



**Town Board
Town of North Greenbush
MINUTES
May 8, 2025
7:00 p.m.**

Deputy Supervisor called the meeting to order @7:02 P.M. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Deputy Supervisor Hoffman asked the Town Clerk, Janice Hannigan Kerwin, to do a roll call. The following Board Members were present.

Supervisor Bott	<u>Absent</u>
Councilwoman Hoffman	<u>Present</u>
Councilman Sabo	<u>Present</u>
Councilwoman Merola	<u>Present</u>
Councilman Gordon	<u>Present</u>

Also present at meeting:

Town Clerk, Janice Hannigan Kerwin
Deputy Clerk, Janet Dickinson
Town Attorney, Nia Cholakis

Public comments on Agenda Items:

No comments from the public

Announcements from Deputy Supervisor:

Deputy Supervisor Hoffman announced that Supervisor Bott would not be at the meeting, as his son was graduating out of state. She continued with the announcement of the Easter Egg Hunt we had on our rain date of April 19, 2025. She thanked all who helped with the event, along with the Youth Committee. The event was held outside on the town's lawn and after the Easter Egg Hunt there were activities in the Annex with the Easter Bunny attending for pictures. On Saturday, May 10, 2025, there will be a Recycling Event at the town hall for all residents to drop off their electronic they need to get rid of. Deputy Supervisor asked the Town Clerk, Janice Hannigan Kerwin, to tell everyone a bit about the event. It will start next Wednesday she stated. We have 25 vendors signed up to come every Wednesday Night between 4:00 pm. and 7:00 pm, except for July 3rd, as we will not have it due to The 4th of July. We have had some playground damage due to vandalism and will need to



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lock the gate to the playground every night at dusk until we get our new updated security cameras installed.

Monday, May 26th will be the Annual Memorial Day Parade. It will kick off from town hall promptly at 1:00pm. Before our day begins on Monday we will be visiting our monuments for our Wreath Ceremonies. The Town Clerk, Janice Kerwin has a schedule of events online for each location.

Deputy Supervisor Hoffman continued to announce her appreciation for the Fire Departments in Town for all their help with the flooding we have had due to the amount of rain that has been coming down. They did a number of pump outs for our town residents. She added the Highway Department also have been working hard on the storm water drains and cleanouts around town because of the flow of rainwater from the flooding.

Jim, Joe, and Mike have been working on the application from DEC for Wynantskill Creek, they feel it's been too long of a wait for a permit to dredge parts of the creek.

Councilperson Sabo asked how the building at the lake was being heated. Bill Miller told her it has 3 separate furnaces w/ gas. Councilperson Sabo added an additional question about Snyders Lake Beach. She felt with having a new building to rent, could we consider letting Non-Rensselaer County residents rent it. She also asked the board to consider a season pass for County Residents and Seniors, at a higher rate of course she said, as right now we only allow seasonal passes to town residents only.

Councilperson Gordon spoke briefly on current issues with the flooding in town and should not be used for political gain in a time of loss and inconvenience. This is not a 1st time issue, employees are working hard and attacking the issue of flooding for many years. Supervisor Bott is working and trying to get the DEC Permit which had been denied in the pass. Senator Jake Ashby got DEC to reply about the application that has been sitting on the desk for a year. Councilman Gordon feels that it was held for political reasons, but they weren't there on Elm Court and Main Avenue and the surrounding areas when it was flooded in the years pass. People are getting fed up with politics and want to focus on solving the issues, as we need help with the flooding waters. Councilman Gordon said you can't jump on social media and post for your political gain.

Councilwoman Sabo responded to Councilman Gordon's comments. She stated that climate change is way more severe than in the past. She simple mentioned this, as our Town Engineer asked for help with the changing of the Flood Zones maps and would need help and asked to form a committee just



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2 months ago. Nothing was said so she presented the board with a committee full of qualified people who were volunteering to be on the committee to help with the management of the Flood Zone changes coming up at our last meeting and the board turned down the committee even though they were overqualified people and of course free help. Councilwoman Sabo said that the committees here are hand selected, and no resume is circulated, so she went ahead and did as the board has done in the pass.

For additional comments on the discussion please see the town's streaming.

Mike Martinez spoke up and said the permit was mailed out 1 year ago and after Ashby called Patrick O'Connell in DEC he received a call about the town's application. Councilman Gordon mentioned, we don't want to point fingers, we just want it done. For example, the construction of the Training Tower on Mazaway took too many years because of politics, and it needs to stop now and work together with both parties.

Mike Martinez, Highway Superintendent, also stated we don't even get the fish stocking we used to for the lake and what we do get isn't sufficient. He feels this is who you know in politics.

Councilwoman Sabo said not one person contacted Katie Corneck with DEC. Mike Martinez said 80% of the fish goes else where and the fish we get are only about 3" long compared to 6-8" that we used to get.

Deputy Supervisor Hoffman stated that we dredged what was permitted when we were all out behind Hannaford's the last severe flood. The town took out 22 dump truck loads of debris and tree limbs with our town trucks and men working together to fix the problems. We were flooded with 2 feet of water behind Hannaford that year. We were only allowed to go behind in that area instead of all the way up past the bridge on Brookside Avenue where it needs to be cleaned out from fallen trees and buildup.

Councilman Gordon added that the locals are working together. Deputy Supervisor Hoffman stated that our Fire Departments and Police, along with the Building Department, have been outstanding and have gone beyond with the flooding recently.



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New Business:

Resolution 2025-05-44: Councilwoman Sabo made a motion in the matter of engaging an appraisal in connection with Tax Certiorari proceeding involving Van Rensselaer Square, seconded by **Councilman Gordon**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried. Deputy Supervisor explained that this resolution is for the town to be trial ready with support and data.

***Deputy Supervisor Hoffman** made a motion in the matter of **tabling** 2 Resolutions 2025-05-51 and 2025-05-54, seconded by **Councilman Gordon**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried.

Resolution 2025-05-45: Councilman Gordon made a motion in the matter of establishing new 2025 minimum wage for summer camp workers and lifeguards, seconded by **Councilwoman Merola**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried.

Resolution 2025-05-46: Deputy Supervisor Hoffman made a motion in the matter of authoring consulting agreement for Utility and Telecommunication Audit, seconded by **Councilwoman Merola**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried.

Michael Chaires, Town Comptroller, stated that there has been an increase yearly since the original contract signed by Lou Desso back in 2017. We were looking for fees to be waved, as these telephone lines are for our alert calls for our Pump Stations and are needed. The resolution is for the company to start an audit.

Resolution 2025-05-47: Councilwoman Merola made a motion in the matter of approving the purchase of a Sewer Cleaner/Sewer Jet and related equipment, seconded **Deputy Supervisor Hoffman**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried.

Deputy Supervisor Hoffman stated that our Jetter is very old and is not keeping up with the need. Keith Hankle, Water Supervisor for the town, stated that we spent over \$40,000.00 on jetting pws. He added that we already spent \$3,000.00 plus just last week. Our machine was purchased over 40 years ago and we definitely got our money's worth out of it and it is just time for a new one.



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Resolution 2025-05-48: Councilwoman Sabo made a motion in the matter of approving and authoring the execution of an amendment to the Decommissioning agreement and approval of the Surety Bond for the Wynantskill Solar LLC project at 163 West Sand Lake Road, seconded **Councilwoman Merola**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried.

Deputy Supervisor Hoffman stated Nia Cholakakis, Town Attorney, reviewed the item and Surety Bond

Resolution 2025-05-49: Councilman Gordon made a motion in the matter of establishing cancellation fees for rental of town facilities, seconded by **Deputy Supervisor Hoffman**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried. Deputy Supervisor Hoffman stated that when we did the new pricing, they forgot to include the cancelation policy and fees.

Resolution 2025-05-50: Deputy Supervisor Hoffman made a motion in the matter of an agreement with the Tri City ValleyCats and North Greenbush Police, seconded by **Councilwoman Merola**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried. Chief Kevern explained the agreement and mentioned how they have been doing this for over 20 years now.

TABLED Resolution 2025-05-51: In the matter of approving the purchase of town hall surveillance cameras

Resolution 2025-05-52: Councilwoman Merola made a motion in the matter of authorizing the hiring of Summer Staff, seconded by **Councilman Gordon**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried.

Resolution 2025-05-53: Councilwoman Sabo in the matter of authoring the purchase of a dump truck for the Utilities Department, seconded by **Deputy Supervisor Hoffman**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried. Keith Hankle, Utilities Supervisor, explained the need for this resolution and the reasons it is needed. He added as the town keeps getting bigger, so do the jobs.

TABLED Resolution 2025-05-54: In the matter of approving the expansion of the parking lot at town hall



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Resolution 2025-05-55: Councilman Gordon made a motion in the matter of approving sealing the basketball and pickleball courts, seconded by **Councilwoman Merola**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried.

Bill Miller stated that we will get more life out of the courts by sealing them right away.

Resolution 2025-05-56: Deputy Supervisor Hoffman made a motion in the matter of approving the purchase of police vehicles, **Councilman Gordon**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried.

Councilwoman Sabo asked why we are getting a fairly new vehicle and getting a new one. Chief Keevern said he negotiated the RFP quotes, and this is lower than what it cost. The vehicle just is too small and hard to work with all the equipment loaded into the vehicles. We are making \$3,000.00.

Resolution 2025-05-57: Councilwoman Merola made a motion in the matter of expending Highway Monies Pursuant to Section 284 of Highway Law, seconded by **Councilman Gordon**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried.

The Highway Superintendent stated that he paved 4 roads and went by the State bids for material and was able to repair other roads at no extra cost from the materials. Councilman Gordon asked what the cost was, Mike stated \$214,415 for paving and \$84,816 for milling.

Resolution 2025-05-58: Councilwoman Sabo made a motion in the matter of the adoption of Travel and Sexual Harassment Prevention Policies, seconded by **Councilwoman Merola**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried.

Michael Chaire stated this was needed for updating and the rates are from the IRS mileage rate to make it consistent with every other town, The Sexual Harassment Policy too, as he has been working with Elaine Gold with no extra charge, as it is within the retainer amount.

Resolution 2025-05-59: Councilman Gordon made a motion in the matter of scheduling a Public Hearing for the proposed Pheasant Lane & Meadowlark Lane Sewer Extension of the North Greenbush Consolidated Sewer District, seconded by **Deputy Supervisor Hoffman**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried. Councilwoman Sabo stated if they only had to pay if



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they hook up. Deputy Supervisor Hoffman stated the extension is being covered by the developer at no cost to the town and if they choose to hook up, then yes.

Resolution 2025-05-60: Deputy Supervisor Hoffman made a motion in the matter of approving Sealing & Striping of parking areas at 2 Douglas Street, Town Hall, seconded by **Councilwoman Merola**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried. Councilwoman Sabo stated this needs to be done. Was this part of the ARPA.

Michael Chaires states the 1 million for the playground was there as it only cost \$872,000. The playground has now been labeled as a Destination Playground, and it's designed handicap items, and we need 1 way in and 1 way out for drivers. It will make it more orderly and be safer for children and drivers.

Discussion on town business:

Francis McGivern Hidley, Road Ext. said he wanted to ask about the resolution, but it has already been approved. He stated what was the warranty on a used truck, Keith Hankle stated it was a new truck but was not a 2025. He then got into the problems he had with the overflowing of the culvert pipe, and it needed repair. He then points at Councilwoman Sabo saying you said it would get fixed when you were at my door campaigning. She asked how long he had been in town and asked if he felt the weather was worse. He stated that he has been here since 1999 and it's about the same and don't try to blame it on global warming. Councilwoman Sabo stated things have gotten worse with the weather and environment. The Highway Superintendent spoke up and said he would meet Mr. McGivern on Friday at 9:00 am to look the culvert over with him and see what needs to be repaired. Mr. McGivern started on all the red lights that are on Main Avenue, he stated they are not needed at all. Councilwoman Hoffman said they are there for safety reasons and traffic control. He stated all they do is back up traffic on Main Avenue all day. Councilwoman Sabo stated with all the pedestrians and bicyclers and walkers these are needed.



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Michael Myers, Evergreen Lane stated he would like to acknowledge the town's truck drivers, as they have been working hard on picking up brush and they are nice and doing a great job. He appreciates the staff, and they are efficient fast and helpful. Councilwoman Hoffman thanked him and added she loves to hear great comments about the town's workers.

Mr. McGivern said, "why don't they pick up my debris". He was told if he puts it out by the road the town would gladly take it away.

Matt Brodbank stood up to let the board be aware that there was an ant problem by the wall in front of the windows in the new meeting room.

Department Reports:

Deputy Supervisor Hoffman asked the board to look over the Department reports.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilman Gordon made a motion to accept the minutes from April 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by **Councilwoman Merola**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried.

Adjournment:

Councilman Gordon made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by **Councilwoman Merola**. All board members present voted Aye; motion carried. The meeting was closed at 8:25 p.m.



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- **A COMPLETE ACCOUNTING OF ALL DISCUSSIONS ON THE AGENDA IS AVAILABLE TO REVIEW VIA STREAMING ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE.**
www.townofng.com

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Hannigan Kerwin
Town Clerk, Town of North Greenbush