

## **Summary**

### **Rhinebeck Regular Town Board Meeting**

### **Monday, March 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 March 24, 2025.

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

### **Resolutions**

The Town Board (TB) addressed 23 resolutions, passing 22 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.

#### **Resolution 2025-091 – CCA Contract Extension**

Direct Energy is offering to preserve the current pricing by offering the Town a short-term contract extension (5 months) allowing for 50% NYS renewable energy at a rate not to exceed \$0.0115 per kWh. Supervisor Spinzia announced that as of March 19<sup>th</sup>, Central Hudson (CH) was charging 16.7 cents per kWh. She also stated that with pending tariffs against Canada, the rate charged by CH may go higher. The TB approved this resolution authorizing Spinzia to enter into a short-term extension contract with Direct Energy.

#### **Resolution 2025 -104 - Cemetery Grant Acceptance from Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley**

The TB accepted the grant from Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley in the amount of \$25,000, to be applied to conservation, preservation and restoration of lands in the Town Cemetery to be completed between March 15, 2025 and March 15, 2026.

#### **Resolution 2025 – 105 and 106 – Amendments to Cemetery Rule #4**

The Town of Rhinebeck Cemetery would like to prohibit the planting of any plants between monuments regardless of whether a plot owners own adjoining plots. Shrubs, bushes, and trees planted next to, behind, or in front of graves encroach upon neighboring plots and impede ground maintenance. The care of these plantings falls outside the scope of cemetery maintenance, often leaving untended and unruly plantings. For these reasons, they will now be prohibited, and the cemetery reserves the right to remove them. Annuals, perennials and other decorations are permitted, provided they are placed only at the head of a grave and within 18 inches of the monuments/headstones.

**Resolution 2025 – 109 – Planning Board, Zoning and Building Process Review Committee**

The TB officially approved the formation of a committee called the “Planning Board, Zoning and Building Process Review Committee,” which will identify, assess, analyze, discuss and recommend changes and revisions within the existing permit application process. The TB appointed the following members: Josh Pulver, Dana Colleen Peterson, Allan Scherr, Melodye Moore, Kathryn Clark, Brian Tamm, Michael Zarin and James Levy as members of this committee. Dana Colleen Peterson and Josh Pulver will serve as Co-Chairs.

**Resolution 2025 – 110 – License Plate Reader Security Camera System**

Due to instances of vandalism at the Thompson-Mazzarella Park, the TB approved the purchase of an infrared camera, a license-plate-reading camera and two turret high resolution cameras that would allow a wider view of vehicles entering the park area all at a cost of \$7,150.00. This security service is provided by Janelli Security, Red Hook, NY.

**Resolution 2025 – 111 – Earth Day Event at Recreation Park**

The Town Recreation Department has requested permission to hold a community Earth Day event at the Thompson-Mazzarella Park on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM, rain or shine. The purpose of this free event is to deepen ecological awareness of our park, to educate and inspire the community on sustainable choices, and engage community members in the stewardship of the park. The Earth Day event will include activities such as nature walks, a talk on native creatures, plantings of seedlings, nature projects, and recycling and composting information tables.

**Resolution 2025 – 114 – Change of Summer Camp Registration Criterion**

At the request of the Town’s Recreation Director, the TB approved a change in the summer camp registration’s age requirement from children entering grades 1 – 9, to a requirement that a child must be between the ages 5-12 as of May 1<sup>st</sup>, prior to the start of camp, in order to ensure that the children are of an adequate maturity and age level to enjoy camp activities.

**Resolution 2025 – 117 – Amend 2025-2026 Contract With the Village of Rhinebeck for Fire Protection and Emergency Rescue Squad Services**

Being that the Village of Rhinebeck Fire District has agreed to protect the properties within the Town Fire Protection District formerly covered by the Hillside Fire Department (HFD), the TB authorized Supervisor Spinzia to end its contract with HFD. The Town will enter into a contract agreement with Village of Rhinebeck Fire Department for fire protection and emergency rescue squad services for the additional sum of \$41,107.00 for these services from April 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

Members of the Hillside Fire Department attended this meeting and expressed their opposition to the Town ending its contract with HFD. Mark Long, Chief of the HFD, stated that the department had previously considered dissolving as a result of low volunteer enrollment. However, due to active recruiting by its members, Long stated that the membership went from 10

to 15, with six interior firefighters. Long raised the concern of the response time for calls, claiming that HFD could respond within 6 minutes, as opposed to Rhinebeck Village's Fire Department response time of 8 minutes for calls within Hillside's southern district. However, Supervisor Spinzia was not convinced that the HFD could meet the need for residents' safety with its current enrollment. She also expressed the need for better communication between the HFD and the TB.

Members of the TB discussed the issue and offered that HFD could come back at the end of the year and reapply to provide its service to the Town. The TB then approved the resolution with one member, Deputy Supervisor Walker, voting in opposition.

### **Discussion Items**

**Rhinecliff parking** - Supervisor Spinzia discussed the meeting at the Rhinecliff Library regarding the proposed parking plan for the hamlet. Some of the items discussed were:

- Rhinecliff residents only want 20 – 22 parking spaces.
- Residents do not want one-way streets which will now be eliminated from the plan
- Residents do not want parking on Orchard Street.
- Permits might require a fee to be used for the enforcement of the coded parking rules.
- Most parking spaces will be assigned a 3-hour time limit, with no overnight parking.
- The current town parking lot on the corner of Charles Street and Shatzell Avenue has 10 – 12 spaces. The town will explore the possibility of opening the lot to all the town residents and not just for the residents of Rhinecliff.
- While residents of the hamlet asked the Town to impose punitive fines on those who would violate the new parking codes, Supervisor Spinzia stated that such was not possible; explaining that any fines or towing procedures had to be fair and reasonable.

**Red Wing Mining Project** - Spinzia mentioned that she will be scheduling an attorney/client (zoom) meeting with town attorney, John Lyons, regarding an update with the planned Red Wing mining project on White Schoolhouse Road.

**Dog Warden Title** - Spinzia announced that the resolution appointing a "Deputy Dog Control Warden," will be amended to state "Dog Control Warden."

### **Public Comments**

- A resident asked the TB if the agendas for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals could be posted by having them emailed to town residents who have signed on to the Town's email list. Town Clerk, Joan Winne, said that she would look into it and possibly have a way to fulfill this request.
- Another resident asked if anything could be done to clean up the garbage accumulating along the town roads. Highway Superintendent, Bob Wyant, said that he has his crew clean along Mount Rutsen Road because of the noticeable accumulation of garbage.

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The next TB meeting will be held on Monday, April 28, 2025 at 6:00 PM.