

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 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 (via Zoom)
TOWN CLERK ERIN TROSTLE

I. CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR MEETING

Supervisor Hansan called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There will be an executive session immediately following the Town Board meeting on March 18, 2025.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Pound Ridge Land Conservancy (PRLC) will hold a volunteer work session starting at 10:00 am on Saturday, March 8, in the Clark Preserve. Visit the PRLC website to register.
- Also on March 8, the Pound Ridge Historical Society will host a lecture by Dr. Maureen Costura titled “How Food has Shaped New York’s History” at the Pound Ridge Library. Registration is via the library website.
- Albano Appliance is offering a class led by Chef Jehan DeNoue on cooking gluten-free on Thursday, March 13. Call 914-764-4015 to register.
- The Repair Café returns to the Pound Ridge Elementary School on Saturday, March 15, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

IV. MINUTES

Board Action: Motion by Councilperson Briggs, seconded by Councilperson Schelling, all voting aye, to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2025 Town Board meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Pound Ridge Fire District Commission

Peter Gallagher, Chair of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Pound Ridge Fire District (PRFD), provided an update on the status of the firehouse expansion project.

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To comply with safety and emissions standards and to accommodate larger equipment, the firehouse needs to be expanded.

A \$6.5 million bond was approved by referendum in December 2022. The Planning Board approved a site plan in December 2023, and design work was completed in March 2024. PRFD obtained a cost estimate of \$9.87 million for site work and construction only, exclusive of soft costs. In an effort to mitigate expenses, PRFD modified various aspects of the plan and applied for a grant. Unfortunately, the grant application was not successful, and bids on the modified project (site work and construction only) came in at \$9.67 million. Total project cost is now estimated at \$11.2 million. This translates to an annual cost to the average household of \$273.

There will be a referendum on an additional \$3.5 million bond on April 8, 2025. To ensure that this amount will be sufficient to complete the project, the contingency amount has been increased from 12% to 25%.

The referendum needs to happen soon to avoid further cost increases. To increase public awareness, PRFD will do a town-wide mailing and will offer three public information sessions, on April 2, 4, and 6.

Councilperson Boak asked how many years the increased costs will impact taxes. Commissioner Gallagher said that the project will be funded by thirty-year bonds.

Councilperson Paschkes asked whether tariffs may increase project costs. Commissioner Gallagher responded that this would not be a problem provided that contracts can be signed in a timely manner. Any delay could mean increased materials costs, as well as prevailing wage increases.

Supervisor Hansan asked what would happen if the referendum fails. Commissioner Gallagher responded that this would be a serious problem. It would not be possible to move forward with only part of the project.

Councilperson Briggs asked whether the information sessions would include tours. Commissioner Gallagher said that they would. Councilperson Briggs encouraged residents to attend one of the information sessions and said she thinks it is imperative that the project move forward.

Councilperson Boak asked whether grant funding may be available in future years. Commissioner Gallagher said it would be unwise to count on future grant funding.

B. Town Board – Promotion of Andrea Russo

RESOLUTION 70-25

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby appoints Andrea Russo to the position of Recreation Superintendent effective immediately, with her salary to remain unchanged.

C. Town Clerk

1. Cemetery plot sales

RESOLUTION 71-25

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

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

<u>Plot(s)</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>
Plots 451 and 452, Section 3 (four gravesites)	\$4,000.00	Kelli Olsen Ford 6601 Turtle Creek Boulevard Dallas, TX 75205
Plots 449 and 450, Section 3 (four gravesites)	\$4,000.00	Kirsten Olsen Fitzgibbons 234 Taconic Road Greenwich, CT 06831
Plot 244, Section 3 (two gravesites)	\$2,000.00	Carol Vinci 9 Benger Road Pound Ridge, NY 10576

2. Special event permit for “Made in New York” outdoor market

RESOLUTION 72-25

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the special event permit application for the Pound Ridge Business Association’s “Made in New York” outdoor market, to be held at the Village Green from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday, April 27, 2025.

3. Special event permit for Food Truck Fridays

RESOLUTION 73-25

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the special event permit application for the Pound Ridge Business Association's Food Truck Fridays, to be held at the Barnwell Center from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm on May 16, June 20, July 18, August 22, and September 12, 2025.

D. Recreation Department – Camp refund

RESOLUTION 74-25

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the refund of a camp registration fee in the amount of \$925.00 to Robbie Len.

E. Town Board – Support for Ukraine

RESOLUTION 75-25

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Budapest Memorandum, signed on December 5, 1994 by Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom, Ukraine gave up its nuclear weapons in exchange for guarantees as to its territorial integrity; AND

WHEREAS, in violation of the Budapest Memorandum and international law, Russia attacked and invaded Ukraine, a sovereign and democratic nation; AND

WHEREAS, Russia has violated international law by intentionally targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure in Ukraine and by kidnapping thousands of Ukrainian children; AND

WHEREAS, Russia is a present threat to the democratic nations of Europe, our NATO allies, and the United States of America; AND

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WHEREAS, Russia's threat to democratic nations, including the United States of America, will only increase if it is allowed to succeed with its invasion of Ukraine; AND

WHEREAS, the Trump administration has stated that it will withhold American aid and assistance to Ukraine in its existential fight against Russia; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town of Pound Ridge calls upon Congressman Mike Lawler and Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand to stand with Ukraine, to voice their opposition to the Trump administration's withholding of aid and assistance to Ukraine, and to urge the Trump administration to honor America's commitment to its democratic ally Ukraine.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Sharbari Bose Kamat, of 12 Patterson Road, asked that the town adopt a policy similar to those adopted in other Westchester towns to protect our police force from having to engage in ICE activities and to protect immigrants.

Resident Wendy Reingold, of 52 West Lane, stressed that we don't know what may happen in the future and said that the town should codify a formal policy.

Resident Carl Weinberg, also of 52 West Lane, said that it is important to establish a policy for Pound Ridge that is consistent with those adopted by other towns that have taken a stand.

Resident Alex Mouravskiy, of 8 Upper Shad Road, described his family's journey to citizenship after fleeing the Soviet Union when he was a child. He agreed that it is critical that the town have a written set of guidelines.

Resident Ava Zukowsky, of 342 Stone Hill Road, said she is the daughter of a Ukrainian immigrant and stressed the importance of an unambiguous policy to guide police interactions with residents.

Resident Mona Lipson, of 164 Westchester Avenue, also stressed the importance of a codified policy.

Resident Marie Moreno, of 126 Kitchawan Road, described how she and her husband came to Pound Ridge as immigrants thirty-six years ago. She too said that the town should have a written policy.

Bedford resident Mary Anne Delaney stated that she has been working with members of the immigrant community for over twenty years. She said that in addition to being

the right thing to do, establishing a written policy is important from an economic perspective because the immigrant workforce is a cornerstone of our local economy.

Resident Jess Watts, of 42 Shad Road West, said that a written policy would be helpful to police and would set a positive example for youth.

Councilperson Schelling volunteered to work with the Police Department, the Human Rights Advisory Committee, and local residents to create a written policy.

V. FINANCIAL MATTERS – Pay bills

RESOLUTION 76-25

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 05-2024:

Fund	Claim Numbers	Total Amount
General Fund	A00163–A00189	\$67,666.45
Highway Fund	D00051–D00057	\$14,507.46
Trust & Agency Fund	AT00017–AT00020	\$2,322.50

VI. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Town Board, Supervisor Hansan adjourned the meeting at 8:38 pm.

Erin Trostle, Town Clerk
Dated at Pound Ridge, New York
March 5, 2025