TOWN OF PLATTEKILL

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

May 21, 2025

Time – 7:00pm

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

ROLL CALL:

The following Town Board Members were present:

 Supervisor Depew

#### Councilman Fazio

Councilman Castillo

Councilman O’Flaherty

ABSENT- Councilman Hoppenstedt

PUBLIC HEARING: NONE

MINUTES:

Supervisor DePew made a motion to NOT accept the minutes from the May 7, 2025 Town Board Meeting. They are still in “draft” form.

Seconded by Councilman O’Flaherty

On the Vote: All Ayes

ADDITIONS:

* Police New Hires:

William Badner

Jerome Lomangino

Town Clerk, Sarah Nelson swore them in at tonight’s meeting.

* B.E.S.S Meeting- Meeting with the volunteer fire departments, round table discussion. This was rescheduled to June 4th.

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 April were available.

Plattekill Police Monthly Report

Dog Control Monthly Report- Not Given

Buildings & Grounds Monthly Report

Building Department Monthly Report

Assessor Report Monthly Report

Recreation Report- Not Given

PUBLIC INPUT:

* Supervisor Depew made a motion to open Public Input at 7:10PM.

Seconded by Councilman O’Flaherty

On the vote: All Ayes

1. Annette Laskowsky- We haven’t heard anything lately about the Highway Department negotiations, what is the status?

Supervisor DePew- We are still in negotiations.

Annette- Police, who is the liaison to the police? When an officer is hired, do they have a certain amount of time they have to be here before they can leave? If they leave in 6 months, they have to be fitted for vests, etc. Is there a minimum time they have to be here in the department? There is so much turn over here.

Supervisor DePew- Me. In the contract, what ends up happening, after they work a certain amount of time, they get reimbursed for their uniforms. We have had officers that we hire, the vests have 4 years left of life left, other departments will pro rate the vests and pay us whatever that fee is.

1. Mike Lembo- I think what Annette is saying, is that when you have officers that we put through training, is there any time period that they have to put into the town to get the money back. It is a substantial amount of money. If they decide to leave after 6 months, there is nothing binding them?

Supervisor DePew- We pay at Phase 2. We train them here. There is nothing making them stay here. The only time we can do that, is when we change the contract.

1. Anthony Covino- I am here again tonight with concerns, not questions. My property is being flooded every time is rains because of the illegal project behind my home. They raised the access road; I have had 3-4 inches of rainwater. A week and a half ago, I called the town, code enforcement. I let them know what is going on. On Monday, Bill came out to the property. I was hoping the inspector would have done his job, certain people will just not step up. He didn’t walk the property, just took a picture, took a complaint and left. I called my friend up in Albany, told him the issue and asked what the protocol was? The correct protocol would have been for the building inspector to look at both properties. Code enforcement should have reported it to the town engineer. I brought pictures here that he refused to look at and gave them to the planning board clerk. The planning board had a meeting this week with the engineer. As of today, the town engineer has never been out to look. My property has been destroyed and so has my property value.

This has been going on since 2020, I have been given excuses, snow balled. This concerns me that I have lived here mostly all my life. This property has been in my family since 1920. Certain people are allowed to do whatever they want. In this building, made a statement that we should go back to the Zoning laws and change them so we can grandfather this project in and problems go away. Someone in this building walked up to someone and said what can we do to get rid of him? (meaning me)

If everything was done correctly and the right way, I would not be standing here. When people don’t care, they don’t care. My attitude is how you treat me. I know nothing will change until I do this legally.

The illegal project behind my house is listed as an empty lot and he is paying less for 5 acres than I am paying for my 1 sub divided acre. A former supervisor, has a business that is adjacent to his house, not listed as business, it’s listed as a storage building. He is paying almost the same for an acre that is empty but he has a 2-car garage bay there. Someone owns a 15-acre business that has been there since 1990, listed as a storage building. The town should know about this. Certain people are not listing their businesses.

I hope more people start coming around and realize the wrong in this town. Water is going to go to the lowest point and now that the road is raised up, its going down to my property. Even if it is dry for 5 days, there is water laying there. It stays wet there all the time. The building inspector didn’t do his job. The town engineer hasn’t even come out yet. They didn’t do their job.

This is on record, my property is being destroyed because of this project. I am sad about what is going on. When is enough is enough? I am one person. If you all cared, I wouldn’t be here. Ed Diller is the only one that did his job.

1. Mark Reynolds- What is the status regarding the benches in the park? The donation bench?

Supervisor DePew- The pads are placed; we are hoping to have the benches shipped to us in a week or two. We did meet with the lady that wanted the memorial bench. The bench committee is trying to come up with a few options to make it all uniform.

Councilman O’Flaherty- We have ideas that will hopefully work long term. We want to satisfy long term commitments.

Councilman Castillo- We did talk to the Highway Superintendent as well. We are also thinking something with plaques on a pillar. We did meet with Ms. Wilson and she was okay with us taking time to review options.

1. Annette Laskowsky- When is the Police contract up?

Supervisor DePew- It is in negotiations right now.

1. Mike Lembo- No one is going to be able to put a memorial bench in the park anymore?

Supervisor DePew- We aren’t determining anything right now. We are looking at a few options. We want uniformity. Nothing lasts forever. Different benches have different longevity. Who is responsible for the up keep of it? There are 3 benches in the back and all 3 are different product.

Councilman O’Flaherty- We need to have something in place to govern the memorial benches. Highway maintains them, budgets, long term. How liable are we for maintaining them. Different benches have different life spans.

Mike Lembo- You could do something like a wall; people can pay to have their family member etched in the wall.

1. Bob Newkirk- My parents moved here in 1958; Freetown Highway looks the same now as it did then. It is not what a highway looks like. There is a lot of people that walk on that road. Why has that road not improved? It doesn’t have white lines on the road, no middle lines. This is a small town, why is he gas at Stewarts 25 cents higher. I go to Highland.

Supervisor DePew- I know the Highway Superintendent has talked about repaving that road but I will mention that suggestion to him.

1. MaryAnn DePew- The Memorial Parade is Saturday 5/24. Step off is at 11:00 AM. Rain or Shine. Thank you to the Town Board, we are getting our Town of Plattekill banner program started. We are going to be releasing posters and flyers to let everyone know. This has been worked on for 3 years.
* Supervisor Depew made a motion close public input at 7:45PM.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the vote: All Ayes

OLD BUSINESS:

* Memorial Day Parade, This Saturday, May 24th.

NEW BUSINESS

* Peddler’s Permit- C & M Hot Diggity Dogs. (Mirium Peters)

Requests authorization to open at Modena Collision

Application complete, fees paid for peddler’s permit. Health Department information and insurance are in order.

Councilman Fazio said all of this looks good.

Supervisor DePew made a motion to approve pending final inspection by the Code enforcement.

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the Vote: All Ayes

* Police Station Phone System:

Existing system can no longer be serviced or updated to meet the needs of the Police Department.

Scope of the project was written based on conversation with the Police Chief and staff.

14 Vendors contacted, 4 visited the station for estimated. 2 provided pricing.

Sound Telephone $8,980.00

H&F Communications $7,552.32

Councilman Fazio said Sound Telephone said their reduced price now states labor rates of $140 per hour depending on cable runs.

Supervisor DePew- This $8,980.00 could potentially be more with the hourly rate. H & F did not have that.

Councilman Castillo- Sound Telephone currently services Town Hall.

Councilman O’Flaherty- It sounds like we need to do an RFP. They are clearly less expensive. There is a big disparity here.

Supervisor DePew- I don’t see how we can justify spending this just because they already service the Town Hall.

Councilman O’Flaherty makes a motion to go with H & F Communication for $7552.32.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the Vote: All Ayes

* Chipper Auction- 2003 Chipper

2,589 Hours

Letter from Highway Superintendent. We have received our new chipper and am recommending auctioning off our old Chipper using AAR.

Councilman Castillo made a motion to approve the recommendation to auction the chipper.

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the Vote: All Ayes

* Police Car Auction- 2017 Ford Intercepter

#144,287 miles

Dare Car

Letter from Highway Superintendent recommending Auction using AAR or transferred to another agency.

This car we replaced and took out of service.

We will remove any lettering on the car.

Councilman Castillo asked if the Building Department can find these cars useful?

Supervisor DePew- the trucks are in good shape and that we should use the trucks we have and move on with the car.

Supervisor DePew made a motion to approve the vehicle being auctioned on the AAR Site.

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the Vote: All Ayes

* BESS **Resolution #42**

Extend Moratorium on Battery Storage.

Supervisor Depew stated that we wanted to have the roundtable discussion tonight but it was postponed t June 4th. Another opportunity to get more information.

Councilman Fazio stated that we sent the town attorney a few laws to look over. Did he even look at them? We did so much work on this. These laws are already on the books written by attorneys.

Supervisor DePew- We are using those laws as a template. We have to get this right. In October, new rules and regulations are coming out by NYS. They are pushing hard for green energy and the best storage. In order to do a regulation, we have to do our homework and gather as much information as we can.

Councilman Fazio- You say take time; we have been working on this for 8-10 months. This keep gets pushed out. If this goes now until December, it will take that much longer to pass a law.

Supervisor DePew- My hopes were tonight to have the 3 fire departments here tonight. Gather information from them and make an informed decision. Have a public hearing and move forward with some sort of regulation. We don’t want to tell residential users that they cannot have a battery storage.

Councilman Fazio- Our law was written up to not affect residential. Firehouses have known about this, it shouldn’t have taken this long for everyone to get together.

Councilman O’Flaherty- I can’t disagree with James. What if we were to have a law on the books and we need to amend it versus something where we run out of moratorium time. The committee has done a lot of work on this. We have had meetings; people are upset in the town. Other towns have these laws on the books; I wouldn’t put it past them to do their own diligence which gives us cliff notes on this. I would rather get so far out in front of them than keep kicking it down the road.

Councilman Castillo- I would like the lawyer to give us a draft by the next meeting; he has had this in front of him.

Supervisor DePew made a motion to extend the BESS Moratorium for an additional 6 months, December 30, 2025.

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the Vote: All ayes

* DARE Graduation- Plattekill Elementary

Monday, June 2, 2025. 7:00PM.

The Town Board is invited to attend.

**TRANSFERS: RESOLUTION #43**

The Highway Superintendent requested a transfer in the amount of $85,000.00 from SD.8540.001, $5,000 from SD.8540.002, $35,000 from SD.5840.003, $10,000 from SD.8540.004, $10,000 from SD.8540.005, $10,000 from SD.8540.006, $5,000 from SD.8540.007, and $10,000 from DA.5130.200

This transfer is to fund monies for the skid steer & stump grinder approved at the Town Board meeting on May 7, 2025.

Supervisor DePew made a motion to adopt Resolution #43,

Seconded by Councilman O’Flaherty

On the Vote: All Ayes

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Supervisor DePew made a motion that the Town Board will enter into Executive Session at 8:20 PM to discuss Personnel matters

Seconded by Councilman Castillo

On the Vote: All Ayes

Supervisor DePew made a motion to exit Executive Session at 9:26 PM.

No decisions were made.

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the Vote: All Ayes

Councilman Castillo made mention that he put in a work order with the Highway for the pavilion since the summer camp is coming soon. The work order was to have the pavilion power washed, floor and stain and seal the picnic tables/benches. We have music in the park, summer camp and he wants it freshened up.

VOUCHERS:

* Supervisor Depew reviewed the Voucher Detail report Dated May 21, 2025 which includes:

The A-General Fund amount of …….$79,937.16

The DA-Highway Fund amount of $1,435.72

The H1 Ban Bridge NY in the amount of………………………………. $15,622.22

The H4 Misc. Supplies & Items in the amount of ……………………………. $22,037.50

For a grand total in the amount of **$119,032.60**

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 Hoppenstedt

On the vote: All Ayes

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Castillo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30PM

Seconded by Councilman Fazio

On the Vote: All Ayes

**TOWN OF PLATTEKILL TOWN BOARD**

**RESOLUTION #42 OF 2025**

**EXTENDING BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS MORATORIUM**

 WHEREAS: On December 18, 2024, the Town Board adopted a local law that prohibits any Town board, officer or employee from processing or reviewing any application involving a battery energy storage system (BESS) or which includes a BESS. The local law states that the moratorium shall continue for six (6) months from its effective date, which was December 30, 2024, and that the moratorium may be extended for one (1) additional period of up to six (6) months by resolution of the Town Board upon a finding of need for such extension. The Town Board has been collecting information and actively considering the regulation or prohibition of BESSs in the Town, but needs additional time to complete that review and consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the BESS moratorium is hereby extended for an additional period of six (6) months to, and including, December 30, 2025.

On the motion of Supervisor DePew, seconded by Councilman Castillo, the foregoing Resolution was adopted on a vote of \_4\_\_ Ayes, \_0\_ Nays.

Dated: May 21, 2025

On The Vote: YES NO Abstained Absent

Supervisor Depew X

Councilman Castillo Jr X

Councilman Fazio X

Councilman Hoppenstedt X

Councilman O’Flaherty X

#  RESOLUTION 2025 #43

 **Highway Fund Budget Amendment**

The following resolution was introduced on a motion made by Supervisor DePew and seconded by O’Flaherty**.**

WHEREAS, the Town Supervisor has requested a transfer in the amount of $85,000.00 from SD.8540.001 $5,000.00, SD.8540.002 $35,000.00, SD.5840.003 $10,000.00, SD.8540.004 $10,000.00, SD.8540.005 $10,000.00, SD.8540.006 $5,000.00 & SD.8540.007 $10,000.00 to DA.5130.200

WHEREAS, this transfer is to fund the monies for the Skid Steer & Stump Grinder approved at the Town Board meeting on 5/07/2025

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Plattekill, Ulster County, to amend the 2025 Drainage Fund Budget with a decrease of expense line SD.8540.001 Hunt Road Drainage in the amount of $5,000.00, SD.8540.002 Glen Rock Drainage in the amount of $35,000.00, SD.8540.003 Patura Gardens Drainage in the amount of $10,000.00, SD.8540.004 Spring Meadows Drainage in the amount of $10,000.00, SD.8540.005 Peters Place Drainage in the amount of $10,000.00, SD.8540.006 Finn Estates Drainage in the amount of $5,000.00 and SD.8540.007 Huckleberry Estates Drainage in the amount of $10,000.00 and an increase to the Highway Fund in expense line DA.5130.200 Machinery in the amount of $85,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding shall be supported by a transfer of SD.8540.001 Hunt Road Drainage in the amount of $5,000.00, SD.8540.002 Glen Rock Drainage in the amount of $35,000.00, SD.8540.003 Patura Gardens Drainage in the amount of $10,000.00, SD.8540.004 Spring Meadows Drainage in the amount of $10,000.00, SD.8540.005 Peters Place Drainage in the amount of $10,000.00, SD.8540.006 Finn Estates Drainage in the amount of $5,000.00 and SD.8540.007 Huckleberry Estates Drainage in the amount of $10,000.00 to DA.5130.200 Machinery in the amount of $85,000.00

On The Vote: YES NO Abstained Absent

Supervisor Depew X

Councilman Castillo Jr X

Councilman Fazio X

Councilman Hoppenstedt X

Councilman O’Flaherty X

Date: May 21, 2025