

Town of Shandaken Town Board Regular Monthly Meeting Agenda Monday October 6, 2025 – 7pm Workshop Meeting 6pm

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance
- 3. Roll Call
- 4. Approval of previous T/B Meeting Minutes
- 5. Supervisor's Financial Report
- 6. Communications Fichtner Terrace/Widensky
- 7. Committee Reports
 - a. Ambulance
 - b. Building/Zoning
 - c. Police
 - d. Phoenicia Water
 - e. Pine Hill Water
 - f. Museum
 - g. Parks & Recreation
 - h. Housing Smart
 - i. Conservation Advisory Council
 - j. Comprehensive Plan
- 8. Public Comments on Resolutions
- 9. Motions:
- 10. Resolutions:
 - 119. Pay All Bills
 - 120. Hire Recycling Attendant
 - 121. NYC Funded Flood Buyout Program 464 Plank Rd. Phoenicia
 - 122. Setting Public Hearing Logging Permit
 - 123. Appoint Alternate Members ZBA & Planning Board
 - 124. Support US Bank As A Banking Development District
 - 125. Support Annual Turkey Trot
 - 126. Adopt Tentative 2026 Town Budget as Preliminary Budget
 - 127. SET PUBLIC HEARING LL#2-2025 OVERRIDE TAX LEVY LIMIT
 - 128. SET PUBLIC HEARING ACCEPT 2026 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AS FINAL BUDGET
 - 129. SETTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING WITH RESPECT ADOPTION OF PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2025 "A LOCAL LAW TO SUPERSEDE THE WHITEHALL DOCTRINE"
 - 130. RESTORE UCAT BUS SERVICE TO PINE HILL
 - 131. REQUEST NYSDOT & UC TRAFFIC SAFETY BD. TO REDUCE SPEED LIMIT OF ALL TOWN OF SHANDAKEN ROADS TO 25 MPH.
- 11. Open Public Comment
- 12. Meeting Adjournment -IN MEMORY OF

OFFERED BY:

RESOLUTION TO PAY ALL BILLS

WHEREAS, The Department of Audit and Control require Town Boards to sign and inspect all vouchers coming into the town for payment, to number and total amounts from each fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorize the following vouchers paid:

General	\$ 307,182.40
Highway	183,030.56
Phoenicia Water	9,889.73
Pine Hill Water	2,562.59
Phoenicia Lights	745.34
Chichester Lights	110.94
Pine Hill Lights	459.42
<u> </u>	
	¢ 502 000 00

\$ 503,980.98

AND MOVES ITS ADOPTION

Seconded by:

•	ROLL CALL	
	AYES	NAYS
BOARD MEMBER DRAKE		
BOARD MEMBER KNEISSL		
BOARD MEMBER STEEN		
BOARD MEMBER VAN BLARCUM		
SUPERVISOR DISCLAFANI		

OFFERED BY:

Recycling Attendant – Hire P/T

WHEREAS, under §20 of the Town Law, the Town Board shall designate all appointed officers and employees of the Town;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following personnel be appointed as a Town of Shandaken Recycling Attendant. JAMES COWAN - 3 Days/week paid \$15.50 hourly, not to exceed \$12,600.00 annually, while dispensing duties of said office.

Seconded by:	ROLL CALL	
	AYES	NAYS
BOARD MEMBER DRAKE		
BOARD MEMBER KNEISSL		
BOARD MEMBER STEEN		
BOARD MEMBER VAN BLARCUM		
SUPERVISOR DISCLAFANI		

Supporting Participation in the New York City Funded Flood Buyout Program for 464 Plank Road., Phoenicia, NY 12464

Whereas, the Town of Shandaken is subject to flooding that can damage property, close roads, disrupt traffic, and present a public health and safety hazard; and

Whereas, at the request of local communities, funding from the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is being made available to help property owners who qualify for the NYC Funded Flood Buyout Program (NYCFFBO) based on eligibility criteria in five categories – 1) Hydraulic study properties (recommended by engineering analysis), 2) CWC Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program, 3) Community-approved Stream Management Project, 4) Erosion Hazard, and 5) Inundation Hazard, and

Whereas, the Town of Shandaken has conducted a Local Flood Analysis (LFA) including a hydraulic analysis of flooding in the Town, and the LFA recommends that certain properties that are subject to repetitive flood damage should be considered for flood buyout, and

Whereas, the entirety of the 11.01-acre property at 464 Plank Road, Phoenicia, NY 12464 (Section-Block-Lots: 25.1-2-25 and 25.1-2-1.100), is within the bounds of the National Flood Insurance Program's Regulatory Floodway, and therefore susceptible to damaging floods, and ineligible for locally-funded mitigation programs, and

Whereas, the flood-vulnerable structures at 464 Plank Road, Phoenicia, NY 12464 are recommended to be removed from the floodway in the LFA, "where there is owner interest and programmatic funding available", and

Whereas, the Town has been approached by James J. Amenta Jr. of Phoenicia Farmstead LLC, the owner of both tax lots which comprise the 11.01-acre property, who is requesting to participate in the NYCFFBO program under the Hydraulic study category, and

Whereas, the property suffered damages in previous floods, including Tropical Storm Irene, on August 28, 2011, and "The Christmas Flood," on December 25, 2020, and

Whereas, the Town of Shandaken will choose the option for ownership of the property and understands this property will be managed as open space in accordance with a re-use plan prepared by the Town. Minimal management of the property will be performed, such as maintaining boundary lines, posting signs, and annually inspecting the property, with all activities subject to and consistent with the restrictions in flood-prone areas identified in the Second Supplemental Agreement Among West of Hudson Watershed Stakeholders Concerning the New York City-Funded Flood Buyout Program, Page 5 (1) a., i., ii., iii., iv.; and v; and

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, The Town of Shandaken Town Board approves James J. Amenta, Jr. of Phoenicia Farmstead LLC, Property Owner of 464 Plank Road, Phoenicia, NY 12464, to apply for the

NYCFFBO PROGRAM TO PERMANENTLY REMOVE THIS FLOOD HAZARD RISK, ALLOWING THE **DEP** TO BEGIN ASSISTING IN THE REAL ESTATE PROCESS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THE TOWN OF SHANDAKEN TOWN BOARD AGREES TO TAKE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY AND MANAGE IT AS OPEN SPACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH A RE-USE PLAN AND ABOVE-ACKNOWLEDGED MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS.

AND MOVE ITS ADOPTION Seconded by:	ROLL CALL	
	AYES	NAYS
BOARD MEMBER DRAKE		
BOARD MEMBER STEEN		
BOARD MEMBER KNEISSL		
BOARD MEMBER VANBLARCUM		
SUPERVISOR DISCLAFANI		

RESOLUTION #122-25

OFFERED BY

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOGGING PERMIT

WHEREAS, the Town of Shandaken requires that any logging permit in excess of 100,000 Board Feet be approved through motion of the Town Board of Shandaken and

WHEREAS, Aerin Hyun & John Michael Prarie Jr. – 539 State Rt. 42, Shandaken SBL # 4.-1-22, 4.8-1-13.110 & 4.8-1-10, is requesting such a permit for removal of lumber on their property, by Randall C Kelly -Catskill Mountain Forestry Services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of Shandaken will hold a Public Hearing on said Logging Permit prior to its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday November 5th, 2025 @ 6:45pm @ Town Hall – 7209 Rt. 28 Shandaken to hear all comments for or against.

AND MOVE ITS ADOPTION

Seconded by:

	ROLL CALL	
	AYES	NAYS
BOARD MEMBER DRAKE		
BOARD MEMBER KNEISSL		
BOARD MEMBER STEEN		
BOARD MEMBER VAN BLARCUM		
SUPERVISOR DISCLAFANI		

RESOLUTION #123-25

OFFERED BY

APPOINT PLANNING & ZBA ALTERNATE MEMBERS

WHEREAS, pursuant to §20 of the Town Law it is the duty of the Town Board to appoint all Boards and Commissions,

AND WHEREAS Shandaken Local Law #1 was duly adopted September 8th, 2025 which established up to two alternate member positions on the Zoning Board of Appeals and two alternate member positions on the Planning Board,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that **Ruby Huber** is appointed to the Shandaken Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate member with a term to expire December 31st of 2027,

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that **Frank Cuevas** is appointed to the Shandaken Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate member with a term to expire December 31st of 2027, and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that **Tania Stapleton** is appointed to the Shandaken Planning Board as an alternate member with a term to expire December 31st of 2027, and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, each Board Member is required each year to attend four hours of applicable training for their Office and record such at the town Clerk's Office

Seconded by:	ROLL CALL	
	AYES	NAYS
BOARD MEMBER DRAKE		
BOARD MEMBER KNEISSL		
BOARD MEMBER STEEN		
BOARD MEMBER VAN BLARCUM		
SUPERVISOR DISCLAFANI		

RESOLUTION #124-25 OFFERED BY

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND APPROVING ULSTER SAVINGS BANK PHOENICIA BRANCH APPLICATION FOR AS A BANKING DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

WHEREAS, under § 64, Subdivision 1 of the Town Law, the Town Board should adopt a resolution designating a bank or banks, or trust company in which all Town Officials shall deposit all monies coming into their hands by virtue of their offices;

WHEREAS, Community Bank NA is the main depository for the Town of Shandaken and has closed its doors for public use.

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes the benefits of a local Bank for public and municipal convenience in the Town of Shandaken and neighboring areas covering the municipalities more fully described in their application.

WHEREAS, The Town of Shandaken recognizes the critical need for expanded banking services in this area and fully supports the establishment of a BDD for the branch of Ulster Savings Bank, to address the financial needs of our residents, businesses and municipalities. The Ulster Savings Bank branch in Phoenicia, New York is now the only financial institution in our entire community. We believe this initiative aligns with our community development goals and will significantly enhance access to essential financial services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,. The Town of Shandaken supports Ulster Savings Bank for the designation of a Banking Development District (BDD) in the Town of Shandaken and covering this Town and other municipalities

Seconded by:	ROLL CALL	
	AYES	NAYS
BOARD MEMBER DRAKE		
BOARD MEMBER KNEISSL		
BOARD MEMBER STEEN		
BOARD MEMBER VAN BLARCUM		

RESOLUTION #125-25

OFFERED BY

NAYS

RESOLUTION APPROVING PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PERMIT FOR THE PHOENICIA TURKEY TROT

WHEREAS, the Town of Shandaken Town Board under §59 of the Town of Shandaken Code has the sole authority to approve applications for the purpose of a Public Assembly in excess of five hundred (500) persons, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes the benefits of public events to the economy of the Town and also recognizes the necessity to provide adequate protections and a safe environment for its residents and participants alike, and

WHEREAS, the Town is in receipt of documentation illustrating compliance under the law providing the necessary insurance, permits, security, parking, lighting, sanitation, EMS and evacuation requirements, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is satisfied with the application from the **Phoenicia Turkey Trot** for their event to be held in **Phoenicia**, **NY on Saturday**, **November 29**, **2025** from 7am until 4pm.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Shandaken Town Board hereby approves the permit for a Public Assembly to the Phoenicia Turkey Trot for their event and that a certified copy of this resolution shall suffice as the approval certificate.

AND MOVE ITS ADOPTION

BOARD MEMBER STEEN

Seconded by:

ROLL CALL AYES

BOARD MEMBER DRAKE

BOARD MEMBER KNEISSL _____

BOARD MEMBER VAN BLARCUM _____

SUPERVISOR DISCLAFANI

RESOLUTION #126-25

OFFERED BY:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING TENTATIVE BUDGET AS PRELIMINARY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Town of Shandaken has prepared a 2026 Tentative Budget for review;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of Shandaken hereby adopts the 2026 Tentative Budget as the 2026 Preliminary Budget for the Town of Shandaken

Seconded by:	ROLL CALL	
	AYES	NAYS
BOARD MEMBER DRAKE		
BOARD MEMBER KNEISSL		
BOARD MEMBER STEEN		
BOARD MEMBER VAN BLARCUM		
SUPERVISOR DISCLAFANI		

RESOLUTION #127-25

OFFERED BY:

Set Public Hearing - Adopting Town of Shandaken Local Law #2 of 2025 – A local law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law § 3-c

WHEREAS, the Town of Shandaken foresees the necessity to exceed the Tax Levy Limit established in General Municipal Law § 3-C; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Shandaken Town Board will hold a Special Meeting and a Public Hearing on **Wed. November 5, 2025 @ 6:15 pm** at the Shandaken Town Hall 7209 Rt. 28 Shandaken NY 12480, to hear all those in favor and against the adoption of said law in accordance with General Municipal Law; and

Seconded by:	ROLL CALL	
	AYES	NAYS
BOARD MEMBER DRAKE		
BOARD MEMBER KNEISSL		
BOARD MEMBER STEEN		
BOARD MEMBER VAN BLARCUM		
SUPERVISOR DISCLAFANI		

RESOLUTION #128-25

OFFERED BY

SET PUBLIC HEARING ON 2026 PRELIMINARY TOWN BUDGET AS FINAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing is held every year for the purpose of hearing all those in favor or against the adoption of the Preliminary Budget for the Town of Shandaken as the Annual Budget

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of Shandaken will meet and review the 2026 Preliminary Budget and hold a Public Hearing thereon, at the Shandaken Town Hall on Wednesday November 5, 2025 at 6:30PM preceding the Regular Monthly Meeting, and at such hearing any person may be heard in favor of or against the Preliminary Budget as compiled, or for or against any items or items therein contained.

Seconded by:	ROLL CALL	
	AYES	CALL NAYS
BOARD MEMBER DRAKE		
BOARD MEMBER KNEISSL		
BOARD MEMBER STEEN		
BOARD MEMBER VAN BLARCUM		
SUPERVISOR DISCLAFANI		

RESOLUTION #129-25

OFFERED BY

RESOLUTION SETTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING WITH RESPECT ADOPTION OF PROPOSED LOCAL LAW # 3 OF 2025 ENTITLED "A LOCAL LAW TO SUPERSEDE THE WHITEHALL DOCTRINE AND DOCTRINE OF INCOMPATIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO TOWN COUNCILPERSON AND WATER SUPERINTENDENT"

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Shandaken recognizes the need to fill the position of Water Superintendent; and

WHEREAS members of the town board cannot generally hold positions that report to the town board, however the lack of candidates and the retirement of the current water superintendent presented the board with an exigent circumstance, and

WHEREAS the town board passed a resolution hiring Kyle Steen on September 17th as he was the only licensed candidate to apply for an appointment to expire December 31st, and

WHEREAS there are concerns that no additional qualified applicants may be identified ahead of that date for this critical position, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Whitehall doctrine and the doctrine of incompatibility of offices, the Town Board may not appoint one of its own members in the absence of precise statutory authority so to do, and may not make an appointment where an appointee/board member would also be part of his supervising authority (Town Board), without legislative authorization; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has been advised that a Local Law is required supersede the authority preventing a Town Board member from holding the position of Water Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law #3 of 2025, has been duly introduced; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the proposed Local Law is a Type II action and can be adopted without further regard to SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Shandaken wishes to set a time and place for a public hearing with respect to proposed Local Law #3 of 2025, so that the public may be heard; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held by the Town Board of the Town of Shandaken with respect to the aforesaid proposed Local Law on November 5th @ XYZpm and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause public notice of said hearing to be given as provided by law.

AND MOVE ITS ADOPTION

Seconded by:	ROLL CALL	
	AYES	NAYS
BOARD MEMBER DRAKE		
BOARD MEMBER KNEISSL		
BOARD MEMBER STEEN		
BOARD MEMBER VAN BLARCUM		
SUPERVISOR DISCLAFANI		

Local Law **#3** of 2025

A LOCAL LAW TO SUPERSEDE THE WHITEHALL DOCTRINE AND DOCTRINE OF INCOMPATIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO TOWN COUNCILPERSON AND WATER SUPERINTENDENT

Section I. Title. A local law to supersede the common law Whitehall Doctrine and Doctrine of Incompatibility.

Section II. Background.

Whitehall Doctrine: Pursuant to the common law doctrine established in Wood vs. Town of Whitehall, it is the general rule that a body having the power of appointment may not appoint one of its own members in the absence of precise statutory authority so to do (Mac rum vs. Hawkins, 141 Misc. 358, affd. 235 App. Div. 370, rev. on other grounds, 261 N.Y. 193, rearg. den. 261 N.Y. 691; Wood vs. Town of Whitehall, 120 Misc. 124, affd. 206 App. Div. 786).

Doctrine of Incompatibility: The common law doctrine of incompatibility declares to be incompatible any two public offices in which there exists an inconsistency of function or where the basic duties of each office would necessarily interfere with the other, or where the holder of one would be required to account or to be subordinate in some way to the other (People ex rel Ryan vs. Green, 58 NY 295; Corsall vs. Gover, 10 Misc. 2d. 664, 174 NYS 2d 62; 1979 N.Y. Op. Atty. Gen. (Inf.) 231).

The Attorney General's Office has, however, opined that upon a finding that the public interest would be served, a local legislative body may enact a local law overcoming incompatibility of office and the Whitehall doctrine. Incompatibility and the Whitehall doctrine are court-made rules of law based upon public policy concerns. We [Attorney General's Office] have expressed the opinion that these doctrines can be overcome by local law (1983 Op Atty Gen [Inf] 157; 1960 Op Atty Gen [Inf] 198). A local government is authorized to adopt and amend local laws, consistent with the Constitution and general State law, relating to the powers, duties and qualifications of its officers and employees (Municipal Home Rule Law, §10[1] [ii] [a] [1]). Provided there is a finding by the local legislative body that such a

local law would be in the overall public interest, it could enact a local law overcoming the Whitehall doctrine and incompatibility (1983 Op Atty Gen [Inf] 157). We [Attorney's General's Office] must emphasize, however, that the local legislative body, based upon local conditions, must first find that the overall public interest would be served by the local law. (1987 N.Y. Op. Atty. Gen. (Int.) 109).

Section III.

Authority. This local law is adopted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law, §10 [1] [ii] [a] [1], which grants to local governments the authority to enact local laws regarding the qualifications of local officers.

Section IV.

Finding of Public Interest. The Town Board of the Town of Shandaken hereby finds that the public interest would be served by superseding the Whitehall Doctrine and the Doctrine of Incompatibility with respect to a Town Councilperson acting as Water Superintendent and/or Water Operator due to the fact that the Town of Shandaken is in a rural area, has posted for the position without receiving applications for any other licensed applicants, and the town remains in need of a licensed operator for the preservation of public health.

Section V.

<u>Supersession</u>. This local law shall supersede the common law Doctrine of Incompatibility and the common law Whitehall Doctrine with respect to the offices of TOWN COUNCILMEMBER and WATER SUPERINTENDENT and/or WATER OPERATOR

Section VI.

<u>Inconsistency</u>. All other local laws and ordinances of the Town of Shandaken that are inconsistent with the provisions of this local law are hereby repealed; provided however, that such repeal shall only be to the extent of such inconsistency and in all other respects this local law shall be in addition to such other local laws or ordinances regulating and governing the subject matter covered by this local law.

Section VII.

<u>Savings Clause</u>. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, word, section or part of this local law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation of the clause, sentence, paragraph, worked section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

OFFERED BY

RESOLUTION TO RESTORE UCAT SERVICE TO PINE HILL & IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIVITY

WHEREAS changes to the county UCAT service have significantly reduced the number of routes that stop in Pine Hill, NY, which impacts residents, employees and visitors alike and

WHEREAS, Trailways service no longer stops in Pine Hill, NY resulting in even less access for residents and visitors without a car and seniors who would prefer not to drive and

WHEREAS, the modified routes also no longer bring travelers to the uptown section of Kingston prohibiting residents from shopping for food or visiting medical facilities, or connecting to Trailways buses

WHEREAS, the Town of Shandaken desires to encourages use of more and not less public transportation as a climate smart strategy for residents and tourists to reduce the number of cars on Route 28

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the town board of Shandaken hereby request UCAT and the County Executive make all efforts to restore both bus routes to Pine Hill and an uptown Kingston terminus,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be transmitted by the clerk to the Office of the County Executive, Ulster County Planner Dennis Doyle, and Director of Transportation Toni Roser.

Seconded by:	DOLL	CALL
	ROLL AYES	CALL NAYS
BOARD MEMBER DRAKE		
BOARD MEMBER KNEISSL		
BOARD MEMBER STEEN		
BOARD MEMBER VAN BLARCUM		
SUPERVISOR DISCLAFANI		

OFFERED BY

REQUEST: NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NYSDOT) REDUCE SPEED LIMIT OF ALL TOWN OF SHANDAKEN ROADS TO 25 MPH

WHEREAS, Due to the size and volume of traffic on our rural Town roads, speed reduction is necessary and beneficial for motorists and residents living on these roadways, and

WHEREAS, The Town of Shandaken requests NYSDOT reduce the speed of all Town of Shandaken deeded roadways

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The Town of Shandaken will send copies of this request to NYSDOT Supervisor David Corrigan and Ulster County Transportation Council and Ulster County Planning Chair Dennis Doyle,

Seconded by:	ROLL CALL	
	AYES	NAYS
BOARD MEMBER DRAKE		
BOARD MEMBER KNEISSL		
BOARD MEMBER STEEN		
BOARD MEMBER VAN BLARCUM		
SUPERVISOR DISCLAFANI		