TOWN OF PLATTEKILL

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

march 19, 2025

Time – 7:00pm

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

ROLL CALL:

The following Town Board Members were present:

Supervisor Depew

Councilman Fazio

Councilman Castillo

Councilman Hoppenstedt

Absent- Councilman O’Flaherty

PUBLIC HEARING: Local Law #2 of 2025

ENTITLED EXSTENTION OF PARTIAL REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE WORKERS

Supervisor DePew made a motion to OPEN the Public Hearing (at 7:05PM) for Local Law #2.

Seconded by Councilman Fazio On the Vote: All Ayes

This is to modify a previous law (Amends Local Law #1 of 2023) that we have in effect. The law was for an exemption for volunteer fire and ambulance workers that live in our community and serve in our community. Since then, NYS Legislature have extended it to people that live in our town but serve in an adjacent town.

1. Kathy Beinkafner- Would the Fire Police be included in this? Is there a period of time that they must serve.

Supervisor DePew- Yes, they fall under the Fire district.

1. Annette Laskowsky- Do you have to be an official fireman for a certain amount of time?

Supervisor DePew- I believe it is 2 years but the assessor would have the exact amount of time.

Supervisor DePew made a motion to CLOSE the Public Hearing at 7:15PM.

Seconded it by Councilman Castillo. On the Vote: All Ayes

Supervisor DePew polled the Town Board and asked if any had questions or comments?

All Responded No.

Supervisor DePew made a motion to adopt Local Law #2 of 2025.

Councilman Hoppenstedt seconded

On the Vote: All Ayes

Councilman Castillo made a motion to sign the resolution/local law and any paperwork as needed.

Seconded by Councilman Hoppenstedt.

On the Vote: All Ayes

MINUTES:

* Supervisor DePew made a motion to NOT READ the minutes from the March 5, 2025 Town Board Meeting

Seconded by Councilman Hoppenstedt

On the vote: All Ayes

Supervisor DePew made a motion to ACCEPT the minutes from the March 5, 2025 Town Board Meeting.

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the Vote: All Ayes

ADDITIONS:

* DMV Bus Update

Ulster County Clerk came down today to do a walk through of the work that has been done on the building to grant us access for the Bus to be at the Town of Plattekill. We don’t have an opening date yet, but it will be a Thursday in April.

Internet, a phone line and electric had to be installed.

Thank you to the Town and the Highway Department for doing the work to get the bus here.

REPORTS:

* Supervisor Depew read the monthly department reports and noted they are all available at the Town Clerk’s Office upon request.

Supervisor DePew made a motion to NOT read the monthly reports.

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the Vote: All Ayes

The following reports for the month of February were available.

Plattekill Police Monthly Report

Dog Control Monthly Report

Buildings & Grounds Monthly Report

Building Department Monthly Report

Assessor Report Monthly Report

Recreation Report Monthly Report

There has been an up-swing of vehicle break in’s recently throughout Modena, Clintondale and Plattekill. Make sure your cars are locked.

Supervisor DePew read a letter regarding the Police Department and Police Officer Contreras. Kudos to Officer Contreras.

March 2025 Recreation Report-

* Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday April 19th. (No Rain Date)
* Rocking Horse Ranch Day, Sunday April 27th. Tickets will go on sale April 9th from 4-6:30PM. (No Rain Date)
* Rocking Horse Ranch- Fall Event. Sunday September 28th. (No Rain Date)
* Trunk or Treat, Saturday November 1, 2025 (No Rain Date)
* Christmas Tree Lighting, December 7, 2025 (No Rain Date)

**Summer Camp:**

We are looking to Hire an Assistant Director for Camp. We can advertise for that.

Camp Applications are completely updated and will be on the website/Facebook soon.

1. 3-week Program June 30th-July 18th $360.00 Resident and $460.00 for Non resident

Raise the price to $395.00 for Residents and $495.00 for Non-Residents.

1. 3-week program July 14-August 1st. $360 Resident and $460.00 for Non resident

Raise the price to $395.00 for Residents and $495.00 for Non-Resident

1. Full 5 weeks. June 30th-August 1. $600 Resident and $700.00 Non-residents

Raise the price to $640.00 for Residents and $740.00 for Non-Residents

Supervisor DePew stated that Salaries have increased, field trips, products we use. T-shirts have increased. Bus transportation has increased. He feels the prices are justified.

Councilman Fazio- The Counselor in Training has also increased.

Supervisor DePew- Yes, the CIT. That is for 14- and 15-year-olds to attend the camp and they attend the camp as CIT. They are under the guidance of the director and assistant director. They sort of teach them what the rules are. They learn how to become counselors. That would go from $100.00 to $125.00.

Councilman Fazio- I think this should be done. This is a great experience for the kids.

Supervisor DePew- We are having a meeting tomorrow with the Highway Superintendent to look at the placement for the benches. We are meeting Monday with the company that is installing them. We are also putting in a volleyball system behind the pickleball court. The kids have a great time up there. The slight increase that we are doing, we offer quite a lot.

Councilman Castillo- I got a call from Local 17. They want to go up there and take measurements Monday. They want to donate their labor and we buy the material for the walkway.

Supervisor DePew made a motion to raise Option 1 and 2 from $360.00 to $395.00 for residents and $460.00 - $495.00 for Non-Residents. Option 3 is getting raised from $600.00 to $700.00 for Residents and $640 to $740.00 for Nonresidents.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo.

On the Vote: All Ayes

Supervisor DePew made a motion to raise the prices for CIT from $100.00 to $125.00 for the full 5-week program.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the Vote: All Ayes

Supervisor DePew asked the board to review the applications and flyers that she is presenting.

PUBLIC INPUT:

* Supervisor Depew made a motion to open Public Input at 7:20PM.

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the vote: All Ayes

1. Annette Laskowsky- I have a question about the Planning Board Appointment? Is this a new person?

Supervisor DePew- No not a new person. It someone that is currently serving. They are serving as an “acting” Vice-Chair mistakenly. I am going to appoint him as the Vice Chair. Nothing is changing except him going from an Acting Vice Chairman to Vice-Chairman. Respectfully so, I should read that.

1. Laura Dougherty- The website, I said a few weeks ago that the search feature isn’t working properly. Any update with that?

Supervisor DePew- We reached out to our IT guy to get that taken care of. We have a few other things to freshen up and update with that.

1. Annette Laskowsky- I want to make sure that Sarah was recognized for her work in organizing the Blood Drive this past Saturday.
2. MaryAnn DePew- Reminding everyone that there is a Verterans Committee meeting the third Thursday of each month. We are working still on the banners for our Veterans and active military as well. The Committee is also working on our Memorial Day Parade which is May 24th.
3. Anthony Covino- Again here this meeting. I had someone look over the Site Maps. Currently, there is no permits for a building but according to the Site maps, there is supposed to be a building there before the business should be open and containers on the site. I did file a report with the Code enforcement officer along with the complaints I had from last meeting.

Supervisor DePew- Before you go any further, I did stop you the other day when you were in the building and you told me that you didn’t have time to talk. I was hoping you came back.

Anthony Covino- Last meeting, Willie was saying he went over to someone’s house that had a chicken coop and solved that chicken coop problem along with someone who had a sign and was running a business in their house. He solved that matter too. I did not realize that as a Councilman, you can go and take care of those things. I thought that code enforcement had to do that.

Supervisor DePew- Did he elude that he took care of that, physically?

Councilman Castillo- A resident came in and asked me to help.

Anthony Covino- I was told that you cannot wave a magic wand and fix the problem I have but you had no problem but going to fix something for that resident. You are not even a code enforcement officer.

Councilman Castillo- I also went up this past weekend and made sure those containers were moved to the back.

Anthony Covino- Still doesn’t matter, they are not supposed to be back there.

Supervisor DePew- What did you hand me before?

Anthony Covino- This is a FOIL from 3/19/2025 that tells you that there is no permit for a building being built yet. According to the site map, there is supposed to be a building there first. I am surprised that the business that is open at Coy Road is considered storage according to the taxes. (OTH Storage)

Supervisor DePew- It is storage for porta potties.

Anthony Covino- What he is paying for 15 acres, is what I am paying for almost 3 acres since 1990. Castillo said last meeting that the town is going to cut ties with Enviro Clean.

Supervisor DePew- He suggested it. But there is not a conflict of interest. We are doing things fairly.

Anthony Covino- I am taken back; Castillo took care of things just like that and I have been here for 5 years.

Supervisor DePew- I did do research and went back through the files. I do not remember entirely the whole process about why it didn’t go to the ZBA for a variance. I did go back to a notice of determination which was written 1/30/2020. The letter was to Patty Brooks and Bob Earl. (Letter will be attached to the minutes)

If a proposed use is not specifically prohibited or listed in any zoning district, the Town Board shall render a formal determination as to the use in a specific district.

The Code Enforcement Officer stated his determination for the proposed use was to be sent to the Town Board for further determination as to this use in a specific zone.

There was no provision with the ZBA to give a variance since it was not listed in any zones or town codes. By that 110-11B in the letter of determination, it was assigned to the Town Board. (Zoning Code 110-11B, also attached to the minutes). Supervisor Croce made a motion on March 4, 2020 that the Town Board decided that the proposed use is appropriate for the zone in accordance with the zoning code 110-11B as a special use.

That is what made it go to Town Board, then went back to Planning Board and the Planning Board did their part of it as afar as adopting the site plan. The provisions on the Site Plan were modified from the original use. I do believe those containers are supposed to be empty on site and not cleaned on that site either. One of my recommendations to Mr. Earl was to put a keyed lock on each container to have them safe. I did look at the site plan and there are 3 specific areas to be cleaned. One for the future building and I do agree that there is not a building permit for it. I believe the containers were on the closest spot to your property and then there are 2 other spots. I did ask him to move them those off the site to the rear.

Anthony Covino- You can still see them.

Supervisor DePew- They have been moved. I did ask him to consider putting up a screening, whether it is pine trees, something ample size so you wouldn’t see them. The building, I have to go back and look at the site plan, that something couldn’t be done until the building was there. I am not sure of the provisions are that allowed him to go ahead if the site plan said no. You gave me information to follow up with about that.

My main goal was to answer the questions as to why it didn’t go to zoning. I read it a few times to understand. It was because there were no provisions. Looking back at that project and its location, yes, it is close to you and you can see it. Yes, it is intrusive but it was an allowable use by determining 110-11B. It specifically says how it came about.

(Anthony was handed a copy of what the Supervisor read aloud to become part of the record)

I will look again at the site map tomorrow.

Anthony Covino- It is ironic to me that he can have those contains but no one else in the town is allowed to have containers. I don’t understand from 5 years ago how this has happened. I walk out my backyard and I see all of these containers. I will take legal council and move forward from here.

Supervisor DePew- It almost seems hypocritical that it is an allowable use but those containers are specifically stored there for his business to sell in other communities. Agricultural can have those containers. I do know looking around town that there are containers.

Councilman Castillo- I will say that I went out there because no one in this town hall speaks Spanish.

Kathy Beinkafner- This does not deal with the problem that when he drives out of there, there is all sorts of mud, dirt and rocks all over the road. These containers destroy the road with all the dirt. It isn’t fair for the people that drive.

Supervisor DePew- That will be addressed and dealt with through the code enforcement. If there are issues like that, they will be dealt with and handled.

* Supervisor Depew made a motion close public input at 7:45pm.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the vote: All Ayes

OLD BUSINESS:

* Zoning Code Update Resolution

This is the next step after our Comprehensive Plan. This is for the Zoning aspect.

Department of State Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Program- Zoning Code Update. This is what the Town Board has already approved in the past but we have to do it by resolution. This is for the application to put in for the grant to receive the application so we can continue the zoning portion of our Comprehensive Plan.

**RESOLUTION #34**

Dept. of State Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Program-Update

Supervisor DePew made a motion to adopt the following resolution. The Town of Plattekill is applying for a Smart Growth Program administered by NY Department of State for a project entitled “Plattekill Zoning Code Update” The Town has secured up to 10% ($7,500) of the total project cost. The Town Board of the Town of Plattekill does approve the application for this grant.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the Vote: All Ayes

Councilman Castillo made a motion to allow the Town Supervisor to sign Resolution #34.

Seconded by Councilman Hoppenstedt

On the Vote: All Ayes

* Planning Board Appointment

Supervisor DePew made a motion to appoint Ernie VanDemark as the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Board.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the Vote: All Ayes

NEW BUSINESS

* Letter- Bookkeeper Bounced Checks

We have received bad checks at the Transfer Station in the past.

Memo from the Bookkeeper- The Town Board needs to put a procedure in place for handling bounced checks from 2024. We currently have 4 personal checks from the Transfer Station. Numerous attempts to try and collect our funds, phone calls, letters being sent to addresses on the checks.

Total is $123.50.

Would the Town Board authorize these checks to be written off for 2024? The Town needs a procedure to mitigate future losses.

Supervisor DePew stated that we have tried many times to get in contact with them. 2 of them were non residents that have utilized the transfer station. It is a matter of principal. If we make a motion to write this off, it doesn’t mean we can ever collect the money.

Councilman Fazio- It isn’t worth it after we are sending envelopes certified letters. We are losing money rather than collecting money. I think we should close it out.

Councilman Hoppenstedt- We definitely have to come up with a policy to avoid this

Councilman Castillo- When people go up there and aren’t residents, then we shouldn’t accept a check.

Councilman Fazio- If they aren’t residents, they should not be allowed at the Transfer Station.

Supervisor DePew- We do allow non residents to come in under certain provisions. The permits that are given to non-residents are people that own real estate in the town but don’t live in the town, apartments, businesses, etc. They are tax payers. Phone numbers and dump permit numbers should be on the checks. Cash isn’t permitted at the transfer station. We also have tightened up the Transfer Station. Cheryl at the Transfer station is doing a great job up there.

Councilman Castilo- If guys are doing construction in the town, does that go to Town Clerk or can they go to transfer station?

Supervisor DePew- We have limited that as well. It is so much per yard. There is a lot that we no longer accept up there. Names and copies of the checks are with the transfer station attendant for the future.

Councilman Castillo made a motion to close out the $123.50 for the year 2024.

Councilman Fazio seconded

On the Vote: All Ayes

Supervisor DePew stated that there is a meeting next week at the Rosendale Town Hall. Ulster County is going to have a few speakers regarding recycling paint at the transfer station. They are also going to discuss food waste at the transfer Station. I think it is worth to talk about. He will send the Town Board an email with exact date and times.

* 2025-2026 SRO Agreement with Wallkill Central School District

Plattekill Elementary School

Wallkill Central School District shall pay the Town $55.00 per hour.

Supervisor Depew made a motion and read the contract.

Councilman Fazio wants to hold off on signing this contract until he looks into the price.

Councilman Hoppenstedt- I think $55.00 an hour is on the low end. I think we should look into what other towns within the district are getting. Wallkill district has 5 schools within the district. Several different agencies within the Town.

Councilman Castillo- I agree it is worth looking into. Table this until next meeting.

Supervisor DePew withdraws his original motion.

Councilman Hoppenstedt makes a motion to hold off on original contract until the Town Board does research on other districts/towns and speak to the Police Chief until the April 2ns Town Board meeting.

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the Vote: All Ayes

Kathy Beinkafner- How many hours a day do the officers have to be at the school and are we providing a car for them to get back and forth?

Supervisor Depew- They are there the entire school day. We want the contract to cover the cost.

Councilman Castillo- Most of the time the officers do not shut the cars off since they have to be ready at moment’s notice but I am sure they do not leave the cars on all day long.

SGT. Vasta- No, our policy is 15 minutes idle time. They are shut down at the schools. When the car is off, there is a charge guard set at 30 minutes.

* Pentecostal Holy Joy Request

Park Rental Fee Waiver to Celebrate their 65th anniversary- June 7, 2025

Councilman Castillo- The way this letter is worded, normally it is just the pavilion that is being rented, the letter says park. We have baseball and other people using the playground. We don’t rent out the entire park.

Supervisor DePew- I think we need more information regarding this including how many people they are hosting. There is a cost for toilet paper, soaps, electric, etc. We do not rent out the grounds outside the pavilion and kitchen area.

Councilman Castillo- I have been neighbors with them for a long time. There events can cause chaos with parked cars and the roadway being congested. Many churches come to support big events like this. Garbage, bathroom supplies, I feel that there needs to be a price associated with this. It should not be waived. We only have 2 bathrooms up there and one porta-potty. We don’t want the system to fail up there

Supervisor DePew- There is value in asking more questions about this. How many people, are they bringing food in to serve?

Councilman Hoppenstedt made a motion to table this until next meeting and allow us to get more information regarding the event.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the Vote: All Ayes

Supervisor DePew stated that he will reach out to Monique tomorrow and get more information.

Councilman Fazio- I was going through stuff today with Sarah regarding waving deposits. We do waive deposits but we should charge deposits just in case. We should come up with a policy.

* **RESOLUTION #35 of 2025. Retention & Disposition Schedule for LGS-1**

Town Board of the Town of Plattekill and NY Local Government Records; legal minimum retention periods for local government records. Records will e disposed of after they have met the minimum retention periods described.

This should be adopted to be able to dispose of documents, etc. that is no longer needed.

Councilman Hoppenstedt made a motion to accept Resolution #35

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the Vote: All Ayes

* **RESOLUTION #36 of 2025- To Support Ulster County Resolution #102**

Resolution #102 from Ulster County establishes a policy to fund and facilitate support of Local EMS, thereby providing much needed financial relief and stability to municipal EMS Services. The funds are to be solely used for EMS related expenses, including stagging, training, equipment, etc.

Supervisor DePew made a motion that The Town Board of the Town of Plattekill hereby expresses its strong support for the Ulster County Legislatures adoption of Resolution #102 and urges its full implementation to ensure the continued availability of high-quality EMS services for all residents of Ulster County.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the Vote: All Ayes

* Dare Graduation

Leptondale Elementary, March 26, 2025 7:00PM

Town Board is invited

* Town Driver Acknowledgment Form

This will cover the employees that will be driving our Town Pool Car.

Councilman Hoppenstedt makes a motion to move forward with this form and have our employees sign it to drive the Pool Car.

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the Vote: All Ayes

* Councilman Fazio mentioned that the Town of Lloyd gets together and does a Tri-Board meeting. I think we should get our boards together and do the same thing.

Councilman Castillo said it was a great idea and some towns do it 4 times a year.

* Councilman Castillo- Mr. Covino had left and wants to clarify something. The employees that work here do not speak Spanish so when I was approached, it wasn’t a violation. I was asked to translate regarding an issue.

TRANSFERS: NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

VOUCHERS:

* Supervisor Depew reviewed the Voucher Detail report Dated March 19, 2025 which includes:

The A-General Fund amount of 42,678.75

The DA-Highway Fund amount of $31,085.75

The H4- Misc. Supplies & items in the amount of …………………………….$45,211.88

The SA- Clintondale Lighting in the amount of………………………………. $959.36

The SB- Modena Lighting in the amount of ……………………………………. $1,742.98

For a grand total in the amount of **$121,678.72**

Supervisor Depew made a motion to accept the vouchers, recognizing that the Audit Committee has reviewed the claims and found them acceptable for payment.

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the vote: All Ayes

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Hoppenstedt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57PM

Seconded by Councilman Castillo On the Vote: All Ayes















