

Village Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 6, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Village Hall

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Martin.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Opening Remarks

Mayor Martin welcomed attendees and extended well wishes for a happy Easter, Passover, and school vacation.

4. Roll Call

- Mayor Martin – Present
 - Trustee Ruggiero – Present
 - Trustee Forlano – Present
 - Trustee Machado – Present
 - Trustee Rice – Present
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5. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the March 23 meeting were reviewed. No corrections or additions were noted.

Mayor entertains motion to accept the minutes as read. So moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

6. Abstracts Approval

The following abstracts were presented:

- Water Fund: \$55,125.75
- Sewer Fund: \$36,034.80
- Trust & Agency: \$2,397.50
- General Fund: \$96,267.48

Mayor entertains motion to access the abstracts as read, so moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Morton reported on the following:

- Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation at ShopRite, including recognition of contributions to the End Hunger Together campaign and a \$2,500 donation to the Fishkill Food Pantry.
 - Attendance at Advocate Home Health Care Center's second anniversary and fundraiser.
 - Announcement of upcoming Women's Safety Training (6:00–7:00 PM).
 - Fishkill Historical Society Gala scheduled for April 18 at 5:00 PM.
 - Village Poetry Night scheduled for April 24 (6:00–8:00 PM).
 - Earth Day event on April 25 at Sarah Taylor Park (1:30 PM), including cleanup, crafts, and story time.
 - Appointment to the Dutchess County Mayors and Supervisors Association Executive Committee.
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8. Public Hearing – Tax Cap Local Law

Mayor entertains motion to open the public hearing on Tax Cap Local Law. So moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

No public comments were made.

Mayor entertains motion to close public hearing. So moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

Mayor entertains motion to adopt local law 2 exceed the tax cap for 2026. So moved Trust Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

9. Public Hearing – Tentative Budget

Mayor entertains motion to open public hearing on the tentative 2026/2027 Budget. So moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero,
Discussion included:

- Tax rate comparisons (under vs. over tax cap)
- Financial considerations including garbage, ambulance, and operating costs
- Rationale for exceeding tax cap to preserve fund balance

All in favor, aye, carried.

Public Comment:

- Inquiry regarding homestead tax increase (clarified as minimal, approx. less than 1%)

Mayor entertains motion to close the public hearing. So moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

Mayor entertains motion to adopt the tentative budget

Roll Call Vote:

- Mayor Martin – Yes
- Trustee Ruggiero – Yes
- Trustee Forlano – Yes
- Trustee Machado – Yes
- Trustee Rice – Yes

Result: Motion carried

Mayor Martin thanked former Treasurer Stephanie Pendleton for her work on the budget.

10. Appointment of Treasurer

Mayor entertains motion to appoint Jen Brown as Village Treasurer (effective immediately). So moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

11. Police Department Resignation

Mayor entertains motion to accept the resignation of Officer Greg Campus from the Village of Fishkill Police Department, so moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

12. Royal Carting Contract

Mayor entertains motion to approved the Royal Carting Contract, so moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, Discussion included:

- Renegotiated contract terms (3% annual increase over three years)
- Dumpster usage and potential misuse by non-residents
- Possibility of relocating dumpsters

All in favor, aye, carried.

13. Water Rate Discussion

Discussion included:

- Increased sludge hauling costs (from \$0.13 to \$0.23 per gallon)
 - Savings from reduced reliance on City of Beacon sewer services
 - Review of water contracts and rate structures
 - Need for detailed contract analysis and future presentation
- Prepare spreadsheet of all contracts, including terms, rates, and timelines for next meeting
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14. Building and Fire Inspection Fees

- The Board reviewed proposed updates to the building and fire inspection fee schedule.
- The revised schedule expands from 4 pages to 8 pages, providing more detailed categories and clearer breakdowns of permit uses.
- Fees were aligned, where appropriate, with the Town of Fishkill.
- Fire prevention fees were also updated to reflect a similar structure.
- The new format includes more flat-rate fees rather than square footage-based calculations.
- A retroactive permit fee was introduced for work completed without prior permits.

Action:

- Upon request for additional review time, the Board **tabled this item** to a future meeting.
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15. Water and Sewer Connection Application Fees

- A new application and fee structure for water and sewer connections was introduced.
- This represents a **new formal process**, as no prior application or fee existed for certain connections.
- Fees include:
 - Application fees
 - Meter costs based on size
 - Fixture-related costs
- The structure was developed using comparisons to other municipalities.
- Clarification was requested regarding “large residential” classification:
 - Agreed to revise language to clearly include commercial properties (e.g., “commercial, including residential with five or more units”).

Mayor entertains motion to approve the proposed application and fees with the agreed modification. So moved Trustee Machado, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

16. Road Opening Permit Updates

- Proposed updates to the existing road opening permit (last updated in 2003):
 - Fee increase from \$50 to \$250
 - Updated application form
 - Defined work hours (7:00 AM – 3:00 PM unless otherwise approved)
 - Added traffic control and safety requirements

- Mandatory review by the Village Engineer
- One-year maintenance and restoration responsibility for permit holders
- Bonding requirements:
 - \$10,000 bond or \$1,000 certified check option for residential projects

Mayor entertains motion to approve the updated road opening permit. So moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

17. Appointment of Village Attorney

- The Board interviewed **Ian McDonald Jr.** for the position of Village Attorney.
- Mr. McDonald has extensive municipal law experience and currently serves in various municipal roles.
- He also currently serves as Village Prosecutor.

Mayor entertains motion to appoint Ian McDonald Jr. as Village Attorney effective **June 1, 2026**. So moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

18. Executive Session

Mayor entertains motion to enter executive session for discussion of legal litigation matters. So moved Trustee Ruggiero, seconded Trustee Forlano, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

Mayor entertains motion to close executive session and return to regular meeting. So moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

19. Additional Discussion Items

Public Notice Board Improvements

- Suggestion to enhance the public notice board with seasonal decorations.
- Additional idea to install lighting (possibly solar-powered) to improve visibility.

Snow Ordinance Review

- Discussion regarding updating the snow ordinance to align with Town practices (triggered by weather events rather than constant enforcement).

Recreation Fees

- Consideration of implementing fees for use of Village recreational fields (e.g., soccer and rugby clubs).
- Staff to research comparable municipal fee structures.

Upcoming Recognition

- Plan to recognize a local volunteer firefighter for 60 years of service at a future meeting.

Upcoming Meeting

- Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday **April 21, 2026**.

20. Adjournment

Mayor entertains motion to adjourn the meeting. So moved Trustee Machado, seconded Trustee Rice, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried. 7:35 PM

Pam Ruyack

Village Clerk

