

**TOWN OF ROSENDALE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 12, 2025**

Deputy Supervisor Hassett called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance with a moment of silence for Richard Hermance and Hugh Halligan.

PRESENT:

Deputy Supervisor	Kenneth Hassett
Councilman	Joseph Havranek
Councilmember	Carrie Wykoff
Councilman	Marc Cassidy
Councilmember	Ashley Sweeney

EXCUSED:

Supervisor	Jeanne L. Walsh
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ALSO PRESENT: Jill LaFera; Supervisor's Assistant, Joseph LaFera; Building Manager; Billy Liggan (Chairman) Planning Board: Matthew McCluskey (Youth Director), Penny Coleman & Susan Gillespie (Environmental Commission), Claudia Joseph (Recreation Commission), and Bob Fade (Economic Development Commission)

Public Input/Community Events:

Councilmember Sweeney mentioned Game Night went well with approximately 25 people or more in attendance. It was their largest Game Night Program that they do for free to have residents get together and socialize. It was successful and they will be scheduling more in the future.

Speaker: Cheryl Schneider-Bloomington Resident

Cheryl wanted to thank the Town Board and the Supervisor for the resolution to request the expansion of the Traffic Study for Route 32 and 213 and all the hard work put into it.

Speaker: April Warren-New Tillson Resident

April stated she lives by State Route 32 and appreciates this effort as she sees accidents happening from her home, but asked if there would be consideration in the future to create sidewalks put in for safety of people that walk from Tillson to the Community Center.

Minutes:

Councilman Cassidy made a motion to approve the February 5, 2025 meeting minutes. Seconded by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Councilmember Sweeney made a motion to approve the February 12, 2025 minutes with grammatical changes/corrections. Seconded by Councilman Havranek: ROLL VOTE 3 Yes, 1 Recuse Councilmember Wykoff.

Committee Reports:

Councilmember Sweeney:

Recreation Department – From Dorene Whitaker

The old playground has been removed, the new playground project is underway and the delivery date for the new equipment of March 31st. The Recreation Department has begun to receive applications for both lifeguards and cashiers. The Red Cross did an inspection of the Rosendale Recreation Center, which has passed to be a certified Red Cross Shelter. The Pool House will be worked on to get things going in another week or two.

Youth Department-Matthew McCluskey

They are also very excited about the new playground. Camp registration will be on March 22nd from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Youth Center. Please call Matt at the Youth Center for a registration packet or with any questions. The Rosendale Youth Center has a Facebook page named Rosendale Youth Program.

Tax Collector-Deborah Checchia

The town warrant has been paid in full.

Food Pantry-

They have found that there has been an uptick in the number of clients. They are still desperately in need of volunteers with pickup trucks for food like pickup and delivery. The New York State Department of Health HPN AP (Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program) has changed the amount and type of food that goes in boxes for clients almost double the amount and has mentioned if they can't or don't comply with it the changes, they could lose what is left of our grant monies and won't be able to apply for any future grants.

Elder Assistance Committee-Barbara Piombino

The food deliveries of fresh produce are still ongoing. Winter is a little bit slower and they're hoping for the activities to pick up in the Spring.

Councilmember Wykoff-

Rondout Municipal Center-Joseph LaFera

We will have a new cafe where the Bistro use to be and the owner of the Maná Café, Renee, has been very busy in the kitchen getting ready for the opening project. The projected opening will be in early April. Joe reports that

they've been very steady with calls for bookings for activities. The flooring in the Police Department has been installed and carpet repairs will be scheduled next. Joe has begun doing some seasonal switchovers and will be preparing the gardens. Room A6, formally Empress Mobile, is now a conference room ready for use.

Bookkeeper- Taylor McGrane-

Taylor has been very busy completing vouchers and financial reports along with applying tax monies to the appropriate funds since the Tax Collector paid off the tax warrant. We also had to get a list from the Assessor's office that detailed all the information of the water sewer levies from 2024.

Transfer Station- George Glass/Connor Craig -

The February income was \$6,094.40 in fees and \$1,540.00 in permits. George and Connor have had some challenges with onsite oil recycling that needs to be explored with inspections and getting in line with the local DEC or discuss decommissioning. Currently they're open, but down the road in the very near future, we may need to investigate this, or it may not be services that we can provide. Councilman Havranek mentioned he also has been speaking with the Transfer Station and if the town looks at decommissioning the tanks, the town will have waste left on the roads. It's a great service that has been available for residents. Councilman Havranek strongly suggests that they move forward with whatever we need to do to secure money through grants or other options to put money back into the Transfer Station to continue those services.

Environmental Commission-

February's meeting was a little bit of a condensed meeting because many members of the Commission wanted to see a presentation up in Marbletown, Penny Coleman (chairperson) attended with other members. There were a few things discussed, such as a plant swap scheduled for April 6th from 11:00 to 1:00 at the Rosendale Community Center, a co-produced event with the Recreation Commission. The next meeting is scheduled for March 20th and located at the Rondout Municipal Center.

Councilman Cassidy:

Planning Board-

Last month there were two older applications and one new application. The first one is the conclusion of a minor subdivision on land owned by Petras Land, Williams Lake, a major subdivision in review, and Stone Mountain Farm special use permit application, which posed questions from the Town Board about camping at Stone Mountain and the Moratorium that is still in effect.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

No meeting was held in February

Fire Marshal:

There were seven inspections, eight fire inspections, two property maintenance complaints addressed with letters sent to owners, three fire burn permits issued, Prospective buyer for 745 Route 213 and limitations for short term rentals, six appearance tickets to short term property owners who did not comply with the Fire Marshal's request for inspection (four have since complied and two summoned to court March 18th) and there is a State Wide Burn Ban in effect March 9th to May 15, 2025.

Building Department-

Twelve permits were issued HVAC, roofing, ADU, wood stove, generator, new construction and a renovation. \$3,385.00 in fees were collected.

Justice Department-

The court report for January and February Traffic Court and Jail Court spot check was completed for both Judge Pape and Judge Ragucci. Accounts showed no errors detected in payments online bank checks, cash, credit card, money orders and bail payments. As of the 5th of March, Judge Papes' account for January was 8,650.00, February was \$6,906.25 and the bail account was \$13,850. Judge Ragucci accounts for January totaling \$7,767.00 and for February \$8,572.00 dollars and the bail count as of the 5th of March totaled \$11,421.00.

Town Clerk-

The Town Clerk had seventeen dog licenses issued, fees collected of \$161.50 were paid to the town and \$23.00 dollars was paid to the New York State Animal Population Control Program. There was one dog redemption, and one kennel issued for \$100.00, building permits issued yielding for January and February \$5,201.00, 36 landfill permits yielding \$1,245.00 dollars, event application for \$250.00, and Town Clerk collected \$216.24 for notary, FOILs and Certified Copies. Total submitted to the Town Supervisor was \$7,229.68.

Councilman Havranek:

Rosendale- Water Sewer

A meeting was scheduled for January 22nd at 5:00PM and 5:30PM here at RMC. They did not have a quorum for either Commission. But even without a quorum Terry and Councilman Havranek caught up on matters, such as outstanding legal issues with H2O (previous contractor), the Town Board is aware of who ran the town plant at that time. H2O basically derelict in their duties to follow regulations and now the town has taken on the water department themselves. They brought back our previous staff, and they are doing well with the takeover. The town staff are acclimated and running the plant according to all the regulations.

High Falls Water District – Water

They are having maximum issues as they still have H2O operating their plant. The EPA served an order to the town regarding stage 2 disinfectants and disinfection by products. This resulted from sediment build up in the water tank at that location and not being properly cleaned and flushed out. The town had a dive team go in the tank to confirm the sediment build up. This showed approximately 48 inches of sediment buildup causing this issue with the EPA. Terry is making sure he will have further cleaning schedules to meet all EPA standards. They will schedule cleaning for this month on March 24th and 25th, turning in all papers needed to the EPA and creating a corrective plan. More detail. Terry has been training all this week on fiscal responsibility of the

Water/Sewer Departments, funding sources for upgrades, the latest rules proposed by EPA, CDC and laboratory recertification as Terry is taking his job very seriously. This week, the town had the closing on the water tank property up by the cemetery. This was a big step to secure the property and could simultaneously place a new water tank and remove the old tank. This project is now in the hands of engineering and will hopefully be a seamless transfer from one tank to the other without loss of service. Councilman Havranek wanted to thank Deputy Supervisor Hassett for facilitating the purchase of that property from the church and closing that deal. This will also help with access to the tanks allowing for trucks and equipment to be brought to that location. Councilman Havranek mentioned there are openings for Water Commission if anyone in the district wants to apply. Anyone interested can go online for the Volunteer Application and email it to Christine or Mandy at the Town Clerk's office. Finances for Sewer Department for February took in \$190,516.11 and the Water Department took in \$128,625.90.

Highway – Bob Gallagher

Bob has reported that there have been salt issues throughout the state, but thankfully Highway purchased enough salt and sand and has enough material for the rest of the year due to his purchasing and also his recycling efforts. The sweeper sweeps up the material and then it's recycled. They are working on the Spring cleanup of the roads. The sweeper is currently at John Johnson Sweeper service, getting ready for the seasonal work and prepping the water truck to help with cleaning the streets. The Highway Department has torn down and leveled the playground area, as Councilmember Sweeney mentioned, at the Recreation Center to get it prepped for installation of the new playground. Bob wanted me to convey a Happy Saint Patti's Day. The Highway Department took in \$1,082,364.64, which I believe includes Grant monies they finally received and CHIPS monies.

Police Department- Chief Schaffrick

Police Commission met on February 25th, 2025, at 3:30PM at the RMC. Their first order of business was approving the November 26, 2024, meeting minutes. There haven't been any Police Commission meetings since November to no quorums and illnesses. There was a correspondence letter that came in from a resident on Creek Locks Road that commended Officer Caelin Fagerstrom and the new Officer Bassett who removed a fallen tree in the road. Both officers were thanked for handling it on their own instead of calling and waiting for the highway crew. Usually, officers call in to the Highway Department as they close the road until the tree can be removed. When the officers are out and about, they are often helping in the community and was able to help find a lost dog. At one point they were driving through the community and someone looked like they were going to pass out on their lawn, so the officers stopped to help. They are also connecting with the community should they see someone in need help by carrying gift cards donated by My Town Market and Stewarts. Councilmember Sweeney mentioned Sergeant Quigley, who is a huge asset to the Police Department, is volunteering to read books to children at school. They had two resignations last month, recently hired Amy Bassett as a full-time temp, and they are looking to possibly have a fourth position full-time as well. Right now, we currently have three full-time officers but due to the shortage of part-time officers and the lack of interest in part time police work. Right now, we have 3 full time officers. All vehicles are operational and the electric Chevy Blazer is due to arrive in April. They do not have new grant applications going in, but the Chief is working on an old grant through the Governor's Traffic Safety Council. The Police started their new cycle of training for this year including 4th Amendment search and seizure, EVOC (evasive driving training), firearm

training and water rescue hosted by New York State DC. On March 6th the Rosendale Police Department was recognized and awarded for their accreditation in Albany. There were a couple of plaques and awards that were given out. One was given out to the department, and one was given out to Sergeant Quigley for her work on the accreditation and a reception was held at the RMC at 6:30PM honoring our officers with plaques. The Chief is looking at replacing firearms and doing trade in with older firearms. Chief Schaffrick gave a report on 911 medical calls as our officers are usually the communities' first responders arriving in 3 minutes or less, trained to use defibrillators and have a few EMTs, responding to 309 medical calls in 2024. Police Surveys went out, but they didn't receive any responses. Calls for service as of February 25th were 525 calls, which were 41 criminal cases, 19 arrests, 20 property accident damage, and two personal injury accident damage. The Police Commission meeting is the fourth Tuesday of every month, and the next meeting is March 25th here at the RMC at 3:30PM. Revenue for the Police was \$38.00.

Deputy Hassett-

Deputy Hassett wanted to state it took quite a process of three and half years for the Police Department to achieve the accreditation as the Rosendale Police Department celebrates their 50th year anniversary. Out of 500 Police Departments throughout the United States only 187 received accreditation, which means there were 187 departments that are placed on the highest level of police work.

Ambulance Service-Marbletown First Aid-

Supervisor Walsh's report on Marbletown First Aid in February of 2025 there were 33 calls for service, 17 BLS (Basic Life Support), 7 ALS (Advance Life Support), 6 refusals of medical attention, 3 cancelled on scene, and 1 alcohol related transported by PD. Marbletown First Aid are working hard to service the community.

Correspondence on File:

Deputy Town Supervisor Hassett:

The Town received a letter from the original Director of Department of Transportation stating they receive the request for traffic study on route 32 and 213 from Supervisor Walsh and County Executive Metzger. They have contracted an engineer to complete an evaluation in approximately 8 weeks. The Town is reviewing a resolution tonight to request and expansion of the traffic study to surrounding areas.

Supervisor Financial Report -Read by Deputy Supervisor Hassett

Councilman Cassidy made a motion to the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale to hereby accept the resignation of Anissa Kapsales as per diem Court Clerk Effective March 12, 2025. Seconded by Councilmember Wykoff: ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Councilman Cassidy made a motion to the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale to extend the acceptance of written comments to be received for the Public Hearing of the Safety Tower Proposal from Ulster County for another thirty days. Seconded by Councilman Havranek: ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Speaker: Billy Liggan-Matt McCluskey –Farmers Market Review/ Street Festival Review

Matt McCluskey stated everything is in order except Chief Schaffrick was concerned with vehicles and location for EV station access. There is discussion of no access to the EV stations on Farmers Market Days from 9:00am-2:30PM as well as how to notify residents and travelers about the unavailability of the EV stations.

Councilman Havranek made a motion to approve the Farmers Market under the condition of closure of the EV station during Farmers Market, having the Market Manager at the location and notification of access to residents and travelers. Seconded by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Councilmember Sweeney made a motion to approve the Street Festival for operational purposes on the condition of approval from the Police Department, the insurance and information for the Town Clerk's office to move forward with advertising. Seconded by Councilman Havranek. ROLL VOTE 3 Yes, 1 Recuse; Councilmember Wykoff.

Resolution 3-2025-#2 Councilman Havranek made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale authorizing the following March budget transfers. Seconded by Councilmember Wykoff: ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

**GENERAL
FUND –**

Increase		Increase		Amount
A1620.4	Buildings C.E.	A9999	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$45,891.00

Resolution 3-2025-#3 Councilmember Sweeney made a motion at the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale hereby authorizing the Supervisor to sign a one-year agreement with Lowe Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning for maintenance at the Rondout Municipal Building. Seconded by Councilman Cassidy: ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Resolution 3-2025-#4 Councilman Cassidy made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale to collaborate with the New York State Department of Transportation, local agencies, and community members to address expanding the scope of a traffic study to address concerns in the vicinity of State Routes 32 and 213 surrounding areas and directs the Town Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of New York State Department of Transportation Marie Therese Dominguez, New York State Senator Michelle Hinchey, New York State Assemblywoman, Sarahana Shrestha, Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger, Ulster County Transportation Council/Ulster County Traffic Safety Board Dennis Doyle and Brian Slack to urge prompt action on these critical safety concerns. Seconded by Councilmember Sweeney: ROLL VOTE 3 Yes, 1 Recuse Councilman Havranek.

Resolution 3-2025-#5 Councilman Havranek made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale hereby expresses its strong support for the Ulster County Legislature's adoption of Resolution No. 102 and urges its full implementation to ensure the continued availability of high-quality EMS services for all residents of Ulster County; and directs the Town Clerk to send a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Ulster County Legislature, the Ulster County Executive, the Ulster County Department of Emergency Services, and any other relevant agencies as an expression of the Town of Rosendale's support for sustained EMS funding and service enhancement within the County. Seconded by Councilmember Wykoff: ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Resolution 3-2025-#6 Councilmember Wykoff made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Customer Project Commitment with the Power Authority of New York to

provide support for the Streetlight Maintenance Program annually. Seconded by Councilmember Sweeney:
ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Councilman Havranek made a motion to pay the bills. Seconded by Councilmember Sweeney; ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

GENERAL FUND	ABSTRACT	3	VOUCHER#S	93 – 109	\$10,825.76
HIGHWAY FUND	ABSTRACT	3	VOUCHER#S	32 – 39	\$ 7,193.87
SEWER FUND	ABSTRACT	3	VOUCHER#S	32 – 35	\$ 3,106.16
WATER FUND	ABSTRACT	3	VOUCHER#S	28 – 31	\$ 1,709.41
RMC FUND	ABSTRACT	3	VOUCHER#S	44 – 53	\$ 6,501.07
SPECIAL LIGHTING	ABSTRACT	3	VOUCHER	2	\$ 660.74

Councilmember Sweeney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02PM. Seconded by Councilman Havranek; ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Respectfully Submitted by

Christine Harrison
Deputy Town Clerk

Correction Made at the April 9, 2025 Town Board meeting on page 4, Paragraph 6, under High Falls Water District report.

“They are still having maximum issues from the **previous** company H2O that was operating the plant in that period.”