

MINUTES
TOWN OF EAST FISHKILL
TOWN BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2024
6:00 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The Town of East Fishkill's Town Board Meeting on December 12, 2024, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor D'Alessandro with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor's Announcements:

Supervisor D'Alessandro thanked the East Fishkill Historical Society for hosting the meeting for the evening. He thanked the members for their work and for attending.

Last month was the Senior Center Thanksgiving Holiday party. There was a band and it was a nicely attended event. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

There was a Zoom meeting with the NYS DOT for Congestion Pricing. It was for elected officials and community board members. This tax will commence in January and is for anyone who travels below 60th Street. This does not affect the toll for the FDR or West Side Highway, but if you get off, you get charged. EZ Pass will get you a discount. There are issues within the MTA. Make sure your EZ Pass is updated.

There was a press conference at District Attorney Anthony Parisi's office. Dutchess County is leading NYS in overdose deaths related to narcotics and dangerous drugs. Overdose deaths have reduced by 50% with the implementation of Intelligence Based Policing. He thanked all the agencies involved in this.

There was a round table discussion for the ongoing EMS problems in Dutchess County and NYS. A grant was given to EMS fly cars to several agencies. Funds will continue to be invested in Dutchess County EMS.

Supervisor D'Alessandro attended a conference call with Comptroller Pozniak and Moody's regarding the Town's credit rating and products they supply. It was a very productive meeting and the Town's rating has gone from A1 to AA3.

The Town Board all attended the Christmas tree lighting at the Community Center. It was a wonderful event and he thanked the Rotary for hosting it, the Police for their gifts, the Highway Department for the set up and everyone else who participated.

This Sunday the Hudson Valley Council Band will be at the Community Center, so please attend if you can.

Supervisor D'Alessandro read an article regarding the Town's 175th Anniversary.

Roll Call: Supervisor D'Alessandro asked the Town Clerk to call the rolls.

Board Members in attendance were:

Craig Arco	Emmanuel Marinero	Tom Franco	Marianne Flores	Nicholas D'Alessandro
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Also, in attendance were:

Tom Wood, Attorney; George Cronk, Engineer; Derrick Cuccia, Police Chief; Ken Williams, Highway Superintendent; and Mark Pozniak, Comptroller.

Public Hearings:

1. Open Public Hearing Omnibus Zoning Amendments

Supervisor D'Alessandro stated this was going to be moved until the February 2025 voting meeting.

Motion to move the Public Hearing with respect to Omnibus Zoning Amendments until the February 2025 voting meeting: Board Member Marinero. Seconded: Board Member Flores. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor D'Alessandro stated they will be referring this to the East Fishkill Planning Board and to Dutchess County Planning.

Attorney Wood stated the Town Board has been working on an Omnibus Zoning Amendment for the last few months. This is clarifying some definitions, getting rid of outdated issues and seeing if there are specific things that are coming repeatedly to the Planning Board that could be corrected by a revision to something. All of those issues have been put together into an Omnibus Law. Over the last month or so they have made additional changes so it has become larger than expected, so they are setting a Public Hearing for it. After the Public Hearing and the receipt of comments from the Planning Board and DC Planning, the Town Board will be in a position to either adopt the law or to amend or modify it. This is a living document to update as the community needs and view changes. The Town is in the middle of updating the Master Plan that will be coming up in 2025. The Omnibus will not contradict anything in the Master Plan.

Supervisor D'Alessandro stated if anyone wishes to make comments on this, they will be included in the record. There was no one present who wanted to speak.

Approve Minutes:

November 14, 2024, Town Board Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes for the November 14, 2024, Town Board meeting

minutes: Board Member Franco. Seconded: Board Member Marinaro. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Announcement of Additions to the Agenda:

Supervisor D'Alessandro said there is an addition to the agenda.

Courtesy of the Floor:

Supervisor D'Alessandro asked if there was anyone who wanted to speak about any general town issues.

Legislator Steve Caswell wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. He stated they just completed their 2025 budget process. He reviewed amendments that were made. He reviewed the highlights, including a slight increase in the tax levy, but a decrease in the County tax rate. There are no changes in resources or layoffs of personnel. They are working on the county wide EMS shortage. He reviewed where they assisted with funding and where there were additional savings. He also reviewed the projects they have completed over the last year. Board Member Marinaro asked about funding help for town infrastructures. Legislator Caswell stated there hasn't been any discussion on this for the upcoming year, but they do rotate projects each year. He does think these type projects require a larger funding amount and most go through the State or Federal. Supervisor D'Alessandro stated that he has been told that the County can't pay towards an infrastructure they don't own.

Resident #1 asked about the animal controls that were discussed at the last meeting. Supervisor D'Alessandro stated they will be setting a new Public Hearing for that in March of 2025.

Receive and File:

Supervisor D'Alessandro stated there was nothing for receipt and file.

Resolutions:

1. Approve Winter Sidewalk Snow Removal Bid for 2024-2027

Supervisor D'Alessandro stated this was being tabled until the January meeting.

2. Set Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to Chapter 63 "Animals" of the Town Code for March 27, 2025

RESOLUTION
**(SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MARCH 27, 2025 TO AMEND
CHAPTER 63 "ANIMALS" OF THE TOWN CODE)**

WHEREAS, Chapter 63 of the Town Code pertains to “Animals”; and

WHEREAS, this Chapter has not been updated since 2011; and

WHEREAS, in order to promote responsible animal ownership, Town staff have recommended changes to this Chapter of the Town Code; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to hear public comment on these proposed changes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a Public Hearing on proposed amendments to Chapter 63 “Animals” of the Town Code is scheduled for March 27, 2025 at 6:00 PM at Town Hall located at 330 Route 376, Hopewell Junction, New York 12533.

Motion to set a Public Hearing on the proposed amendments to Chapter 63 “Animals” of the Town Code for March 27, 2025: Board Member Flores.
Seconded: Board Member Franco. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

3. Approve Salary Schedule for 2025

RESOLUTION **(SETTING SALARIES FOR TOWN EMPLOYEES)**

WHEREAS, it is the role of the Town Board to fix all compensation for Town employees and officials; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has received rates for all of the Officials, Seasonal and Part-time positions for 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the elected officials of the Town shall be paid in accordance with the amounts set forth in the 2025 adopted budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the salaries as provided for in the contractual agreement between the Town and the East Fishkill Police Benevolent Association shall be paid in accordance therewith; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the salaries as provided for in the contractual agreement between the Town and the CSEA shall be paid in accordance therewith; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all other Officials, Seasonal and Part-time employees of the Town shall be paid in accordance with the schedule attached hereto.

Motion to approve the salary schedule for 2025: Board Member Franco.
Seconded: Board Member Flores. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

4. Approve Water and Sewer Rates for 2025

RESOLUTION
(AUTHORIZE QUARTERLY RATES AND FEES FOR WATER AND SEWER)

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Town Board to authorize the quarterly rates for the water and sewer districts; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has received and reviewed the water and sewer rates; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board does hereby authorize the water and sewer rates for 2025.

Motion to approve water and sewer rates for 2025: Board Member Marinaro.
Seconded: Board Member Franco. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

5. Acknowledge the Hiring of Seasonal Wingmen

RESOLUTION
(SETTING SALARIES FOR TOWN EMPLOYEES)

WHEREAS, it is the role of the Town Board to fix all compensation for Town employees and officials; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has received rates for all of the Officials, Seasonal and Part-time positions for 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the elected officials of the Town shall be paid in accordance with the amounts set forth in the 2025 adopted budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the salaries as provided for in the contractual agreement between the Town and the East Fishkill Police Benevolent Association shall be paid in accordance therewith; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the salaries as provided for in the contractual agreement between the Town and the CSEA shall be paid in accordance therewith; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all other Officials, Seasonal and Part-time employees of the Town shall be paid in accordance with the schedule attached hereto.

Motion to acknowledge the hiring of seasonal wingmen: Board Member Arco.
Seconded: Board Member Flores. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

6. Approve Consulting Firm for Warren Farm Road Bridge Replacement

RESOLUTION
(AUTHORIZING CONSULTING ENGINEER SERVICES FOR WARREN FARM ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT)

WHEREAS, the Town has previously selected a committee for selecting a consulting engineer firm for the Warren Farm Road Bridge replacement project; and

WHEREAS, the selection committee met to review several qualified engineering applications; and

WHEREAS, several companies had strong credentials, HVEA was unanimously selected given their strong track record of recent projects within the town; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Engineer and Town Supervisor be and hereby are authorized to effectuate the use of HVEA, Hudson Valley Engineering Associates, as the primary engineering consultant firm for the Warren Farm Road Bridge replacement project.

Motion to approve consulting firm for Warren Farm Road Bridge replacement: Board Member Flores. Seconded: Board Member Franco. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

7. Authorize the 2025 Dog Redemption Fee and Contract with Hudson Valley Animal Rescue and Sanctuary

RESOLUTION
(AUTHORIZING THE 2025 DOG REDEMPTION FEE AND CONTRACT WITH HUDSON VALLEY ANIMAL AND SANCTUARY)

WHEREAS, the Town of East Fishkill is charged with animal control within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Town to have a proper shelter for any dogs seized by it; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor be and hereby is authorized to execute a contract for calendar year 2025 with Hudson Valley Animal Rescue and Sanctuary providing for the care of seized dogs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town shall be reimbursed by any dog owner the sum of \$70.00 fee for the seizure of any unlicensed or stray dogs.

Motion to authorize the 2025 Dog Redemption Fee and contract with Hudson Valley Animal Rescue and Sanctuary: Board Member Franco. Seconded: Board Member Arco. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

8. Schedule Town Board Workshop for January 16, 2025 at 5:00 PM

RESOLUTION
(SCHEDULING A SPECIAL TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP)

WHEREAS, the Town Supervisor has requested a Special Workshop meeting to update the Town Board on a number of projects that are before the Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Town Clerk to advertise such Workshop meeting; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town Board to schedule the Special Workshop meeting to discuss projects that are before the Planning Board; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board will conduct a Special Workshop on Thursday, January 16, 2024 at 5:00PM.

Motion to schedule a Town Board Workshop for January 16, 2025 at 5:00 PM: Board Member Marinaro. Seconded: Board Member Franco. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

9. Authorize Hiring of Interns for Winter Break

RESOLUTION
(APPOINTING TEMPORARY SEASONAL INTERNS)

WHEREAS, the Town is looking to hire back seasonal interns to assist in town offices; and

WHEREAS Sebastian Kaldor and Sophia Prianti have worked as interns for the Town in the past; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby appoint Sebastian Kaldor with an hourly rate of \$16.00 and Sophia Prianti with an hourly rate of \$15.00 as Temporary Part-Time Seasonal Interns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Internship position shall work at the pleasure of the Town Supervisor and will be removed from the payroll upon completion of his tasks.

Motion to authorize the hiring of interns for Winter Break: Board Member Arco.
Seconded: Board Member Marinaro. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

10. Authorize Funding for FEMA – Beekman Sewer District

RESOLUTION
(FEMA – BEEKMAN SEWER DISTRICT FUNDING AUTHORIZATION)

WHEREAS, the Town of East Fishkill experience a significant flooding and storm event on July 22, 2023, causing significant damage throughout the Town of East Fishkill, including an area located in the Beekman Sewer District; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government declared the storm event eligible for damage reimbursement through FEMA and the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the Town has been working with State and Federal Agencies to develop a project program to repair the sanitary pipe and provide mitigation to reduce future risk of a reoccurrence with a total budget not to exceed \$196,846.50; and

WHEREAS, the Town is to provide up to \$24,605.81 towards project costs and the State and Federal Government has already provided \$172,240.69; and

WHEREAS, the proposed repairs and mitigation meet the criteria of a Type II SEQR classification as defined in NYS Law 6 NYCRR Section 617.5 and requires no further action; and

WHEREAS, the Town will need to advance the project by authorizing various tasks such as surveying, engineering, and construction while meeting NYS procurement Laws and Regulations; and

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the funding of \$24,605.81 towards project costs to be assigned from the Beekman Water District, meeting the Town's matching commitment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby declares and authorizes Nicholas D'Alessandro, Town Supervisor, be provided the authority to authorize contracts and agreements for this project not to exceed a total amount of \$196,846.50.

Motion to authorize Funding for FEMA – Beekman Sewer District: Board Member Flores. Seconded: Board Member Franco. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

11. Set Rates and Fees for Food Trucks

RESOLUTION

(SETTING FEES AND RENTALS FOR FOOD TRUCKS IN 2025)

WHEREAS, the Town requires all food truck vendors operating in the Town to be registered and inspected; and

WHEREAS, duly registered vendors may utilize some Town property as sites; and

WHEREAS, it is required that the Town Board set the fees for these activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the annual truck inspection fee will be \$300. for 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the fees for the use of the Town site on Route 52 and Taconic State Parkway shall be:

- 1) For trucks whose owners are residents of the Town, or who are affiliated with a restaurant in the Town, or whose prep space is in the town, the rental fee will be for \$250. per month for up to one (1) day per week within the month. Payment in advance for 12 months will receive a 20% discount.

- 2) All others \$350. per month for one (1) day per week with a 10% discount for payment in advance.
- 3) Permits are first come first serve.

Motion to Set Rates and Fees for Food Trucks: Board Member Franco.
Seconded: Board Member Flores. All voted in favor. Motion carried

Additions to the Agenda (If any):

12. Authorize a contract with Milu Survey Platform

Motion to authorize a contract for Milu Survey Platform for \$2,500 annually:
Board Member Marinaro. Seconded: Board Member Arco. Board Member Flores stated she had not had time to review this platform, so she was not ready to vote on this at this point. Board Member Marinaro withdrew his motion and Supervisor D'Alessandro stated it would be tabled until the January meeting.

Budget Transfer:

Supervisor D'Alessandro stated there are no budget transfers.

Comments from Town Board Members:

Chief Cuccia stated he thought moving the meeting location around Town was a good idea to showcase different locations. He reminded everyone to be a good neighbor. Watch out for your neighbor's deliveries and report any suspicious cars. Also, the snow ordinance is in effect, so please don't park cars on the roadways. The department could not be more proud of their officer making the drug task force. They have drastically reduced the overdose amounts. The PBA Stuff the Cruiser event went very well. He thanked everyone who participated.

Highway Superintendent Williams stated from November 15 to April 1st there is no parking on the roadways, especially when there is a snow event. The Home Town Hero banners have all been taken down and the Christmas wreaths are up. They are doing tree work on Weitz Road, Rushmore, White Pond, Radcliff Drive, Broadway, Long Hill, Butternut, Mountain Top, and Allen Way. Pothole repair is continuous. They repaired a water line in the park. The Jetvac is out as long as the temperatures permit. Paving is done for the year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and Happy Hanukkah.

Clerk Cassidy stated since the last meeting there has been a rush of sales of dog licenses. They have done at least 300 licenses and there are a lot of people who own more than 8 dogs in Town that are not breeders. Please make sure you have all their paperwork when you come in to get the license. He thanked his staff and

the office employees for all their work the past year. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Board Member Franco stated the East Fishkill Rec is working on the new Recreation Guide for 2025. The first trip will be to Resorts World Casino on February 2. Tickets will go on sale Monday, December 16th. He thanked the Police Department, Fire Department, Highway Department, Santa & Mrs. Claus, the East Fishkill Rotary, 4th Wall Productions, and everyone who helped set up and decorate for the tree lighting ceremony. He hopes all the residents who attended had a great time. He thanked all who donated Christmas decorations. He read a prepared statement regarding social media posts and contacting the Board members for actual facts.

Board Member Marinaro stated he has been working with the Highway Superintendent and the Town Engineer regarding drainage issues in the Brandy Lane area. They will be working on putting a project together to alleviate the flooding issues. There continues to be EMS issues with the Fire District, and all EMS agencies. There is still a shortage of volunteers. There is something that everyone can do. He wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.

Board Member Arco stated he did not have any Highway updates. He has been working with the Police Chief. The Food Drive was great as well as the stuff the cruiser event. He stated the Police Department does a great job. He thanked Officer Brent Velencia for the assistance at his mother's accident in Town last night. Every officer he has worked with has been great. He attended the tree lighting and he thanked all the departments and volunteers that work together to make this event so great. The Rec department did a phenomenal job with the decorating. He thanked the Board for another great year and wished everyone happy holidays.

Board Member Flores thanked the Historical Society for hosting and for preserving and promoting the Town's history. She also thanked everyone for making the tree lighting such a wonderful experience. The Master Plan has a section that addresses community character and it is events like this that spotlight who East Fishkill is and what makes it such a great place to live. The theme of the Master Plan is cultivating balance and that is what they are trying to do. The fully revised draft document should be released to the committee members this week for final review at the final committee meeting in January. She stated the Board welcomes feedback from the community. She wished everyone happy holidays.

Supervisor D'Alessandro stated the next Town Board meeting is January 16th at 5:00 for a workshop. He wished everyone happy holidays and thanked all the staff and volunteers on all the boards. He thanked the Historical Society for hosting the meeting.

Motion for Adjournment: Time: Motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:20

PM: Board Member Marinaro. Seconded: Board Member Flores. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Town Board Meetings: Regular Meeting: January 16, 2024

Respectfully submitted by Julie J. Beyer on behalf of Town Clerk Peter Cassidy –
December 23, 2024