The Town Board met in Regular Session this evening at the Gardiner Town Hall at 7:00 PM. Present were Supervisor Hartner and Councilmembers Carucci, Ulvestad, Scandinaro and Clements. There were approximately 8± audience members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town's ARPA/SLFRF account has been closed by the U.S. Treasury. Gardiner received $574,152.11, with major expenditures for recreation improvements, the Central Hamlet Sewer District, office equipment, a Fire Department vehicle, and employee bonuses.

New York State has reopened applications for the Private Well PFAS Testing and Mitigation Rebate Pilot Program for Ulster County residents with private wells. The program offers free PFAS testing and possible rebates for mitigation if results exceed New York State drinking water standards. Application information is available in the agenda packet on the Town website.

The Town Board has restarted work on comprehensive Emergency Management Plans for Gardiner. The plans will establish responsibilities and protocols for emergencies such as extreme temperatures, forest fires, flooding, drought, and power outages, with updates to follow as the work progresses.

Residents were reminded of Gardiner's Concert Series Under the Pavilion in the Park, featuring Straight Ahead Jazz Trio on July 15 and Krisha and Krew on July 29.

Councilmember Clements thanked the Highway Department for its efforts in responding to and cleaning up after the July 4 storm. She announced that she will recuse herself from any Town matters involving the Awosting Club, as she is a petitioner in a lawsuit against the Town regarding Awosting Club. She also inquired about the status of the open Parks and Recreation position.

Councilmember Ulvestad reminded residents that the Fire Department's annual 5K race will be held on Thursday, July 16th.

AMBULANCE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Rock, Chair of the Ambulance Board of Commissioners, opened the discussion and provided an overview of the current year's activities and plans for the coming year. He introduced Robert Miller, Director of Ulster County Emergency Medical Services, who also serves as liaison for all districts in the County. Mr. Miller explained that the budgetary increase for Advanced Life Support (ALS) services in 2027 is expected to be limited to 2%, an increase of $12,000.00, bringing the total to $612,000.00. He also stated that Gardiner Ambulance intends to continue providing Basic Life Support (BLS) services to the Town. Gardiner is considered an ALS-providing community and is serving as a pilot for other municipalities facing similar response-time obstacles.

FEDERAL AID TO NEW YORK FARMERS RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 23 - Offered by Councilmember Scandinaro;

WHEREAS, agriculture is a vital component of the economy, heritage, and quality of life in the Mid-Hudson Valley and throughout New York State; and

WHEREAS, an extreme frost and freeze event occurred in late April 2026 after unusually warm weather had caused fruit trees, grape vines, and other specialty crops to bloom prematurely; and

WHEREAS, the freeze caused substantial damage to apples, grapes, pears, cherries, peaches, plums, strawberries, onions, and other agricultural crops throughout the Hudson Valley and neighboring regions, with some farms reporting losses approaching or exceeding ninety percent (90%) of expected production; and

WHEREAS, on or about May 20, 2026, Governor Kathy Hochul requested that the United States Department of Agriculture issue a Secretarial Disaster Designation for affected New York counties in order to provide access to federal emergency assistance and low-interest disaster loans for impacted agricultural producers; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2026, Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger, and other County Executives in the Mid-Hudson region jointly urged the United States Secretary of Agriculture to approve New York State's request for a Secretarial Disaster Designation; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes the significant economic contributions made by local farms and agricultural businesses and acknowledges the hardship imposed upon farmers, farm workers, and related businesses as a result of this unprecedented weather event; and

WHEREAS, federal disaster assistance may provide essential support to help affected farms remain viable, preserve agricultural employment, and sustain the agricultural economy of the Hudson Valley; and

WHEREAS, more than six weeks have elapsed since New York State submitted its request for a USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation and the affected agricultural community continues to await federal action, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds that the prolonged delay in acting upon New York State's request creates additional uncertainty and hardship for agricultural producers already facing substantial losses, and therefore respectfully requests prompt action by the United States Department of Agriculture,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Gardiner hereby expresses its strong support for Governor Kathy Hochul's request for a USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation for the counties impacted by the April 2026 freeze event; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board respectfully urges the United States Secretary of Agriculture to act expeditiously in approving the requested designation and making available all applicable federal disaster assistance programs to affected agricultural producers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board stands in solidarity with the farmers, farm workers, and agricultural businesses of the Mid-Hudson Valley as they recover from the severe crop losses caused by the April 2026 freeze; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to transmit certified copies of this Resolution to the United States Secretary of Agriculture, Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congressman Pat Ryan, Congressman Josh Riley, and Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger.

Seconded by Councilmember Ulvestad and carried.

RENEWAL OF SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ULSTER COUNTY

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Ulvestad, and carried, to accept without objection the terms of the successor Shared Services Agreement with Ulster County as proposed by Highway Superintendent Brian Stiscia per his memo dated July 14, 2026, a copy of which, along with a copy of the existing Agreement which expires in September, is available online in the Board Packet related to this meeting, and for approval that the Town Supervisor sign the agreement if it is approved by County Officials and vetted by the Town's attorney if any significant changes in wording are made in the Agreement.

AMENDMENT OF 284 AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE CRISPELL LANE

On the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Clements, and carried, to approve the amended 284 Agreement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On the motion of Supervisor Hartner, seconded by Councilmember Carucci, and carried, the Board entered Executive Session at 8:20pm for the purpose of discussing employment history, appointments, promotion or discipline of particular person(s).
On the motion of Councilmember Ulvestad, seconded by Councilmember Clements, and carried, to return from Executive Session at 8:32pm.

SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR SENIOR ACCOUNT CLERK

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Ulvestad, and carried, to increase the Senior Account Clerk, Donna Daley's salary to $60,000.00 effective July 15, 2026, in recognition of her promotion to lead the Town's Financial Department following the retirement of Municipal Bookkeeper, Arlene Weber. This promotion does not involve a change in title or employee benefits. It fills the leadership responsibilities of the Finance Department and results in an overall reduction in payroll expenses when compared to the prior staffing arrangement.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro, and carried, to establish a new position, Administrative Assistant, full-time, whose work will be split between the dual role of assuming the responsibilities vacated by Senior Account Clerk's promotion, and doing administrative work such as pursuing grant funding, and cost reduction research under the direction of the Town Supervisor.

ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF WEBSITE COORDINATOR, TONI BENEVENTO

On the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Ulvestad, and carried, to accept the resignation of Toni Benevento from the position of Website Coordinator.

ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF DEPUTY SUPERVISOR, FRANCO CARUCCI

On the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Ulvestad, and carried, to accept the resignation of Deputy Supervisor Franco Carucci dated July 8, 2026, a copy of which is available in the online Agenda Packet related to this meeting. This does not involve a change in compensation since Mr. Carucci did not accept any additional compensation for the appointment.

APPOINTMENT OF TOWN COUNCILMEMBER, JIM ULVESTAD AS DEPUTY SUPERVISOR

On the motion of Councilmember Scandindaro, seconded by Councilmember Carucci, and carried, to appointment of James Ulvestad to the position of Deputy Supervisor, to serve at the pleasure of the Town Supervisor, to chair Town Board meetings in the absence of the Supervisor, to serve as the emergency contact if the Supervisor is unavailable in the event of an incident involving the Police, Fire or Rescue personnel or other outside agency, and for such other duties as may be assigned by the Town Supervisor. Mr. Ulvestad has declined additional compensation for this role.

APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE NURSE FOR SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

Resolution No. 24 - Offered by Supervisor Hartner;
RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 27 of Town Law and upon the recommendation of the Director of the Summer Recreation Program, the following named persons are hereby employed in the position indicated to be compensated at the hourly wage rate indicated for 2026, to be paid bi-weekly:
As-Needed Health Director: Marissa Pacelli $25.00
All positions are Part-Time with no insurance benefits.
Seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro and carried.

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING REMOTE PARTICIPATION AND VOTING BY TOWN BOARD MEMBERS

Councilmember Clements left the meeting at 8:50pm.

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro, and carried, for the Town Clerk to forward the existing document to the Town's Municipal attorney for vetting with intention of the Board conducting a public hearing and vote on the proposed law at the next Town Board meeting, August 11. Councilmember Clements was absent.

On the motion of Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro, and carried, to set the Public Hearing for the proposed Local Law establishing remote participation and voting by Town Board members for August 11, pending there being no substantial changes after review by the Town Attorney. Councilmember Clements was absent.

DISCUSSION ON TOWN BOARD LIASONS AND LIASION POLICY

The Board discussed liaison assignments but decided to make official assignments at the August meeting. Councilmember Ulvestad volunteered to review and revise the draft liaison policy and circulate it to all Boards, Committees, and Task Forces in the Town for review and input.

APPOINTMENT OF CLIMATE SMART COORDINATOR

On the motion Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro, and carried, to appoint Mark Varian to the position of Climate Smart Coordinator, effective July 15, 2026, and until further notice. Councilmember Clements was absent.

CONTINUATION OF E-WASTE DISCUSSION

Agenda item was tabled to a future meeting.

APPROVAL OF JULY WARRANT

On the motion of Councilmember Ulvestad, seconded by Councilmember Carucci, and carried, to approve the June warrant report, dated July 15, 2026, for a total $569,342.70. Councilmember Clements was absent.

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE ESCROW FOR THE COMPLETED PB25-05, LEXTIN PROPERTIES

On the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Carucci, and carried, authorizing the Bookkeeper to release escrow funds for completed project number PB25-05, entitled Lextin Properties Minor Subdivision project, in the amount of $273.11. Councilmember Clements was absent.

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE ESCROW FOR THE COMPLETED PB25-06, RICHARDS

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro, and carried, authorizing the Bookkeeper to release escrow funds for completed project number PB25-06, entitled Richards - Special Permit Application, in the amount of $767.17. Councilmember Clements was absent.

APPROVAL OF JUNE MEETING MINUTES

On the motion of Councilmember Ulvestad, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro, and carried, to accept the Minutes of June 2, June 9, and June 30. Councilmember Clements was absent.

On the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Ulvestad, and carried, to accept the Minutes of June 22nd. Councilmember Carucci abstained, Councilmember Clements was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried, the Board entered Executive Session at 9:27pm for the purpose of discussing employment history, appointments, promotion or discipline of particular person(s). Councilmember Clements was absent.

On the motion of Councilmember Ulvestad, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro, and carried, to return from Executive Session at 10:19pm. Councilmember Clements was absent.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:19pm. Councilmember Clements was absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Hansen, Town Clerk