The Town Board met in Regular Session this evening at the Gardiner Town Hall at 7 PM. Present were Supervisor Hartner and Councilmembers Clements, Ulvestad and Scandinaro. There were approximately 16± audience members. Councilmember Carucci was absent.

SWEARING IN OF NEW TOWN BOARD MEMBER, JAMES ULVESTAD

Supervisor Hartner administered the Oath of Office to James Ulvestad for appointment with the Town Board to fill the existing vacancy for a one-year term.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Supervisor reported receiving a letter from St. Pauly Textile stating that the clothing drop box located at the Transfer Station collected a total of 10,146 pounds of clothing. This quantity of donated material resulted in approximately 1,869 pieces of clothing being distributed to people around the world.

A public debate entitled "Power Struggle: Should Central Hudson Become a Public Utility" will be held on Thursday, February 12th from 6:30 to 8:30 at SUNY New Paltz. Pre-registration is required. A QR code is available on the Town's website to register.

On March 3rd, Kai Lord-Farmer, Senior Planner with the Ulster County Department of Planning, will be giving a presentation on Pro-Housing Communities and the benefits to the Town of Gardiner.

At the April 7th meeting, Marc Rider, Executive Director of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, will be giving a presentation entitled, "Together Toward Zero Waste", outlining UCRRA's plan to minimize the amount of waste shipped elsewhere in New York State for disposal.

DISCUSSION OF FLEET EFFICIENCY POLICY PROPOSED BY CLIMATE SMART GARDINER, STEVE WEIR

Steve Weir of Climate Smart Gardiner addressed the Board regarding the Town's efforts to advance from its current bronze certification to silver certification under the Climate Smart Communities program. He explained that one of the requirements to qualify for the higher designation is that the Town must adopt an official Fleet Efficiency Policy. The Board reviewed the proposed policy and identified minor adjustments that need to be made. Mr. Weir will revise the document and present the updated version for Board adoption at the March 3rd meeting.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AN OCCUPANCY TAX

Resolution No. 2 - Offered by Councilmember Scandinaro;

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 7820 and Assembly Bill 8273 have been introduced to allow the enactment of a Hotel and Motel tax up to 5%.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Gardiner Town Board requests the passage and enactment of Senate Bill 7820 and Assembly Bill 8273 entitled, "AN ACT to authorize the Town of Gardiner to impose a Hotel Motel Tax up to 5%", and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Town Board of the Town of Gardiner is directed and authorized to file with the Senate and Assembly Home Rule messages or forms as needed to certify this resolution.

Seconded by Councilmember Clements and carried. Councilmember Carucci was absent.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD, ANNUAL REPORT BY GLENN GIDALY

Glenn Gidaly, member of the Community Preservation Advisory Board, provided an update to the Board. He reported that throughout 2025 the Advisory Board focused on advancing the Town's Community Preservation Plan and stewarding the Preservation Fund through proactive outreach, project development, partnerships, and oversight. The Board concentrated on identifying high-priority conservation opportunities, engaging with landowners and farmers, strengthening relationships with land trusts and funding partners, and improving stewardship and monitoring of lands. Key accomplishments during 2025 included targeted outreach to high-scoring landowners, multiple landowner meetings conducted jointly with the Wallkill Valley Land Trust, and the establishment of a strong pipeline of potential projects by year's end. Mr. Gidaly noted that the Advisory Board clarified internal processes and positioned the Town to transition from planning and outreach to successful conservation transactions in 2026.

PART-TIME PARKS AND RECREATION COORDINATOR

The Supervisor informed the Board that the Part-time Parks and Recreation Coordinator position must be formally created and approved as a 12-month position with Ulster County. Supervisor Hartner noted that the Board may be able to create and authorize the position at the March 3rd meeting.

AUTHORIZING THE ENGAGEMENT OF ATTORNEY JEFFREY BAKER FOR LEGAL COUNCIL

On the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Ulvestad, and carried, to add Jeffrey Baker, of Fuera Bush, NY, to the list of attorneys that the Town Supervisor, Highway Superintendent and Planning Board are authorized to engage for legal services in 2026, adopted by the Town Board as item #5 of the Organizational Meeting agenda of January 6, 2026, pursuant to NYS Town Law, Section 64.6. Mr. Baker will serve at the pleasure of the Town Board, on a case-by-case or retainer basis, with all claims for service to be paid by purchase order. Councilmember Carucci was absent.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

On the motion of Councilmember Clements, seconded by Supervisor Hartner, and carried, to appoint Barbara Lane to the Community Preservation Advisory Board, effective immediately, for the term ending on December 31, 2031. Councilmember Carucci was absent.

On the motion of Councilmember Clements, seconded by Supervisor Hartner, and carried, to appoint Lindy Weaver to the Community Preservation Advisory Board, effective immediately, for the term ending on December 31, 2037. Councilmember Carucci was absent.

AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO ENGAGE HYDROQUEST/MID-HUDSON GEOSCIENCES

On the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Supervisor Hartner, and carried, authorizing the Supervisor to execute the Hydrogeological Services Expert Consulting Agreement with HydroQuest/Mid-Hudson Geosciences, dated 2/10/26, for which up to $7,000.00 has been allocated for 2026, with any unexpected overage to be taken from unplanned revenues, followed by unrestricted, unallocated fund balance, or, if warranted by the engagement, to be paid from an appropriate escrow account. Councilmember Carucci was absent.

AUTHORIZATION TO CLOSE ESCROW ACCOUNT PB 23-02

On the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Clements, and carried, authorizing the Bookkeeper to close escrow account PB 23-01 for PDR Properties, LLC. And release the balance of $2,922.75 to the developer. Councilmember Carucci was absent.

APPROVAL OF PAYMEMT FOR VACATION ACCRUALS

On the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Ulvestad, and carried, approving to pay out accruals earned by the Town Clerk while serving as Deputy Town Clerk, prior to election as Town Clerk for 47.91 hours of vacation time, as per the Compensation and Benefits Manual, dated May 5, 2015, section 3.2.6, and as documented in employee attendance records, for a total dollar amount of $958.20. Councilmember Carucci was absent.

AUTHROIZATION FOR TRAINING

On the motion of Councilmember Clements, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro, and carried, authorizing the Code Enforcement Officer, and part-time Assistant Building Inspector to attend the annual required training offered by the New York State Building Officials Conference throughout the 2026 calendar year. The cost of the training is covered by the annual NYSBOC membership dues. Councilmember Carucci was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of December 9th were approved as written on the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Clements, and carried. Councilmember Ulvestad abstained. Councilmember Carucci was absent.

Minutes of January 6th were approved as written on the motion of Councilmember Clements, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro, and carried. Councilmember Ulvestad abstained. Councilmember Carucci was absent.

Minutes of January 13th were approved as written on the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Clements, and carried. Councilmember Ulvestad abstained. Councilmember Carucci was absent.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY

On the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Clements, and carried to approve the February 2026 Warrant dated February 11th for the total amount of $1,399,921.20. Councilmember Carucci was absent.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Marybeth Majestic – Hotel/Motel Tax - Suggests lobbying strong to get Senate support.
Andi Weiss Bartzak – Questions regarding water aquafers in Gardiner

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Clements and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Hansen