

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 22, 2026

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York was convened in public session at the Town Hall, 7340 South Broadway, Red Hook at 7:30pm.

Present: Supervisor Robert McKeon
Councilmember William Hamel
Councilmember Kristina Dousharm
Councilmember Kenneth Migliorelli
Councilmember Jacob Testa
Town Clerk Deanna Cochran

Also Present: Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke

Via Videoconference: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale, Esq.

Supervisor McKeon opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and reviewed the agenda.

Announcements:

Arbor Day will be celebrated Saturday, April 25th, 2026 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Town Hall. The Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs is holding an Operation: Mobile Outreach event at the Village of Red Hook Hall on Monday May 11th, 2026 from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Veterans Services Officers will assist with information regarding benefits, emergency funding, transportation assistance and will be answering questions.

Town Clean Up Day will be held May 2nd, 2026 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm beginning at Town Hall.

The Drive Electric Vehicle Demo will be held on May 3rd, 2026 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Town Hall.

E-Waste Day will be held Saturday, May 9th, 2026 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Highway Department parking lot.

Apple Blossom Day is being held Saturday, May 9th, 2026 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Village of Red Hook.

Shred Day will be held Saturday, May 9th, 2026 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Public Comment:

Al Trezza, resident of the Town, stated Keane & Beane had filed a motion to extend the time for the Town to perfect an appeal for the prior Red Hook Boat Club Article 78 proceedings by 60 days. Albert Trezza asked when the Board approved for Keane and Beane to go forward with the appeal. Albert Trezza stated Keane and Beane had already recused themselves from other proceedings due to a conflict of interest and asked how they could represent the Town on that matter. Albert Trezza stated the Board has not voted to allow Hodgson Russ to represent the Town during the current Red Hook Boat Club Article 78 proceedings. Albert Trezza stated Hodgson Russ has filed paperwork on behalf of the Town and sent a letter to the court requesting a conference. Albert Trezza asked if they are going to be charging the Town for this work that has not been authorized by the Board. Albert Trezza stated he will ask the Red Hook Boat Club's attorney to file to strike all documents submitted by Hodgson Russ because they are unauthorized. Albert Trezza stated Hodgson Russ was hired to handle the eminent domain proceedings and Supervisor McKeon has stated the Article 78 cases are not associated with eminent domain.

Rich Ross, resident of the Town, stated those against the acquisition of the Red Hook Boat Club via eminent domain suspected Councilmembers Hamel and Testa are nothing more than rubber stamps for Supervisor McKeon and the last Town Board meeting only reinforced that suspicion, failing to be responsible stewards of public resources. Rich Ross asked if either Councilmember reviewed the agreement with Hodgson Russ to determine whether their representation in the Article 78 proceeding was within its scope or if they deferred to Supervisor McKeon. Rich Ross asked if the Councilmembers were aware that Hodgson Russ filed a memorandum of law on April 17th, 2026, a full week after the deadline, and are now being ordered to show cause as to why there was a late filing. Rich Ross stated Supervisor McKeon appears to be acting unilaterally and his claim that the Board authorized his actions last year is false. Rich Ross stated if the Article 78 proceedings are unrelated to the eminent domain acquisition, then Hodgson Russ are working outside of the scope of their agreement with the Town. Rich Ross stated there has been fiscal mismanagement, unauthorized spending, and a complete lack of oversight or meaningful

questioning. Rich Ross stated Supervisor McKeon, Councilmember Hamel and Councilmember Testa have failed in their fiduciary duties and should step down immediately.

Teddy Blank stated no one was surprised that Supervisor McKeon was the only Board member aware that someone authorized Hogson Russ, prior Town Council, to supply an answer regarding the Article 78 petition relating to the Red Hook Boat Club and recent zoning changes that affect its properties. Teddy Blank stated Supervisor McKeon's prior statement on the subject, that the previous Board authorized responses is false and the ramifications for engaging an outside law firm without approving expenditures is serious. Teddy Blank asked Councilmembers Hamel and Testa if they will allow Supervisor McKeon to continue to risk their reputation.

Roland Page, resident of the Town, stated Supervisor McKeon has established himself as a want to be dictator for disregarding the fellow members of the board before filing court documents, erecting fencing along the Cookingham West parcel without consulting neighboring landowners, and disregarding the will of the people. Roland Page stated he will not be able to attend Supervisor McKeon's retirement party at the end of his term.

Bonnie Day, resident of the Town, asked the Board to stop the pursuit of acquisition of the Red Hook Boat Club via eminent domain.

Highway – Request for Authorization to Purchase Two Pick-up Trucks:

Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke and Deputy Highway Superintendent John Gardinier presented the Department's request to purchase 2 replacement pick-up trucks. They reviewed the current fleet overview, the state and requirements for the vehicles needing replacement, the specifications for the proposed replacements, the specifications of the closest electric variant, and the difference between them. Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke stated she recommends purchasing the vehicles over leasing as there are several funding options already reserve funds available and municipal leases are structured in such a way that it results in a higher vehicle cost over time. Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke stated there is Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding available for the purchase as well, and it has been approved for purchase, not lease, for the vehicles. Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke stated she recommends using HT Equipment budget funds for the purchase of Truck #1 and using funds from CHIPS, DB fund balance or B funds transfers for the purchase of Truck #3 as it is expected to have a longer period of usage. Supervisor McKeon asked if all trucks need to be 1-ton pick-ups. Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke stated 1 ton is the minimum. Councilmember Hamel asked if the Highway Department would be interested in trading in the new trucks every 2 or 3 years for even newer versions. Doing so would not allow for utilizing CHIPS funding, as equipment purchases need to be retained for 10 years. Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke stated she would be interested but that would be a decision to make after approving the purchase, as she needs to start the bidding process immediately in order to have trucks ready by winter. Supervisor McKeon stated maintenance on electric vehicles (EV's) is extremely low. Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke stated there are no 1-ton EV, so it should not even come into the conversation. Supervisor McKeon stated he would like to consider utilizing the HT fund for one truck and money form the DB reserve for the other truck. Supervisor McKeon stated he would like to move to an EV option when one becomes available.

On a motion by Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilmember Migliorelli to authorize the purchase of a 2026 3500 1-ton Chevy pick-up, as described by the Highway Superintendent using the HT equipment line, not to exceed \$60,000 and to purchase a 2026 3500 1-ton Chevy pick-up fitted with a crew cab, utility body, hitch and lift gate using the DB reserve fund, not to exceed \$80,000

Adopted	Ayes	5	McKeon, Hamel, Dousharm, Migliorelli, Testa
	Nays	0	

Grant Opportunities – Discussion:

Brandee Nelson, representing Tighe & Bond, presented regarding upcoming State and Federal grant opportunities including the following: EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program, Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Loan, USDA Water & Wastewater Grants and Loans Water & Waste Disposal (WEP), McHenry Community Planning Grant, Secure Cybersecurity Grants, EFC Accepting Listings for Clean Water State Revolving Fund Annual Intended Use Plan (IUP), NY PLAYS Grant, Resilient Watersheds Grant

(RWG), Community Resilience and Flood Risk Reduction Grants Program. Brandee Nelson stated it would be helpful know for the Board to determine which projects they would like to seek grant funding for, so the proper agencies can be contacted to determine the viability of a potential grant application. Supervisor McKeon stated he is interested in grant funding for infrastructure in the Traditional Neighborhood District (TND). Supervisor McKeon stated the Board was previously unsuccessful in applying for funding for a Connecting walkway from Route 9 to the back end of Hannaford Drive and they should try again. Brandee Nelson stated the Board should also apply for every sewer related funding for Sewer District No. 1 and the Village of Red Hook sewer capital improvement. Supervisor McKeon stated he believes the Town needs to organize a meeting with the Village of Red Hook to strengthen any wastewater grant applications. Councilmember Hamel stated he would want to pursue grant funding for culvert improvements and create a list to prioritize work. Supervisor McKeon stated there is Downtown Revitalization Initiative funding for redevelopment that could go to projects like redeveloping the gas station in the center of the Village of Red Hook. Councilmember Migliorelli stated he is all for eliminating the gas station but believes the decision to do so should be put to a referendum once the Town knows the cost of doing so. Supervisor McKeon asked the Board to review potential grants and Town priorities.

Resolution Authorizing the Solicitation of Bids for Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation Project

Supervisor McKeon reviewed the resolution and set the pre-bid meeting for May 5th, 2026 and the bid opening at 11:00 am on May 21st, 2026.

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
RESOLUTION NO. 16
DATED APRIL 22, 2026**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SOLICITATION OF BIDS
FOR WATER STORAGE TANK REHABILITATION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, Town Engineer T&B Engineering and Landscape Architecture, PC (Tighe & Bond) has prepared plans and specification dated April 2026 to solicit bids for the “**WATER STORAGE TANK REHABILITATION PROJECT**” in the Town (the “Project”);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Red Hook does hereby authorize and direct the solicitation of bids for the Project, with bids to be received until 11:00 a.m. on May 21, 2026 or such later time and date as determined by the Supervisor, provided that such publication shall appear not less than five days prior to the date set for bid opening.

The following resolution was offered by Councilmember Hamel, seconded by Councilmember Testa, to wit;

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
RESOLUTION NO. 16
DATED APRIL 22, 2026**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SOLICITATION OF BIDS
FOR WATER STORAGE TANK REHABILITATION PROJECT**

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to vote on a roll call, which resulted as follows:

Supervisor Robert McKeon	VOTING <u>Aye</u>
Councilmember William Hamel	VOTING <u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Kristina Dousharm	VOTING <u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Ken Migliorelli	VOTING <u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Jacob Testa	VOTING <u>Aye</u>

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

ASSESSOR: The assessor's office has completed May 1st, 2026, tentative roll. An overall townwide trend of 7% has been applied to remain at 100% level of assessment. Grievance applications can be found either online through the town website or at the assessor's office during the hours of 9:00am-4:00pm Monday through Thursday or Fridays from 9:00-12 noon.

BUILDING & ZONING: For the month of March 2026, there were 33 building permits, with 1 Short Term Rental, 82 inspections, 21 CO / CC's, 2 complaints, and \$8,976.00 in revenue.

POLICE REPORT: For the month of March, 2026, there were 107 incidents in the Town, with another 14 incidents in Tivoli, 23 tickets, 0 parking tickets and 6 arrests.

REC COMMISSION: Supervisor McKeon stated sign-ups for the Summer Recreation Program will be held on June 6th and 13th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Town Hall, programs are being finalized and will be on the Town Website soon. Brendan Tator and Scott Stoddard ran this year's fishing contest on Saturday, April 11th 2026. The Recreation Commission contributed \$400 for the purchase of 470 fish to stock the Sawkill. The Tennis and Basketball Court lights will be turned on this week. The synthetic field has been maintained by Chenango Contracting. The winter pickleball program has concluded. The Cookingham Trails are being maintained.

WATER DISTRICT NO.1: Councilmember Hamel reviewed the Water Board Meeting minutes of March 4th, 2026, stating the Water Board will be sending a recommendation for what the new water rates will be, considering ongoing projects.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: The Board voted to amend Area Variance Resolution number 25-04 Burke. The Board held a review meeting for application ZBA 26-01 Velie-Welch Surveying and voted in favor of scheduling a public hearing. The next regularly scheduled ZBA meeting will be held on May 13, 2026. The submission deadline for this meeting is noon Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

TREE COMMISSION: Details for the Arbor Day celebration were finalized. Ten trees were planted on April 18th and April 20th, 8 at Rec Park West, one on Pitcher Lane, one on Starbarrack Rd. The Mill Road School Arbor Day poster contest entries were judged. The awards will be presented on Friday April 24.

On a motion by Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilmember Hamel to close the meeting

Adopted	Ayes	5	McKeon, Hamel, Dousharm, Migliorelli, Testa
	Nays	0	

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Cochran, Town Clerk