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 18± audience members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jonathan Pine, Heavy Equipment Motor Operator in the Highway Department, has returned home after serving overseas since May 2025 as a Warrant Officer and Human Intelligence Technician with the National Guard. He will return to work on May 24. Supervisor Hartner thanked Mr. Pine for his service to our country.

Ulster County Executor, Jen Metzger, announced the launch of the New York State BEAD broadband program to expand fiber optic service to unserved areas in Ulster County, In Gardiner, at least 22 households may qualify, with residents encouraged to check eligibility online or by phone.

Supervisor Hartner reminded sewer district residents to schedule required sewer connection inspections following notices sent to 108 households. The Town faces DEC and EPA violations for exceeding plant capacity, and compliance is needed to avoid fines and costly upgrades. Inspections must be scheduled by May 29th; noncompliance may result in enforcement action.

Supervisor Hartner warned of recent fraudulent emails posing as Town billing notices and advised residents to verify messages and report suspicious emails not from official Town addresses.

Councilmember Carucci reported on the Riverkeeper Sweep held down at the Gardiner Park and Transfer Station area, with participation from 27 volunteers. The group collected over 1,500 pounds of debris and recyclables. He thanked Climate Smart Gardiner, Dan Scharff from the Transfer Station, and the Highway Department for their assistance and support.

AMBULANCE DISTRICT REPORT

The Ambulance Board of Commissioners—Charles Rock, Marc Alexander, and Rick Irizarry—provided an update to the Town Board. Mr. Rock expressed his satisfaction with the effectiveness of the Town's current ambulance service, noting that New Paltz Rescue has delivered exceptional performance in terms of both efficiency and quality of care. He reported that New Paltz Rescue now operates stations in both Modena and Gardiner, which has improved response times, particularly for calls in more remote areas of the Town. With the addition of New Paltz Rescue, residents now have access to two levels of emergency medical services: Basic Life Support (BLS), previously provided by the Volunteer EMS; and Advanced Life Support (ALS), provided by New Paltz Rescue. Mr. Rock stated that response times have decreased significantly since the implementation of the new service. The Board of Commissioners plans to return to a future meeting to review budgetary obligations and anticipates that Matt Goodnow will be present for that meeting.

APPROVAL OF SALE OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT'S SURPLUS BUCKET TRUCK

On the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried, to accept the Highway Superintendent's recommendation to accept the bid of $8,500, which is the highest bid we received, for a Ford 1996 F-450 Bucket Truck with Aerial Lift.

GARDINER'S NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY, UPDATE ON NEW FORMAT, NEIL CURRI AND SEBATIAN DIPIRRO, VASSAR COLLEGE

Offered by Councilmember Clements;

WHEREAS, the Town of Gardiner (the "Town") maintains a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) Digital Online Mapper to provide essential spatial data for environmental conservation and municipal planning; and

WHEREAS, Vassar College, through its Office of Community Engaged Learning (OCEL), represented by Elizabeth Cannon and Jean Hinkley, offers technical and academic partnership programs to assist municipalities at no cost; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to engage the expertise of Neil Curri, GISP, Academic Computing Consultant for GIS at Vassar College, to serve as the Supervising Lead for the management and technical oversight of said NRI Digital Online Mapper; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board seeks to establish a formal liaison between the municipality and Vassar College to ensure streamlined communication and project continuity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Gardiner hereby authorizes the collaboration with the Vassar College OCEL program for the management of the Gardiner NRI Digital Online Mapper at no cost to the Town; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Neil Curri, GISP, is hereby designated as the Managing Entity with authorized access to login information and full editing privileges for the NRI Digital Mapper; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Town Councilperson Roberta Clements is hereby appointed as the Official Town Liaison to the Vassar College Collaboration, to be reappointed at the Organizational meeting and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town of Gardiner shall remain the sole Account Owner and Account Holder of its dedicated ArcGIS ESRI online account, and shall maintain responsibility for all associated annual maintenance fees—utilizing the annual "Conservation Grant" as available and approved by ESRI—and the purchase of additional "credit bundles" as necessary, noting an annual renewal date in September; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this collaboration shall remain in effect indefinitely until such time as either the Town of Gardiner (by Board Resolution) or Vassar College (by official written communication) provides notice of the discontinuation of participation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to sign any necessary administrative documents to effectuate this partnership.

Seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried.

PROPOSED 250TH YEAR CELEBRATION OF AMERICA, ROBERTA CLEMENTS

Councilmember Roberta Clements addressed the Board regarding her efforts to organize a celebratory event for America's 250th anniversary, proposed to take place on July 5th at Majestic Park. She provided an overview of the day's planned activities, which include historical presentations, participation from Ulster County officials, and live music, with the goal of creating a family-friendly community event. Ms. Clements reported that she has applied for a

grant of up to $2,500 from Ulster County and expects to receive a decision within the next few days.

On the motion of Councilmember Clements, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro, to dedicate up to $3500 from the Town of Gardiner General Fund to the Ulster County 250th Celebration at Majestic Park on July 5, 2026. $2,500 of which will be reimbursed by the county, contingent on the pending receipt of the granting of the award from Ulster County to R. Clements, Town Councilperson, for the event. Up to $1,000 of which is dedicated by the Gardiner Town Board to implement the attached draft of the general schedule of events. Upon receipt of invoices, up to $1,000 will be transferred to the General Fund for payment by the Town for materials purchased or services rendered. The Town of Gardiner will engage a musical act as an extension of the Music in the Parks initiative under the auspices of the Gardiner Parks and Recreation Commission. Supervisor Hartner, Councilmembers Carucci, Ulvestad and Scandinaro opposed.

Motion failed on the rationale that the plan for the celebration did not include sufficient information on the logistics to provide assurance that the event would run smoothly. Supervisor Hartner suggested that the celebration be combined with Gardiner Day in September or that the motion be tabled until the May 12 meeting to allow time for missing components of the plan to be fleshed out.

ACCEPT DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN (DWSP2)

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Ulvestad, and carried, to accept the Drinking Water Source Protection Plan, dated 4-22-26.

APPOINTMENT OF DRINKING WATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE CHAIR

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Ulvestad, and carried, to accept the resignation of Michael Hartner as Chair of the Drinking Water Protection Committee, and to appoint Jon Benner as Chair of Drinking Water Protection Committee, effective May 6, 2026.

ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF MEME HANLEY BORAN FROM COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Ulvestad, and carried, to accept Meme Hanley Boran's resignation from the CPAB effective April 25, 2026.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ESCROW ACCOUNT

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro, and carried, to authorize the bookkeeper to establish escrow account No. PB26-02, in the amount of $5000 with a $1500 replenishment, for a Minor Subdivision on Hasbrouck Road.

BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS), A DISCUSSION OF TIERS AND ZONING DISTRICTS, JIM ULVESTAD

Councilmember Ulvestad gave a detailed presentation on the various considerations the Board will need to address when drafting the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) local law. Key points included determining which tier levels the Board would be comfortable permitting and in

which zoning districts they would be allowed. Mr. Ulvestad also discussed projects located along transmission lines as well as those along three-phase lines. The Board acknowledged the need to update both the standalone law and the Town's zoning code to ensure consistency and to prevent potential legal conflicts. The Board plans to extend the moratorium for an additional six months to allow sufficient time to develop a well-considered and comprehensive local law.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Alyce Dolce- Inquired how much time will residents have to have answers with what is being presented?
Rod Skorets- Not opposed to BESS but opposed to the risks, Decommissioning timeline and process?
Adrienne Pisciotta- Concerns with requirements of view shed and no implementation of screening. Consider real estate values on properties.
Martin Krumans- Retired ER Doctor, concerns with health risks.
John O'Connor- How can the state force the town to have a BESS?
Mary Meyer- Concerned of the dangers of BESS.
Marjorie Cuciti- Concerns with health, effects on wildlife, effects on farmers.
Brian Stiscia- Batteries are unpredictable, difficult to put out fire.
Tom Penichter- As a Planning Board member requested Board to consider setbacks, noise, view shed, construction bond, insurance requirement.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Supervisor Hartner, seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Hansen, Town Clerk