

Village Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 23, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Martin.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

- Mayor Martin: Present
 - Trustee Ruggiero: Present
 - Trustee Forlano: Present
 - Trustee Machado: Present
 - Trustee Rice: Present
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Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes from the March 2nd 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.
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Abstracts Approval:

- General Fund: \$57,447.68
- Trust and Agency: \$6,226.50
- Sewer Abstract: \$83,001.09
- Water Abstract: \$9,797.97

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

Mayor's Comments:

- Mayor Martin attended the St. Mary's Gala on March 14th and presented a proclamation to County Legislator Doug McHoul.
- Women's Safety Training scheduled for April 7th at 6:00 PM at Village Hall. No signups required.
- Mayor Martin and Trustee Machado will attend the Advocate Health Care Center's open house on March 28th.
- ShopRite event on March 26th to celebrate employees being featured on a cereal box and to award proclamations for the Fishkill Food Pantry.
- Mayor Martin attended an open house at the Children's Community Services building on March 17th and praised the students' historic village project.
- Announcement of "Art in the Village," a rotating exhibit series showcasing local artists and celebrating local history. The first exhibit will feature the CCS students' historic art project from April through May.
- April is National Poetry Month. The Village of Fishkill will host poetry nights every other month starting April 24th at Van Wyck Hall from 6 pm to 8 pm.
- Collaboration with Howland Chamber Music Circle to schedule three free pop-up concerts at Village Hall annually.
- Trustee Ruggiero will chair the VCBBD moratorium review committee. Members will be contacted via email.
- The GAP's inclusion and belonging team is planning a community event in the fall.

Department Reports:

- **Fire Department:**

February 2026: 17 alarms for the month, 243 for the fiscal year, and 38 for the calendar year. Equipment is in service. No new members this month.

- **Justice Report:**

Report submitted and on file

- **Police Department:**

February 2026: 0 arrests, 19 service calls, 61 complaints/incidents investigated, 31 traffic summons issued, 18 automobile accidents handled, and 10 foot patrols conducted.

- **Water and Sewer Department:**

Updates on equipment maintenance, water leaks, and firehouse repairs.

Working on replacing water valves and addressing potholes.

- **Planning and Zoning:**

Updates on projects at 18 Church Street, 42 Jackson Street, 1183 Main Street, and 1010 Main Street.

- **Treasurer** – Report Submitted and on File
 - **Building** – No Report Submitted
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Agenda Items

- Mayor Martin read a proclamation declaring March 2026 as Brain Injury Awareness Month in the Village of Fishkill.
- **Eagle Scout Project** - Owen Brown presented updates on his Eagle Scout project, which involves installing plaques at 15 sites in the village. Approval granted for project dates (May 17, June 6, June 14), use of the village logo, and assistance from the police department for parking spot marking. Mayor entertains motion to waive permit fees for the project, so moved, Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.
- **Retirement – Attorney Greg Supple**

Greg's last day of service is May 31, 2026. Mayor entertains motion to accept Greg Supple letter of retirement, so moved Trustee Machado, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.
- **Resignation - Treasurer Stephanie Pendleton**

Mayor entertain motion to accept the resignation of Treasurer Stephanie Pendleton, so moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

Tentative Budget:

- Mayor entertains motion to set a public hearing on April 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM to discuss exceeding the NYS Tax Cap, so moved Trustee Machado, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.
- Mayor entertains motion to set a public hearing on April 6, 2026 at 6:00 PM on the 2026/2027 Budget, so moved Trustee Machado, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

Royal Carding Contract:

- Discussion on the proposed contract for garbage collection.
- Proposal includes a one-year contract with renewal options for three years.
- Board suggested negotiating for a more balanced rate increase (e.g., 3% annually instead of 6% in the first year).
- Decision tabled for the next meeting.

Water Rates:

- Discussion on implementing a 5% increase in water rates.
- Board requested additional data on the impact of previous rate increases and water usage in and out of the village.
- Decision tabled for the next meeting.

Base Proportions Approval:

- Adjusted base proportions for the 2025 assessment roll

Homestead: 22.7720

Non-Homestead: 77.2280

Mayor entertains motion to adopt the adjusted base proportions, so moved Trustee Ruggiero, seconded Trustee Forlano, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

Rail Trail Letter of Intent:

Approval for Mayor Martin to sign the letter of intent for the Beacon Hopewell Rail Line project. Mayor entertains motion to sign the letter of intent for the Beacon Hopewell Rail Line project, so moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

Memorial Day Parade Bands:

Approval of contracts for two bands for the Memorial Day parade. Mayor entertains motion to sign the contract for the Profession Musicians of the Hudson Valley and the Tarrytown Vets Band for the Memorial Day Parade, so moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

Executive Session

Mayor entertains motion to enter into executive session at 7:24 pm to discuss personnel issues. So moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Ruggiero, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

Mayor entertains motion to closed the executive session, so moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Rice, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

Trustee Ruggiero motions to reopen the regular meeting, so moved Trustee Forlano, seconded Trustee Machado, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried.

Mayor entertains motion to adjourn the meeting, so moved Trustee Machado, seconded Trustee Rice, discussion, none, all in favor, aye, carried. 8:05 pm

Pam Ruyack

Village Clerk

