinecliff at the Morton Library on Tuesday, March 11th at 6:00 PM.

2025-059 - Parsonage Street Bridge Grant Application

Supervisor Spinzia announced that the Parsonage Street Bridge needs to be replaced, along with sidewalks and handicapped accessibility, at a cost between two-and-a-half to three million dollars.

The TB authorized the Highway Superintendent to apply for a TIP Grant offered by the Dutchess County Transportation Council (DCTC). If approved, the grant money will go towards needed repair work on the bridge over the Landsman Kill. As part of the grant application submission, the Town will be required to guarantee 20% matching funds which are currently available in the Town General Fund and can be used to offset the final cost of the project.

2025-060 - Creation of Communications Committee

The Town Board has formed a Communications Committee to encourage community engagement and public dialogue; to help draft newsletters; to improve communications on the Town's website; and to organize informal community-wide gatherings for the public to meet with and speak to the Town Board outside of official Town Board Meetings. The Town Board has appointed Deb Hecht, Chris Traver, and Beth Comstock to serve on this committee through December 31, 2025.

Both Deb Hecht and Chris Traver spoke at tonight's meeting, explaining that the Communications Committee will work at reaching out to the Town's community, inviting them to become more informed and involved with local government activities.

2025-061 – Municipal Energy Services Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding with Joule Assets Inc. (CCA) (This discussion was separate from the presentation mentioned above.)

To read the full agreement between the Town of Rhinebeck and Joule Community Power, go to <https://ecode360.com/RH0960/documents/Agendas>. Scroll down to the Town Board meeting agenda for February 10, 2025. Once there, open the agenda and scroll down to pages 11 – 57.

The TB has reviewed the proposed updated Municipal Energy Services Agreement submitted by Joule Community Power. Finding it acceptable, the TB authorized the Town Supervisor, upon consulting the two-year fixed supply charge with Joule, to execute a new Municipal Energy Services Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with this company. Below are some of the abbreviated consumer rights found in this agreement.

Consumer Choice – Notification of Rights Enrollment

- All current participants have the right, pursuant to Joule (Community Power) Order, Local Law, and the Program, to change their source of electricity supply.
- The Opt-Out Notice shall be mailed to each currently participating consumer not fewer than 30 days prior to the date of automatic enrollment, and shall state charges to be assessed by the competitive supplier; provide a summary of the prices and terms included and state how consumers may opt-out of the program prior to enrollment.
- All eligible consumers will be enrolled in the program as of the service commencement date, thus becoming participating consumers under the terms of this Electric Supply Agreement (ESA), unless they opt-out during the 30-day period following initial communication through the Opt-Out Notice.
- Participating consumers may disenroll or re-enroll from the program at any time thereafter with no fee or penalty.
- At any time during the term of this ESA, consumers who were previously participating and had opted out of the program may request that they be enrolled or re-enrolled in the CCA program.

2025-068 – Recreation Program Fees for 2025

For a complete list of recreation fees, go to <https://ecode360.com/RH0960/documents/Agendas>. Scroll down to the Town Board meeting agenda for February 10, 2025. Once there, open the agenda and scroll down to pages 82-83 where the maps are located.

2025-069 - Approve Recreation Summer Camp Dates

The Recreation Department will provide a children's Summer Recreation Day Camp for six consecutive weeks. Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm on the dates listed below.

- Week 1 – July 7 - July 11
- Week 2 – July 14 - July 18
- Week 3 – July 21 - July 25
- Week 4 – July 28 - August 1
- Week 5 – August 4 - August 8
- Week 6 – August 11 - August 15

2025-070 - Approve Recreation Pool Schedule

For a complete list of the 2025 Pool Schedule, go to <https://ecode360.com/RH0960/documents/Agendas>. Scroll down to the Town Board meeting agenda or February 10, 2025. Once there, open the agenda and scroll down to page 85 where the schedule is located.

2025-071 - Approve Recreation Turf Field Terms of Use

For a complete list of the terms for public reservation and use of the Thompson-Mazzarella soccer field, go to <https://ecode360.com/RH0960/documents/Agendas>. Scroll down to the Town Board meeting agenda for February 10, 2025. Once there, open the agenda and scroll down to page 86 where the terms of use are located.

2025-072 - Approve Changes to Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Town Board authorized editing Rule #15 in the Rules and Regulations of the Cemetery to read: “Any burial that runs beyond 2:00 PM is considered after hours and will be charged the ‘evening’ fee.” (The “evening fee” for burial is \$500.00.)

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