The Town Board met in Workshop Session this evening at the Gardiner Town Hall at 7 PM. Present were Supervisor Hartner and Councilmembers Carucci, Clements, Ulvestad and Scandinaro. There were approximately 15± audience members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town will host a Battery Energy Storage Forum on April 14 at 7:00 PM, featuring a presentation followed by a question-and-answer session. Residents may attend in person or via Zoom. The regularly scheduled Town Board meeting that evening has been moved to 5:30 PM.

Gardiner residents are eligible for free PFAS testing and may qualify for rebates of up to $5,000 for whole-house water treatment systems. This program is offered through New York State Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Conservation. Applications are available on the County website.

Congressman Pat Ryan's C.A.R.E.S. Van will visit Town Hall on April 15 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Staffed by caseworkers, the van aids with federal services such as Social Security, veterans' benefits, and other agency matters.

Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22. During the week of April 20–24, orange garbage bags will be available at Town Hall. Residents are encouraged to collect roadside litter and either bring the bags to the Transfer Station or leave them roadside for pickup by the Highway Department.

Gardiner Town Hall is now operating at net zero energy, relying entirely on renewable energy. This transition is expected to reduce annual energy costs by approximately $10,000.
The project, initiated in 2024 by the Climate Smart Task Force, was funded primarily through grants, with a $1,600 Town contribution.

The Ulster County Department of Health will host a community walk "Move A Mile" on April 9 (rain date April 10) from 3:30–4:45 PM at the O&W Connector Trail in Kingston.

An ADU Expo will be held on April 10 from 12:00–6:00 PM at the Andy Murphy Neighborhood Center in Kingston. The event will explore options for expanding housing through accessory dwelling units.

Issues with the Town Hall public Wi-Fi ("TOG Public") have been resolved.

Councilmember Clements requested to add an agenda item regarding re-zoning of wetlands setback. On the motion of Supervisor Hartner, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro, and carried, the Board approved the addition to the agenda.

TOWARD ZERO WASTE, PRESENTATION BY MARC RIDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY

Marc Rider and Tim Weidemann of the UCRRA presented an overview of the County's Zero Waste initiative. The program aims to divert 90% of waste from landfills and incinerators by 2050 through a comprehensive, long-term strategy. The initiative is guided by a ten-year Local Solid Waste Management Plan and follows the Zero Waste Hierarchy, prioritizing waste reduction, reuse, and composting over disposal. A key component is the RePØWER project, which includes development of a Reuse Innovation Center in Kingston for repair and upcycling, along with a network of municipal transfer stations serving as regional collection points. UCRRA is also exploring construction of a large-scale anaerobic digestion facility to process organic waste and generate renewable energy. Supporting efforts include public education programs such as the Zero Waste Seminar series and community bin rental services. It has established diversion targets of 30% by 2030 and 60% by 2040, with the long-term goal of becoming a model for circular economy practices.

SEWER TASK FORCE, UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF EFFORT TO PREVENT STORMWATER INFILTRATION

Rich Cerruto and Linda Geary of the Sewer Task Force provided an update to the Board. Mr. Cerruto began with an overview, reiterating the history of the sewer district and the challenges it currently faces. Regarding stormwater infiltration, Ms. Geary presented data showing continued permit exceedances at the sewer plant, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall. The team also reviewed problems with the chlorine contact tanks. It was agreed upon with the EPA to move forward with a more cost-effective tablet-based dichlorination system, rather than the higher-cost UV disinfection alternative. A sewer tax assessment identified 19 properties with incorrect charges. In addition, inspections of 50 properties revealed 8 confirmed illicit sump pump connections. The Board considered ways to support Trevor Hults, Sewer Superintendent with inspecting the remaining 130 properties. Suggestions included sending a supportive informational letter to residents and implementing a phased enforcement approach.

INITIAL MEETING OF TOWN BOARD AND AMBULANCE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS POSTPONED THE FIRST MEETING MAY 5TH

Postponed to May 5th.

RE-ADOPTION OF OCCUPANCY TAX RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 9 - Offered by Supervisor Hartner;

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 7820-B and Assembly Bill 8273-B 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-B and Assembly Bill 8273-B 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 Scandinaro and carried.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AUCTION OF SURPLUS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT VEHICLE

Resolution No. 10 - Offered by Supervisor Hartner;

WHEREAS, Highway Superintendent, Brian Stiscia, advised the Town Board by memorandum dated March 23, 2026, of his intent to surplus Town Highway Department vehicle pursuant to New York State Highway Law § 142(5); and

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent, Brian Stiscia has proposed to sell the equipment at auction and has proposed a contract with Auction International, Inc., an international online auction service with substantial experience selling surplus municipal vehicles and equipment and which does not charge sellers commission and although no reserve is set, the Town, as seller, has the right to reject all bids; and

WHEREAS there is one piece of Equipment the Highway Superintendent has identified to sell as surplus of a municipal vehicle as follows:

1. Ford 1996 F-450 Bucket Truck with Aerial Lift.
   VIN: 1FDLF47FXTEB12031

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Highway Superintendent, Brian Stiscia is authorized to sell the surplus Town Highway Department Truck in accordance with Highway Law § 142(5) with Auctions International, Inc., 11167 Big Tree Road, East Aurora, New York 14052 and to execute the "Online Auction Contract - Agreement for Sale of Government Assets" by Online Auction International, Inc. in substantially the same form as annexed hereto; and be it further;

RESOLVED, that the Highway Superintendent is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents, including Department of Motor Vehicle forms and Bills of Sale necessary to transfer the above piece of equipment to the successful bidder.

Seconded by Councilmember Ulvestad and carried.

HUDSON VALLEY CLEAN AIR NETWORK PROGRAM, PRESENTATION BY ECC CHAIR, JOAN PARKER

Joan Parker, Chair of the Environmental Conservation Commission, informed the Board of an initiative in which the Gardiner Library has been invited to participate with Bard College. The Bard College Community Sciences Lab manages the Hudson Valley Community Air Network, a network of more than 45 street-level, hyperlocal air quality sensors installed from Albany to Newburgh. The network monitors particulate matter and local weather conditions in real time to identify pollution hotspots and provide actionable data through the JustAir platform.

WETLAND SETBACK CODE REVISION CONVERSATION – Added agenda item

Councilmember Clements reported that the setbacks described in the proposed revision for wetlands were previously delineated in the Comprehensive Master Plan, the Open Space Plan, the Natural Resources Inventory, the Community Preservation Plan, and the revised 2022 Master Plan. The E.C.C. sent a letter to the Planning Board for their opinion. Councilmember Clements asked Joan Parker for the E.C.C.'s input regarding the proposed revision of wetland setback requirements in the Town Code. Ms. Parker read the email letter she had circulated regarding the subject.

DISCUSSION OF STAFF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The Town implemented a new staff training system this year developed by Wright Insurance. Training is now delivered through online webinars followed by an end-of-course test, and completion is recorded automatically in each participant's online record. This replaces the prior in-person process that required signed certificates and manual filing, reducing paperwork and administrative handling. Supervisor Hartner would like to see how the insurer's training assignments work out for mandated personnel and the relevant committees. If revisions are needed, he suggested considering adoption of a new training policy to better outline responsibilities and requirements for employees, Board members, committee members, and commission members.

APPROVAL TO REPLACE EXPIRED AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

On the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Ulvestad, and carried, to ratify the purchase of the new defibrillator which was expedited to ensure public safety and to take advantage of a $300.00 manufacturer's trade-in offered that expired prior to tonight's meeting and to authorize the bookkeeper to pay CardiacLifeProduct's invoice No. 158759 in the amount of $1,330.00 out of the General Fund Contingency line, A522-1990-400.

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF BEAR-DETERRENT MEASURES AT THE RECYCLING CENTER

Supervisor Hartner addressed the Board regarding an ongoing issue with a bear at the Transfer Station. A proposed solution involves the installation of an electric fence, with an estimated cost of approximately $350.00. As there are no funds currently allocated in the budget for this expense, the cost would need to be drawn from a Reserve Fund, which would require the scheduling of a Public Hearing. Following the discussion, the Board agreed to postpone any decision until they have had an opportunity to meet with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to obtain its input on the matter.

CORRECTION OF CIVIL SERVICE PERSONNEL CLASSIFICATION

On the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Carucci, and carried, to change the Civil Service classification for Toni Benevento from Part-Time Secretary to the Supervisor to Part-Time Clerk with no change in compensation or benefits.

CONFERENCE REQUEST, PACE UNIVERSITY HOUSING SUMMIT

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Ulvestad, and carried, to approve the Smart Housing Task Force Coordinator and Town Supervisor to attend the Pace University Housing Summit in the Morning of May 20th for a total cost of $240.00 inclusive of registration and mileage, to be taken out of the Supervisor's conference budget line, A522-1220-400.

ESTABLISH ESCROW ACCOUNT NO. PB26-03

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Clements, and carried, to authorize the Bookkeeper to establish an Escrow Acct No. PB26-03, for Nilsen Lot-Line Revision in the amount of $4,000.00 with a $1,000.00 replenishment level.

ACCEPTANCE OF SEWER EASEMENT

Resolution No. 11 - Offered by Councilmember Carucci;

WHEREAS, the above property owner, Sergio Rodriguez, has been granted a Residential Connection Permit in Gardiner Sewer District #1 and has installed the necessary facilities, and has agreed to grant an easement to the District, and

WHEREAS, an easement is required for future maintenance and repair of sewer lines, tanks, pumps, etc. by the District, then

RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 64 of Town Law, the Town Board of the Town of Gardiner, acting on behalf of Gardiner Sewer District #1, does hereby accept as a gift the above easement, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Supervisor is authorized to act on behalf of the District in this matter and cause a deed or other instrument to be filed with the Town Clerk.

Seconded Councilmember Scandinaro and carried.

ACCEPT RESIGNATION FROM JOHN HABERSBERGER FROM THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

On the motion of Councilmember Clements, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro, and carried, to accept the resignation of John Habersberger from the Board of Assessment Review effective immediately.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Alyce Dolce – Expressed her concerns with B.E.S.S. and outlined details she would like to see in the draft law, such as a tiered permitting structure, zoning eligibility, anti-circumvention, noise standards, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilmember Clements, seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Hansen, Town Clerk