March 22, 2026 – Special Meeting

The Town Board met in Special Meeting this morning at the Gardiner Town Hall at 9 AM. Present were Supervisor Hartner and Councilmembers Carucci, Ulvestad and Scandinaro. There were approximately 5± audience members. Councilmember Clements was absent.

A note from Supervisor Hartner;

We're meeting today to consider a resolution requesting the NYS Legislature to enable the Town of Gardiner to impose a Hotel and Motel Tax of up to 5% under the Home Rule provisions of NYS Law. In order to take effect, after being passed by the Town Board it must then be approved by both houses of the State Legislature, and lastly, by the Governor. It made it through the Assembly in 2025, but it did not get through the State Senate. So this year, we were careful to pass it early.
The current Board passed the resolution for a second time on February 10, last month.
This past Friday, March 20, we received an email from Senator Oberacker's office stating that the resolution must be resubmitted with the bill numbers changed so that they both end in the letter A. The error originated in the instructions we received prior to our February 10 meeting. The email ended with the sentence, "I apologize for any inconvenience, but so long as the town enacts this ASAP, we should be able to still move the bills forward."
I then called the Senator's office and asked if it could wait until our next Town Board meeting on April 7 and was advised that it would be preferable to have a Special Meeting before then, which brings us here today. Councilmember Clements had a prior commitment, so we have a quorum plus one, rather than a quorum plus two, but a quorum nevertheless.

Resolution No. 8 - Offered by Councilmember Scandinaro;
WHEREAS, Senate Bill 7820A and Assembly Bill 8273A 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 7820A and Assembly Bill 8273A 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 Carucci and carried. Councilmember Clements was absent.

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR

Michael Aiello and Robert Witkowski – Concerns with small business and the amount of taxes already added to room fees by the state and county.

Ellen Ferranti- Are short term rentals included?

Joan Parker- in support of having the tax. Considerations to local Inns and B&B's. Demonstrate clear and transparent ways of what the money can be used for.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Ulvestad, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 AM. Councilmember Clements was absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Hansen

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