

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2025 MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF POUND RIDGE HELD AT 179 WESTCHESTER AVENUE, POUND RIDGE, NEW YORK, AND VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE, COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM**

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR KEVIN HANSAN  
DEPUTY SUPERVISOR/COUNCILPERSON DIANE BRIGGS  
COUNCILPERSON ALISON BOAK  
COUNCILPERSON NAMASHA SCHELLING  
COUNCILPERSON DANIEL PASCHKES

ALSO

PRESENT: TOWN ATTORNEY WILLIAM HARRINGTON  
TOWN CLERK ERIN TROSTLE

**I. CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR MEETING**

Supervisor Hansan called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The town has secured grant funding for a new senior bus through the offices of State Senator Shelley Mayer and State Assembly Member Chris Burdick.
- The annual Memorial Day parade will start at Pound Ridge Elementary School at noon on Monday, May 26. After a ceremony at the cemetery, there will be a barbecue in the Town Park courtesy of the Market at Pound Ridge Square and the Pound Ridge Police Benevolent Association.
- Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 1, Cub Scout Pack 170, and Katonah American Legion Post 1575 for placing flags on veterans' graves in the Pound Ridge Cemetery.
- The annual St. Patrick's Carnival is scheduled for May 13 through 18 in Bedford. Volunteers and sponsors are still needed.
- The first Food Truck Friday of the 2025 season is scheduled for May 16 from 5:00 to 9:00 pm. More information is available at [poundridgepartnership.org](http://poundridgepartnership.org).
- Councilperson Paschkes reported that the PRBA's "Made in New York" outdoor market on April 27 was well organized and well attended.

**III. MINUTES**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Briggs, seconded by Councilperson Boak, all voting aye, to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2025 Town Board meeting.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT I**

Resident John Nathan, of 155 Upper Shad Road, asked that the 2021 calendar be restored to the website.

Resident John McCown said that the town should engage a different financial advisor and objected to the format of the 2023 audit report as well as the manner in which interest was allocated in that report.

**V. PUBLIC HEARING – Amendment to the real property tax exemption for volunteer fire and ambulance service members**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Briggs, seconded by Councilperson Boak, all voting aye, to open the public hearing.

There were no comments from the public.

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Briggs, seconded by Councilperson Schelling, all voting aye, to close the public hearing.

**RESOLUTION 118-25**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, the motion passing 4–0 with Councilperson Paschkes abstaining, on the following:

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Pound Ridge as follows:

**Section 1. Legislative Intent.**

This Local Law is intended to amend Chapter 110, Article VII, of the Pound Ridge Town Code to extend the partial real property tax exemption for "Volunteer Fire Fighters and Volunteer Ambulance Services Members" provided by the Town of Pound Ridge to volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers who provide such volunteer services to incorporated volunteer fire companies, fire departments or incorporated volunteer ambulance corps serving municipalities within the County of Westchester pursuant to New York State Real Property Tax Law §§ 466-a and 466-l.

**Section 2. Authority.**

This Local Law is adopted pursuant to the authority vested in the Town of Pound Ridge pursuant to the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law and New York State Real Property Tax Law §466-1.

**Section 3. Purpose**

The Town of Pound Ridge provides a partial real property tax exemption to volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers in accordance with § 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law ("RPTL"). In accordance with RPTL § 466-a, this partial exemption may only be obtained by enrolled members of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated volunteer ambulance corps serving the Town of Pound Ridge. The RPTL was recently amended to include RPTL § 466-1, which allows taxing jurisdictions to extend this partial exemption relief to a

"volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who provides such volunteer services to a neighboring city, village, town, county, or school district." The Town of Pound Ridge recognizes the critical services provided by these firefighters and ambulance workers to neighboring communities, and the benefit of providing partial real property tax relief to these volunteers for purposes of recruiting and maintaining membership in incorporated volunteer fire companies, fire departments and incorporated volunteer ambulance corps. The Town of Pound Ridge further considers all taxing jurisdictions within the County of Westchester as neighboring municipalities. The purpose of this Local Law is to expand the eligibility for this partial exemption to volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance service members, who qualify for the exemption under § 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law and current Town Code provisions to persons who provide such services anywhere in Westchester County pursuant to § 466-1 of the Real Property Tax Law, and to provide this expanded exemption in the case of certain un-remarried spouses of deceased volunteers pursuant to that law. The County of Westchester has adopted an amendment to § 475.21 of the Laws of Westchester County to apply this exemption to any person who serves in a volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service located within the County of Westchester. Pursuant to § 466-l of the RPTL, the Town of Bedford intends to likewise expand eligibility for this exemption relief.

**Section 4. Amendment.**

Chapter 92, of the Town Code of the Town of Pound Ridge, Article VII, Section 92-1.3, is hereby amended as follows:

**§ 92-1.3**

- A. Volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers and, upon their deaths, their unremarried spouses, shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of 10% of the assessed value of such property for Town purposes with the following conditions and restrictions:
- (1) The volunteer, or his/her un-remarried spouse, resides in the Town;
  - (2) The property is the principal residence of the applicant;
  - (3) The volunteer serves in, or the deceased volunteer at the time of their deaths, served in an incorporated volunteer

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fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance corp. in the Town of Pound Ridge or any neighboring municipality located in Westchester County; and

- (4) The applicant has been certified as an enrolled member of the volunteer fire company or volunteer ambulance corp. service for at least two years, or, in the case of un-remarried spouses, the deceased spouse was certified as an enrolled member of the volunteer fire department or volunteer ambulance corp. for two years prior to his/her death.

B. Application for such exemption shall be filed annually with the Assessor on or before the taxable status date on a form as prescribed by the state board.

C. It is further provided that, for the purpose of this chapter, the benefits and rights provided to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers shall include those set forth under §§ 466 and 466a through j of the Real Property Tax Law.

**Section 5. State Environmental Quality Review Act.**

Pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5 (26) and (33) this Local Law is classified as a Type II action which requires no further review under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act.

**Section 6. Numbering for Codification.**

It is the intention of the Town of Pound Ridge and it is hereby enacted that the provisions of this Local Law shall be included in the Code of the Town of Pound Ridge; that the sections and subsections of this Local Law may be re-numbered or re-lettered by the Codifier to accomplish such intention; that the Codifier shall make no substantive changes to this Local Law; that the word "Local Law" shall be changed to "Chapter," "Section" or other appropriate word as required for codification; and that any such rearranging of the numbering and editing shall not affect the validity of this Local Law or the provisions of the Code affected thereby.

**Section 7. Severability.**

The provisions of this Local Law are separable and if any provision, clause, sentence, subsection, word or part thereof is held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional, or inapplicable to any person or circumstance, such illegality, invalidity or unconstitutionality, or inapplicability shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, clauses, sentences, subsections, words or parts of this Local Law or their petition to other persons or circumstances. It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that this Local law would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid or unconstitutional provision, clause, sentence, subsection, word or part had not been included therein, and if such person or circumstance to which the Local Law or part hereof is held inapplicable had been specifically exempt there from.

**Section 8. Effective Date.**

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Office of the Secretary of State but shall only apply to the Town of Pound Ridge Assessment Roll Year 2025 and subsequent Assessment Rolls.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Highway Department – Part-time summer flaggers**

**RESOLUTION 119-25**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Paschkes, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Highway Superintendent to advertise for and hire two part-time summer flaggers at a rate of \$16.50/hour.

**B. Information Technology – Website migration**

**RESOLUTION 119-25**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Paschkes, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the migration of current website content, which currently resides on a CivicPlus platform that will no longer be supported, to an updated CivicPlus platform.

**C. Town Clerk**

**1. Special event permit for Trivia Night**

**RESOLUTION 120-25**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Paschkes, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves a special event permit for Trivia Night, to be held at the Village Green on June 14, 2025.

**2. Cemetery plot sales**

**RESOLUTION 121-25**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Schelling, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the following cemetery plot sales:

<u>Plot(s)</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Purchasers</u>
Plot 439, Section 3 (two gravesites)	\$2,000	Jeffrey and Susan Fierson 104 Cross Pond Road Pound Ridge, NY 10576
Plots 441 and 442, Section 3 (four gravesites)	\$4,000	Jeffrey and Irene Weintraub 24 Cradle Rock Road Pound Ridge, NY 10576
Plots 445, 446, 447, 448, 460, 461, and 462, Section 3 (fourteen gravesites)	\$14,000	Robert T. and Neta B. Nichols Sacks 58 Kitchawan Road Pound Ridge, NY 10576

**3. Online dog licensing module**

**RESOLUTION 122-25**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the purchase of a BAS online dog licensing module at a cost of \$1,635 for the first year and \$425 each year thereafter, to be funded in 2025 by a budget transfer of \$1,700 from Contingency to budget line 1410.0418; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is authorized to sign agreements with Edmunds GovTech and CSG Forte to facilitate the aforementioned software purchase.

**D. Recreation**

**1. Teen Travel Camp bus trips**

**RESOLUTION 123-25**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Paschkes, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Recreation Superintendent to reserve and pay for bus transportation for the following trips as specified below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Cost</u>
July 1, 2025	Dave & Busters Pelham Manor, NY	\$700.00
July 3, 2025	RPM Raceway Stamford, CT	\$750.00
July 7, 2025	Bronx Zoo Bronx, NY	\$750.00
July 9, 2025	Bowlero White Plains, NY	\$700.00
July 14, 2025	Camp Getaway (drop off) Kent, CT	\$825.00
July 15, 2025	Camp Getaway (pick up) Kent, CT	\$825.00
July 18, 2025	Quassy Amusement park Middlebury, CT	\$900.00
July 21, 2025	Splash Down Fishkill, NY	\$900.00
July 25, 2025	Lake Compounce Bristol, CT	\$1,000.00
July 30, 2025	Medieval Times Lyndhurst, NJ	\$825.00

**2. Town Park concessionaire**

**RESOLUTION 124-25**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Paschkes, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to sign the concession agreement dated April 18, 2025 for Kings Baking Company to serve as the concession stand vendor at the Town Park.

**3. Hiring of Daniel Danisi**

**RESOLUTION 125-25**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Briggs, seconded by Councilperson Boak, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the hiring of Daniel Danisi as a part-time bus driver at a rate of \$25.00/hour effective immediately.

**E. Justice Court – Hiring of Nancy Artese**

**RESOLUTION 126-25**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Paschkes, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the hiring of Nancy Artese as a part-time assistant court clerk at a rate of \$32.00/hour effective immediately.

**F. Planning Board – Return of unused escrows**

**RESOLUTION 127-25**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the return of unused escrows as specified below:

<u>Parcel Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payee</u>
16 Colonel Sheldon Lane	\$3,100.00	Benjamin Rose Build & Design 98 Lake Street White Plains, NY 10604
14 Old Pound Road	\$1,575.00	Patrick Morrissey 14 Old Pound Road Pound Ridge, NY 10576

**G. Board of Assessment Review – Resignation of Robert Benjamin**

**RESOLUTION 128-25**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Paschkes, seconded by Councilperson Schelling, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby accepts the resignation of Robert Benjamin as Chair of the Board of Assessment Review.



## **H. Energy Action Committee**

### **1. Name change to Sustainability Committee**

#### **RESOLUTION 129-25**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Paschkes, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves a name change for the Energy Action Committee, which will henceforth be known as the Sustainability Committee.

### **2. Resignation of Derek McConnell**

#### **RESOLUTION 130-25**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Boak, seconded by Councilperson Schelling, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby accepts the resignation of Derek McConnell as a member of the Energy Action Committee (now known as the Sustainability Committee).

## **I. Pound Ridge Land Conservancy – Light post banners**

#### **RESOLUTION 131-25**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Paschkes, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, all voting aye on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves installation of banners on the light posts in the business district during the remainder of 2025 to celebrate the Pound Ridge Land Conservancy's fiftieth anniversary.

## **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT II**

Resident Norman Bernstein, of 2 Pheasant Road, asked several questions related to *Simons v. NYS EFC et al.*, the lawsuit seeking revocation of the \$7.6 million Water Infrastructure Improvement Act grant awarded to the town.

Resident John Nathan, of 155 Upper Shad Road, said that the town should advise residents about recent scheduling changes in the *Simons v. NYS EFC et al.* proceeding.

Town Attorney Harrington explained that any member of the public can access information regarding the lawsuit on the New York State Courts Electronic Filing (NYSCEF) website

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(<https://iapps.courts.state.ny.us/nyscef/HomePage>). He said that the town, which has ostensibly been added as a party though it has not been served, will move to dismiss. He also stated that new claims regarding alleged civil rights violations are even more defective than the claims in the initial petition.

Councilperson Boak, who has been co-chair of the Water Wastewater Task Force since its inception under former Supervisor Dick Lyman, expressed support for its efforts to protect the health and well-being of residents and dismay that anyone would seek to block grant funding that was secured in order to avoid burdening residents with infrastructure costs.

**V. FINANCIAL MATTERS – Payment of Town bills**

**RESOLUTION 132-25**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Paschkes, seconded by Councilperson Boak, the motion passing 4–0 with Councilperson Schelling abstaining, on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to pay the following claims as detailed in Abstract 09-2024:

Fund	Claim Numbers	Total Amount
General Fund	A00358–A00429	\$109,513.87
Highway Fund	D00085–D00104	\$27,307.60
Trust & Agency Fund	AT00030–AT00042	\$14,162.50

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following advance-of-audit payments listed in Abstract 09-2024 are hereby allowed:

Fund	Claim Numbers	Total Amount
General Fund	A00430–A00431	\$3,640.00

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Town Board, Supervisor Hansan adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

**VII. RECONVENE AS PARKING DISTRICT COMMISSION:** Supervisor Hansan called the meeting to order at 8:15 pm.

**A. Repaving of parking lots**

Mirash Vataj, who is the owner of several commercial properties in the business district, reported that deterioration of the parking lot behind businesses on the north side of Westchester Avenue is causing water to drain into his property and asked that the town repave the parking lot.

Highway Superintendent Vinnie Duffield has met with the Town Engineer, who will provide a cost estimate, which will enable the town to go to bid for the project. Supervisor Hansan asked whether bids would specify costs for north and south parking lots separately, and Highway Superintendent Duffield said they would.

**B. Payment of Parking District bills**

**RESOLUTION 133-24**

**Board Action:** Motion by Councilperson Paschkes, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, the motion passing 4-0 with Councilperson Schelling abstaining, on the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to pay the following claim as described in Abstract 09-2024:

Fund	Claim Number	Total Amount
Parking District	ST00011	\$1,210.43

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following advance-of-audit claim listed in Abstract 09-2024 is hereby allowed:

Fund	Claim Numbers	Total Amount
Parking District	ST00012	\$95.99

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Parking District Commission, Supervisor Hansan adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Erin Trostle, Town Clerk  
Dated at Pound Ridge, New York  
May 15, 2025