The Town Board met in a Workshop Session this evening at the Gardiner Town Hall at 7 PM. Supervisor Majestic and Councilmembers Wiegand, Richman, Carucci, and Hartner were present. There were approximately 15± audience members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town received the report from March regarding the Real Estate Transfer Tax totaling $34,041.45, which brings the total dedicated funds to approximately $545,329.64.

The Supervisor distributed Transfer Station rates from neighboring towns for the Board to review and potentially increase the permit rates in the near future. She hopes to discuss and vote on this at next week's meeting.

At next week's meeting, a Sewer Task Force will be proposed. Richard Cerruto has expressed interest in chairing the committee. The Supervisor circulated information to the Board and hopes to vote on it at next week's meeting.

Registration is now open for the Summer Recreation Program, a 6-week running from June 30th to August 8th. The Town is currently seeking an Aquatics Director to facilitate trips to the Ulster County Pool on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact the Supervisor for more information.

There will be a Blood Drive on Friday, June 6th from 12pm-5pm.

Councilmember Hartner provided an update on the Modena Warehouse. Richard Gorres, the Chairman of the Plattekill Planning Board, explained that there have been no changes or actions regarding the application since January.

Councilmember Carucci updated the Board about the Annual Riverkeeper Sweep on the 3rd. Fourteen volunteers participated in the event, collecting six large bags of trash, four large bags of recycling, miscellaneous signs, cones, chairs, and a stack of Frisbees dating back to 1994.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Joan Parker- All hospitality should be included in the law.

Robert Witkowski- Concerns with proposed Hotel/Motel Tax. Ulster County recently increased the County Lodging fee to 4%.

Michael Aiello- Concerns with Hotel/Motel Tax. Ulster County recently doubled its tax.

Bernetta Calderone- Concerns with Hotel/Motel Tax. What hotel/motel are in the hamlet? What services are you referring to?

Christopher Hoey- Concerned with the scope defined for a battery storage system. Very broad. Suggests the scope of the storage systems be changed.

Adrienne Pisciotta- Appreciates the pause regarding the B.E.S.S. Hopes the Town stays transparent and considers the residents' landscape, home values, and health and safety.

Alyce Dolce- Supports the moratorium, thanks to the board.

Linda Geary- Interested in being on the Sewer Task Force.

ADOPT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NYS LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF GARDINER TO IMPOSE A HOTEL/MOTEL TAX

Resolution No. 66 - Offered by Councilmember Wiegand;
Whereas, THE Town of Gardiner provides essential municipal services, infrastructure maintenance, and public safety initiatives that benefit both residents and visitors; and
WHEREAS, tourism and overnight lodging contribute significantly to the local economy, increasing the demand for municipal services; and
WHEREAS, a hotel or motel occupancy tax would provide a dedicated revenue source to help support these services without imposing additional burdens on local taxpayers; and
WHEREAS, the authority to impose such a tax requires specific enabling legislation from the New York State Legislature; and
WHEREAS, similar occupancy taxes have been successfully implemented in other New York municipalities, providing additional revenue for essential services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Gardiner as follows:

1. The Town of Gardiner formally requests that the New York State Legislature enact legislation authorizing the Town of Gardiner to impose a hotel and motel occupancy tax at a rate not to exceed five percent (5%) of the per diem rental rate for each room occupied.
2. The revenue generated from this tax shall be deposited into the Town's general fund to support municipal services, infrastructure, and other essential expenditures as determined by the Town Board.
3. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New York, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, the Temporary President of the New York State Senate, and the members of the State Legislature representing the Town of Gardiner, requesting their support and sponsorship of the necessary enabling legislation.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Seconded by Supervisor Majestic and carried.

ADOPT RESOLUTION REQUESTING REFERRING PROPOSED MORATORIUM ON BATTERY ELECTRIC STORAGE SYSTEMS TO THE ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD AND TOWN OF GARDINER PLANNING BOARD

After reviewing the resolution, the Board made several changes, including reducing the moratorium from nine months to six months and specifically identifying "commercial utility grade" while excluding residential properties. They will present these changes to the Town's attorney and plan to pass the resolution at next week's meeting.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Laura Rose, chair of the Community Preservation Advisory Board, spoke to the Board about a current member who will be moving out of town. She inquired if Kevin Caplicki could remain

on the Board as an active member until a replacement is found to fill his term. The Town Board ultimately agreed that while he is welcome to participate, he cannot remain a voting member of the Community Preservation Advisory Board.
Ms. Rose provided a brief update on the outreach efforts the Board conducted with residents. Out of the fifty letters sent, there were fourteen responses. The Board is also participating in joint meetings with the Wallkill Valley Land Trust and brainstorming ideas on how to best utilize the Community Preservation fund.

REVIEW BIDS RECEIVED FOR EXTERIOR ELECTRICAL AT TOWN HALL AND AWARD THE JOB

On the motion of Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilmember Carucci, and carried, to accept the quote from Circuit Power to install the exterior lighting at the Town Hall.
The Town Hall Repair Reserve Fund will finance this project, which is subject to a Permissive Referendum, causing a 21-day delay before the project's start.

TOWN HALL REPAIR RESERVE FUND DISCUSSION FOR REPLACING HYDRAULIC OIL IN OTIS ELEVATOR AND FOR LIGHTING TO BE REPLACED IN THE TOWN HALL BY ALL EXTERIOR DOORWAYS

On the motion of Councilmember Wiegand, seconded by Councilmember Hartner and carried, to proceed with the quote of $9,750.00 from OTIS for the hydraulic oil to be changed in the Town Hall elevator.
The Town Hall Repair Reserve Fund will also finance this project, which is subject to a Permissive Referendum, causing a 21-day delay before the project's start.

DISCUSS HEALTH INSURANCE BUYOUT MOVING FORWARD FOR NEW EMPLOYEES

Resolution No. 68 - Offered by Supervisor Majestic;
WHEREAS the Town of Gardiner Employee Manual entitled Compensation and Benefits Manual and dated May 5, 2015 Section 5.3.2 was previously amended by Resolution #66-2016.
BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Gardiner, a New York State Municipal Corporation, amends the Town of Gardiner Employee Manual entitled Compensation and Benefits Manual and dated May 5, 2015 as follows:

1. Section 5.3.2 Amount of Buyout amended as follows:
   Amount of Buy-Out: Any employee that is eligible for coverage that takes the health insurance buy-out will receive the following.

Family Coverage Buy-Out is	$4,000 per year
Employee & Child Coverage Buy-Out is	$3,750 per year
Employee & Spouse Coverage Buy-Out is	$3,000 per year
Single Coverage Buy-Out is	$2,000 per year

2. This will apply to any employee hired after May 6, 2025.

Seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried.

AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE THE MUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN GARDINER AND THE COUNTY FOR SUPPLEMENTAL ALS/BLS COVERAGE BETWEEN 6/1 – 12/31/2025

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried, to authorize the Supervisor to execute the Municipal Cooperation agreement between Gardiner and the County for Supplemental ALS/BLS coverage between June 1st, 2025 through December 31st, 2025.

DISCUSS COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATE CONTRACT STATUS

Councilmember Carucci provided an update on the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program. He explained that the initial bids received from the Request for Proposals (RFP) were too high, and Joule recommended not renewing the CCA. The CCA will officially end in June, and starting in July, residents who participated in the CCA program will have their energy bills returned to Central Hudson.

AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE CONFERENCE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FROM ROBERTA CLEMENTS, ECC AND BUILDING INSPECTORS

On the motion of Councilmember Richman, seconded by Councilmember Hartner and carried, to authorize Roberta Clements to attend a virtual conference from May 5th through June 1st for the amount of $70.00.

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried, to authorize the Building Inspectors to attend the monthly NYSBOC meeting.

ACCEPT REQUEST OF LAUREVE BLACKSTONE TO WAIVE COMPENSATION FOR SERVING ON THE ZBA

On the motion of Councilmember Wiegand, seconded by Councilmember Hartner and carried, to accept the request of Laureve Blackstone to waive compensation for serving on the ZBA.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE WILD EARTH CAMP USING RIVERBEND TRAIL THIS SUMMER

The Town is currently awaiting specific information and/or contract from Wild Earth Camp, which hopefully will be approved at next week's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilmember Wiegand, seconded by Supervisor Majestic, and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Hansen, Town Clerk