

**TOWN OF ROSENDALE**  
**TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**October 9, 2024**

Supervisor Walsh called the meeting to order at 7:00P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance with a moment of silence for Margaret “Peggy” St. Clair, Ed Essig, Brian Houek, those still recovering from Hurricane Helene in Ashville North Carolina and Florida, and prayers for those in Florida preparing for Hurricane Milton.

**PRESENT:**

Supervisor	Jeanne L. Walsh
Councilmember	Ashley Sweeney
Councilmember	Carrie Wykoff
Councilman	Kenneth Hassett
Councilman	Joseph Havranek

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jill LaFera; Town Supervisor Assistant, Joseph LaFera; Building Manager, Claudia Joseph;  
Recreation Commission

**Public Input –**

Speaker – Fre Atlast

Fre Atlast discussed the issue of her landlord extremely increasing her rent and the need for the Town of Rosendale to support the Good Cause Eviction Law, which has caps on rent increases, exempted housing accommodations and allows for Opt-in for jurisdictions outside of New York City (villages, towns, or cities statewide). While the law caps rent increases, it also allows for consideration of certain operating expenses such as property tax increases and the cost of major repairs. Fre Atlast hoped the Town Board could support it by passing a Resolution at the next meeting. The Town Board voiced their concerns as they also wanted to review what protection it has (not for just the renter, but the landlords as well). Many landlords have dealt with renters not keeping up the property, not paying rent at all, and moving on to destroy the next place. Supervisor Walsh stated that there is needed review of the Good Cause Eviction Law and that there is a process to follow for renters and landlords to both be heard before creating any Resolution or Local Law. The Town Board agreed to review the law to consider Opt-in or Opting-out.

**Community Events –**

Councilmember Wykoff wanted to remind all to register to vote that the deadline is October 26, 2024, and early voting is October 16th.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to approve the September minutes with amendments for the September 11, 2024, minutes (under Councilman Hassett 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence changing the word day to week, on page two under Councilmember Wykoff Dave Plante as Full-Time to Part-Time, and four grammatical changes. Seconded by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE 5 Yes.

**Correspondence –**

Supervisor Walsh stated she has heard the stories about other Towns’ fiscal stress, but wanted everyone to be aware the Town of Rosendale is fine and has no designation scoring a zero and 3.3.

**Committee Reports –**

**Councilman Havranek –**

Police Department – There wasn’t a Police Commission meeting, but Chief Schaffrick wanted some of this information shared for the board to consider. The Chief shares the current Police employee rosters. Currently there are two full-time officers, and one full-time vacancy. There is a part time officer that we are waiting for test results to possibly promote into the full-time position that is vacant. We have 5 part time Police Officers, 1 part time Investigator who is on call as needed (does not do patrol), 2 Sergeants part time that is on call response calls and limited patrol and 1 Chief that is part time. The Chief wanted to provide some historical information on how that compares to where the department was in the past and where it is now.

### Police Department Staffing History –

1990 - 1 full time chief, 1 full-time clerk, 1 full-time Sergeant, 1 full-time officer and 6 part-time officers =10 members/ 4 full time

2000 - 1 full time chief, 1 full time clerk, 1 full time Sergeant, 3 full time officers, and 7 part time officers = 13 members/6 full time.

2024 - currently 1 part time chief, 1 part time clerk, 2 part-time sergeants, 1 part time investigator, 3 full time officers and 6 part-time officers = 14 members/3 full time officers.

Councilman Havranek state he believed Chief Schaffrick wanted the Town Board to understand how much staffing we have now, what they do and what it was in the past. All of this information shared, should there be questions regarding the budget to review his proposal to justify his request for that 4th full time officer. Statistics to date from yesterday for the year were 3,765 calls for service, 275 cases, 142 arrests, personal injury automobile accidents 20, and property damage automobile accidents 69 and a domestic there's been 57. The next Police Commission meeting has been moved to October 15, 2024, at 3:30PM at the RMC building. Police Department total revenue net income for September of 2024 is \$17.00. Recently the Chief had a meet and greet for coffee at Stewarts, which he will do occasionally for residents and the Officers will do their patrol walking and talking with residents. Councilman Havranek stated the town has a very good Community Police Department, and they are our first responders.

### Water Sewer –

Terry Johnson reported the new employees are all settling in nicely. They were able to purchase a second pickup truck with a plow from the Highway Department. The Highway Department sold one of their trucks to the Water Department. They are getting some things back in order which will take time. For those that do not know they had a contractor, H2O Innovations, who will be leaving on the 16th and the town is now taking back the Water Department with our own employees. They have two employees that were brought on, including our legacy employee that we have already on staff and Terry Johnson will be overseeing the Water Department and Sewer Department. Terry will be making sure things are working the way that they should and should have been. There were problems with the contractor not taking care of things per protocol. There are just a few more punch list items to complete that they are working with the contractor, Schultz Construction. They are waiting for a few parts to finish, but everything is going ok in the water system. High Falls Water is the system that needs the most attention and hopes to bring things back in order for the future. A lot of the issues were due to the way the facility was handled prior to the town taking over. They do not have a Water Commission meeting scheduled for this quarter in October and was posted on the website. Councilman Havranek just wanted to have the year corrected for the posting on the website as we get use to a new year. The meeting states the next meeting is January 22, 2024, but should be 2025 and that would be here at the RMC building at 5:30 PM. The High Falls Water Department finances the actual budget as of September is \$228,393.64 and the budget \$371,208.00. The revenue totaled \$237,050.59. Revenue for the Sewer Department was a total net income for September was \$945.46. Revenue for the Water Department for September was \$1,379.26.

### Highway Department –

Superintendent Gallagher is back on the job, and he is very active on the day-to-day operations of the Highway Department. Superintendent Gallagher reports that he has one employee that retired and one employee that resigned. So, they now have two HMO heavy equipment operator positions open. Bob currently has two applicants that he's reviewing, but no decision has been made. When that decision is made it will be brought in front of the board to be finalized. Bob is working with Callahan Industries right now on the current paving projects where the chips money needs to be spent by the middle of November. This is mostly for the Mossy Brook Rd. project that needs some major repairs. Bob reports that the new radio system is working great, and the GPS functionality is working as well. This is a good asset especially when it becomes storm season and allows for communication and locating his vehicles. Highway is auctioning off several trucks and some equipment. He has a truck right now at Robert Greens in Monticello. They are looking for another truck for 2026 that will replace our large dump truck as the next expenditure for the Highway Department. Highway finances total net income for September 2024 is \$725.24.

### Councilman Hassett –

Stanley Galewaler was the Highway Department retiree, and want to take a moment to thank Stanley for his many years of service to the Town of Rosendale. Stanely is moving on to bigger and better things and wishing him well.

RMC –

Joe Lafara reports that Living Resources will be utilizing some parking spaces out in the town parking lot to park their vans. Living Resources is an Arc type of operation, servicing clients in this particular area and we had the pleasure of working with them. They brought a crew of seven to the Veterans Monument. They worked together to pull the weeds, clean up to be a more presentable space. The town is thankful for that and will be working with them on future projects. Joseph also reports that the Rosendale Flooring Company will have some quotes to fix a number of carpets in the building. Joe will be starting to transition this building into the fall and wintertime frame by servicing the furnaces, and air handlers. Joseph also wants to express gratitude to the Building and Grounds Department, specifically Peter Donahue, for helping with things such as putting the new swing set up. Peter has worked above and beyond with projects at the Town Hall. RMC finances for the month of September is \$10,211.10.

Town Clerk -

Mandy and Christine are doing a lot of cleaning, moving and organizing. They're purging some old records as part of their jobs. There are a lot of boxes that are being packed up and destroyed per records destruction time frame. For the month of September, they issued 4 marriage licenses, 5 notary publics, 73 dog licenses, 2 building permits, 50 landfill permits, and one event application for a total amount of \$10,850 to the General Fund.

Transfer Station -

They have installed new gates at the Transfer Station. The gates look good, work very well and are safer than the older ones. George reports that everything is working well and if you stop there you will notice that it's a lot more organized, and cleaner. Thanks to both George and Connor working together and doing a really good job. For the month of September, George reports the total income for the Transfer Station is \$8,547.60.

Economic Development -

They did not have a meeting this month. Councilman Hassett will follow up and report next month.

**Councilmember Wykoff –**

Planning Board-

Last month they had a Public Hearing for Lift Cafe and Juice Bar, which is going to be a new business on Main Street where Perrys Pickles was located. There was only one person who came to the Public Hearing, a neighbor who was in support of it and the business owners hope to open soon. The October meeting for tomorrow is cancelled and the next meeting for the Planning Board will be on November 14, 2024, at the RMC. The next meeting agenda will have our first ADU site plan review for a property on Bruceville Rd and already received an area variance from the ZBA. They will also be discussing raising fees. Unfortunately, he was unable to join the last meeting, but will report on that next month.

Building Department –

Total fees collected in September was \$8,454.00. It was interesting looking at the report with the largest category of these was with STRs (short term rentals). Permits issued 36 issued with 34 still open as of October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Food Pantry –

They are as always looking for volunteers. The Boy Scout drive for this year, bags will be dropped at houses on November 2nd and will be picked up on November 9th. They will need volunteers to transport items with that project. Supervisor Walsh asked if the Boy Scouts also have a place for drop off like either Town Hall or the Recreation Center, because the rural community

doesn't get the bags. Councilmember Wykoff mentioned there is a drop off at the Recreation Center and at Saint Peters Church. Supervisor Walsh suggested advertising drop-off locations.

They have an article about the Food Pantry in the Bluestone about the work that these volunteers are doing to help feed our community.

#### Environmental Commission-

There wasn't a meeting last month. The next meeting will be October 17th at 6:30 at the RMC building.

#### Ulster County Arts and Culture Plan-

The draft plan has been put out to the Advisory Committee for review. Next steps for that are to refine priorities with the Project Management Team and the Advisory Committee based on feedback from the public and from the committee. Task forces to develop strategies addressing key priorities. The draft will then be distributed, and the Ulster County Arts and Culture Plan will be seen by the community. There will be another round of input and then a finalized the plan present to the Ulster County Legislature.

#### **Councilmember Sweeney –**

##### Youth Department-

There will be an annual Halloween party and at the Recreation Center Pavilion they will have a haunted house type set up with a circus theme on Sunday, October 27, 2024 from 2:00 to 5:00PM. The Youth Center is still getting anywhere from 7 to 15 kids after school care each day. Matt recently attended a meet and greet for the new Ulster County Youth Bureau director. Matt mentioned she has great ideas, wants to get more for municipalities and she brings a lot of experience to the table. For those that do not know, the town will receive a little bit of state funding from the Youth Bureau. The next meeting of the Youth Commission will be Monday, November 4th at 7:00 PM.

##### Recreation Department –

Rental requests seemed to be pouring in for fall and the holiday season. Dorene reports that she's still waiting for a date to winterize the pool. She says all the new activities are set and ready to begin. Yoga seems to be the most popular at the moment, but many people are expressing interest in all the other new programming. We currently have line dancing, simple drawings, Zumba, Qigong, and the fitness court. Please call the Recreation Department for more information. They will have a game night October 18th from 6:00PM to 8:00PM. The next meeting for the Recreation Commission is October 16th at 7:15 PM at the Recreation Center.

##### Eldercare Assistance Committee-

Song Club has 14 regular members attending right now. Barbara Piombino wanted to express from the committee that they thank the Town Board for letting them use the space. Barbara is working on a brochure for seniors and hopefully that will be finished by next week. She is hoping to distribute them by mail in about two weeks. Since the Wellness Check Flyers were placed in the Tillson and Rosendale post offices, they have gotten more people signed up. Food deliveries will continue until the end of October and November 1<sup>st</sup>. The HEAP applications have come out, so the committee plans to distribute them around town. And as a reminder the Thanksgiving meal distribution is through the Center for Creative Education in Kingston. Barbara usually gets a count together for distribution.

#### **Supervisor Read the Financial Report.**

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to appoint Miles Molitoris to the Youth Commission term ending December 31, 2026. Seconded by Councilmember Sweeney; ROLL VOTE 5 Yes.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to appoint Goldy Conlin to the Youth Commission term ending December 31, 2026, Seconded by Councilmember Sweeney; ROLL VOTE 5 Yes.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to hire Anissa Kapsales as Court Clerk at \$19.00 per hour for 15 hours per week effective October 15, 2024. Seconded by Councilmember Wykoff; ROLL VOTE 5 Yes.

Resolution 10-2024-#3 – Supervisor Walsh made a motion to the Town Board that the Town of Rosendale schedules a Public Hearing on November 6, 2024, at the Rondout Municipal Center at 1915 Lucas Avenue Cottekill, NY 12419, to consider the advisability of adopting a Tax Cap Override Local Law. Seconded by Councilman Hassett; ROLL VOTE 5 Yes.

Resolution 10-2024-#4 - Supervisor Walsh made a motion to the Town Board that the Town of Rosendale schedules a Public Hearing on November 6, 2024, at the Rondout Municipal Center at 1915 Lucas Avenue Cottekill, NY 12419, to consider the advisability of adopting the 2025 Budget for the High Falls Water District. Seconded by Councilman Havranek; ROLL VOTE 5 Yes.

Resolution 10-2024-#5 Supervisor Walsh made a motion to the Town Board that the Town of Rosendale schedules a Public Hearing on November 6, 2024, at the Rondout Municipal Center at 1915 Lucas Avenue Cottekill, NY 12419, to adopt the reviewed and discussed 2025 Tentative Budget proposal as the Preliminary Budget for 2025. Seconded by Councilman Hassett; ROLL VOTE 5 Yes.

Resolution 10-2024-#6 – Supervisor Walsh made a motion to the Town Board to hereby authorize the Supervisor to sign an agreement with Safeco of 642 Broadway, Kingston, NY to install additions to our access control system at the Rondout Municipal Center. Seconded by Councilman Hassett; ROLL VOTE 5 Yes.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to approve the purchase of 2024 Chevy Equinox EV and 2025 Chevy Blazer EV to be paid for with two grants from NYSERDA – one for \$75,000.00 and one for \$11,250.00. The balance to be paid with unexpended funds. Seconded by Councilman Havranek; ROLL VOTE 5 Yes.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to pay the bills. Seconded by Councilmember Sweeney; ROLL VOTE 5 yes.

RMC FUND	ABSTRACT 10	VOUCHERS	178 - 188	\$	3,648.11
GENERAL FUND	ABSTRACT 10	VOUCHERS	276 - 313	\$	20,546.80
HIGHWAY FUND	ABSTRACT 10	VOUCHERS	164 - 167	\$	6,370.63
WATER FUND	ABSTRACT 10	VOUCHERS	124 - 134	\$	4,973.11
SEWER FUND	ABSTRACT 10	VOUCHERS	115 - 122	\$	1,829.30
SPECIAL LIGHTING	ABSTRACT 10	VOUCHER	12	\$	731.67

Councilman Havranek made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30PM. Seconded by Councilmember Sweeney ROLL VOTE 5 Yes.

Respectfully Submitted by

Christine Harrison  
Deputy Town Clerk