

**Town of Shandaken
County of Ulster
State of New York**

**The Town of Shandaken Town Board conducted a Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday
August 3, 2026 @ 7pm. Shandaken Town Hall. 7209 Rt. 28 Shandaken, NY**

**Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call**

Members Present	Barbara Mansfield – Supervisor Kevin VanBlarcum - Board Member Elizabeth Kneissl – Board Member Robert Drake – Board Member
Member Absent	Kyle Steen
Recording Secretary	Joyce Grant - Town Clerk

**On a Mansfield/Drake motion the Town Board unanimously approved the minutes of the
previous meeting as submitted by the Town Clerk.**



**Town of Shandaken Town Board
Monthly Meeting
Monday August 3, 2026 – 7pm**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call**
- 4. Approval of previous T/B Meeting minutes**
- 5. Supervisor's Report & Financial Report**
- 6. Communications**
- 7. Committee Reports:**
 - a. Ambulance*
 - b. Building/Zoning*
 - c. Police*
 - d. Phoenicia Water*
 - e. Pine Hill Water*
 - f. Museum*
 - g. Recreation*
 - h. Housing*
 - i. Conservation Advisory Council*
 - j. Comprehensive Plan*
 - k. Board Conversation*
- 8. Public Comments on Resolutions**
- 9. Motions:**
 - 1- Go into Executive Session – Personnel matters.**
- 10. Resolutions:**
 - 102. Pay All Bills**
 - 103. Amending Summer Rec pay**
 - 104. Hiring Ambulance Officer & pay**
 - 105. Supporting Eagle & Wildlife Health**
 - 106. Set Public Hearing 2026 Comprehensive Master Plan**
- 11. Open Public Comment**
- 12. Meeting Adjournment *In Memory of Larry Brill, Tom O'Brien, Henry Bernstein, Jr., Eliodora Zelaya,***
SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE – AUGUST 2026

Coming into office, I quickly realized how hard our Town staff work and how long they have been without tools needed to do their jobs. We updated accounting software, and caught up on three of the five years our Town was delinquent with financial reports to the State. We are on track to be up to date by the end of the year.

The company that had been contracted to service and update our computer network suddenly went out of business this year. We were able to retrieve our data, replace broken computers, and enhance cyber security. Board liaison Kneissl and the Building Department reviewed programs to streamline building, ZBA and Planning Board applications, with a goal of implementing one this year.

The Town Hall building is in decay because maintenance was put off for years. Our facilities are in the floodway and need to be moved. But, deferred maintenance caught up this year. The furnace failed during the coldest streak of winter, and since then we've steadily patched leaks and rot. Following a staff training at the Marbletown/Rosendale town hall in May, workers returned to our building a bit envious.

Nevertheless, our staff works hard with what they have, and the community support—despite a facility that's not easily accessible—has been heartwarming. HUGE shout out to John Valek, who volunteered to help us out with urgently-needed roof patches a couple of weeks ago. This year we were awarded funding from the CWC to do legal and environmental reviews, and to subsequently purchase a property on Route 28 near Shandaken Inn that's entirely out of the floodplain.

Relocation of Town Hall is just one of over a dozen current flood mitigation projects happening throughout Shandaken—in addition to floodplain permits being considered. The Town Board appointed Rob Stanley Floodplain Administrator and he's been a valuable addition to our building department. Flood mitigation projects were determined by Local Flood Analyses (LFA) on Shandaken/Allaben, Pine Hill, Phoenicia and Mt. Tremper. Chichester is undergoing its LFA now, with a public presentation of a draft slated for late September. Community input was key to the success of these analyses and has resulted in lots of funding for mitigation projects. Thanks to all who volunteered their time to keep our Town safer in floods. Town Board members Drake and VanBlarcum monitor our Community Rating System (CRS), to improve our rating, which has lowered flood insurance rates for Shandaken residents.

Shandaken is a healthcare desert, a food desert, and has related public transportation challenges. I met with the head of Margaretville Hospital this Spring about doing mobile screening clinics in Shandaken. Our ambulance provides life-saving Advanced Life Support (ALS) medical care that's essential for our residents, and for neighboring towns. But this year costs surged and we had administrative challenges. The Board made changes to our ambulance leadership structure to stabilize ALS service, and I meet regularly with County and State agencies and representatives about our stabilization efforts and to request financial help for our strained capacity. I'm also working with our operations chief, Mike Williams, to improve billing.

The food pantry also had leadership changes. Thanks to Jane Todd for all her years of service, and to Sophie Grant and Gisi Vella for taking over. The number of people served has more than doubled in a few short months, and now includes families because of a new partnership with the Catskill Alliance for Housing and Preservation. The Good Company Club expanded from Phoenicia to also serving Pine Hill now. I met with Supervisors from Greene and Delaware Counties about the possibility of Pine Hill Trailways doing local stops to fill inter-county gaps. Trailways agreed to create regular stops at Town Hall.

Our Town runs on volunteers—the majority are full-time residents. So many of the challenges we face hinge on the lack of affordable housing for people who live here full time. This year we initiated a partnership with RUPCO to develop the former Phoenicia Elementary School for affordable housing. They were the only organization interested in the small-scale development appropriate for that neighborhood. And, after years of creative fundraising, the Wellington affordable housing project in Pine Hill breaks ground this year.

The Town's Housing Smart Committee recently achieved Silver status, which will help the Town secure more funding for affordable housing. Updating our zoning to reflect community priorities is a key component of creating housing that people who work here can afford. We secured a grant from the DEC for zoning consultant(s).

A final draft of our Comprehensive Master Plan was submitted to the Board at the end of July (and is posted [HERE](#)). The document reflects hundreds of Shandaken residents who volunteered their time to dig into shaping the future of our Town. Part of our agenda for the August Town Board meeting is to set the first couple of Public Hearing dates for the Comp Plan. We received funding for and engaged volunteers to contribute to the Natural Resource Inventory, which will also guide smart land use planning.

The Parks & Rec Committee has done so much this year! Their energy, led by Samatha Awand, Autumn Brookmire, and Board liaison VanBlarcum is what brought me to public service. This year, updates to Big Indian Park, plans for Rockcut Park in Mt. Tremper, and the new playground at Glenbrook owe their success to the sweat equity of many generous people who planned, fundraised, shoveled, built structures and planted. Parishioners from St. Frances de Sales helped with the Town's plea to keep Parish Field out of the hands of developers and retain it as park space. I spoke with the Archdiocese in July and they agreed to extend our lease another year.

This winter was a huge challenge for our water districts. The Phoenicia and Pine Hill water committees are planning for long-needed infrastructure updates. We're so lucky to have Kyle Steen running operations. He addressed winter water emergencies with resourcefulness, yet still kept his eye on planning for the future needs of both districts. Kyle and I secured low-cost loans for urgent repairs and for updates that will save future costs.

Our Highway Department had an equally challenging winter: even unable to procure salt at one point. I'm grateful to Superintendent Hofmeister and his staff for working with me to secure new County funding for next year. I made an emergency proclamation on July 29 to help offset flood-related Highway expenses due to washed out roads, failing culverts, and eroded areas throughout Shandaken—though Route 214 was definitely hit the hardest.

A project to install EV charging stations, spearheaded by the Conservation Advisory Council, will advance this year—with a change in the plan. Rather than a hard-to-access spot on the ambulance building, there will be a station at Glenbrook Park—easily accessible to ambulance, police and highway. The CAC is implementing BearWise, a program that reduced DEC nuisance complaints by 96% in seven years in Woodstock, where one bear was euthanized in 2025, compared to twelve in 2022.

I'm working on the 2027 budget now, and costs for fuel, insurance, and utilities have steeply risen. We changed our insurance broker, which brought us from a projected 18% increase to a projected 7% increase—but that's still almost double previous years.

The Board created a Filming Permit law to both regulate activities and increase income for Shandaken, an increasingly popular location for movie shoots. Our Town's challenges reflect the challenges businesses in Shandaken face. New

business owners and creative ideas provided storefront activity this summer in the commercial hamlets of Phoenicia and Pine Hill. But, long-term vibrancy of the commercial hamlets requires robust representation.

In July, Board member Drake and I advocated in a hearing on NYC's upcoming Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) for Phoenicia to be allowed back into the New York State Department of Health program that could provide a hamlet-wide sewer solution for Phoenicia. I will continue to reach out to Federal, State and County representatives to advance your safety, economic, and environmental concerns.

TOWN CLERK UPDATES

Tax collection season was once again very successful. Our online tax payment program (www.shandakentax.com) continues to be a convenient option for residents, allowing secure payments and access to tax information 24 hours a day. It has significantly reduced paperwork and improved efficiency for both our office and taxpayers. Also School tax bills will be sent out in September, we will have their new payment website link on OUR tax website by then – for easy access.

We also continue to administer the Town's Short-Term Rental registration program. Property registrations, renewals, and record management are all handled through the Clerk's Office to help ensure compliance with our local law.

I'd also like to remind our residents, especially our senior citizens, that if you need assistance with online government services, we're happy to help whenever we can. Whether it's renewing a vehicle registration, navigating a state website, or locating government forms and information, please don't hesitate to call or stop by Town Hall during office hours. If we can assist you, we will.

On the technology side, we continue making improvements to our public meeting broadcasts for Channel 23 and our YouTube livestreams. www.youtube.com/townofshandaken I'm sure you've noticed the new large TV monitor installed in our meeting room. This monitor will serve several important purposes. During Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings, project plans, maps, and documents can now be displayed clearly for everyone attending the meeting, rather than only the board members. Those watching at home on Spectrum Channel 23 or on our Town of Shandaken YouTube livestream will also be able to view these presentations much more clearly.

The monitor will also be available for public presentations, workshops, and guest speakers who use slides or digital presentations, replacing the older projector and pull-down screen.

We're very pleased with the progress we've made. By carefully planning our purchases and making low-cost improvements whenever possible, we've been able to modernize our public access television equipment while being mindful of taxpayer dollars. As we continue transitioning our system to full digital broadcasting, residents can expect improved picture quality and a better viewing experience both on Channel 23 and online.

As always, if anyone has questions about Town services, records, notary services, permits, tax information, or other Clerk's Office functions, we're here to help.

Thank you.-Joyce Grant Town Clerk

Motion- By Mansfield – Drake & carried

Go into Executive Session after meeting on Personnel Matters

Supervisor Report August 2026
Revenues For July, 2026

Ambulance	\$2,475.82
Ambulance Donation	\$200.00
Vital Statistics	\$200.00
SBA	\$3,682.89
Town Clerk Fees/EZ Pass	\$135.00
Charter Francise	\$12,395.88
Planning	\$150.00
Building Permit Fees	\$4,448.00
Dog Licenses	\$104.50
Zoning	\$455.00
Summer Rec	\$3,125.00
Justice Fees	\$3,279.00
Patricia Miranda-Health Ins.	\$261.82
P. DiSclafani-Health Ins.	\$218.24
Cemetery (Hudler NYS OSC)	\$9,720.66
Cemetery (Oliverea - Sale of Plots)	\$1,000.00
HWY Reimbursement - Cell Phone	\$31.25
MAHV	\$1,000.00
Police Fees	\$15.00
Interest Earned On Accts.	\$3,801.16
Cornell Cooperative	\$15,620.00
2026 Tax Warrant-Penalties/Interest	\$27,586.14
Phoenicia Water Rents	\$34,412.99
Pine Hill Water Rents	\$20,741.33
Rural Water Loan	\$71,250.00
TOTAL \$216,309.68	



SHANDAKEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Post Office Box 134
Shandaken, New York 12480
845-688-9902 . 845-688-9748(b) . 845-688-5332(f)
CHIEF OF POLICE CHAD STOREY chief@shandakenpolice.org

July 2026 Monthly Report

INCIDENT TYPE	NUMBER
911 Misdial/No Voice/Abandoned	10
Accident PIAA/PDAA	9
Abandoned Vehicle	
Alarm Burglary/Panic/Robbery	5
Animal Complaint/Investigation	6
Assist EMS/Fire	14
Criminal Mischief	
Disorderly Conduct	1
Encon Violation	
Larceny	5
Community Oriented Policing Project	6
Custody Dispute	
Civil	2
Disabled Vehicle	3
Dispute	3
Domestic Dispute	3
Erratic Vehicle	2
Foot Patrol	4
Fraud	
Mental Health Law	

INCIDENT TYPE	NUMBER
Harassment	2
Local Law	1
Lock Out	2
Lost/Missing Person	
Noise Complaint	8
Property Retrieval/Lost/Found	1
Public Service/Special Detail	1
Open Door	
Property Check	391
Road Hazard	3
School Check	2
Shots Fired	
Suspicious Activity	7
Traffic Stop	12
Trespass	1
Vehicle and Traffic Complaint	4
Welfare Check	13
Field Interview	
Warrant	
Total	130

SUMMONS ISSUED	2
ARRESTS	4

Property Checks 391
Total w/property checks 521

Town of Shandaken Ambulance Service

Chief's Report – July 2026

During July, the Town of Shandaken Ambulance Service responded to **41 service calls**, including **27 patient transports**. The service provided **five mutual-aid responses** to Delaware, Greene, and the Town of Denning, and only received **two mutual-aid responses** from neighboring agencies.

Staffing continues to present challenges, with one full-time paramedic position vacant and several employees on medical leave. Nevertheless, uninterrupted service has been maintained; however, this resulted in increased overtime utilization. Recruitment efforts and operational planning remain focused on sustaining coverage while addressing these staffing constraints.

Our Quality Improvement Committee is now fully operational and reviewed **51 patient care cases** this month. The committee identified documentation deficiencies that will be addressed through mandatory department-wide training in coordination with our Medical Director.

We also successfully completed our internal semiannual controlled substance audit with **no discrepancies identified**, and we continue updating department policies to strengthen compliance, accountability, and documentation accuracy.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to our Ambulance Service Donation Fund. Through the generosity of our community, we were able to purchase new chairs for the station, enhancing comfort and improving the working environment for our personnel. Your continued support of the ambulance service is sincerely valued and greatly appreciated.

Overall, the service continues to move in a positive direction, and I appreciate the Town Board's continued support as we work to improve operations, patient care, and the long-term sustainability of the service.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Williams
Chief of Operations
Town of Shandaken Ambulance Service

RESOLUTION #102-26

OFFERED BY: VANBLARCUM

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	\$ 446,190.68
Highway	179,301.61
Phoenicia Water	7,916.05
Pine Hill Water	12,308.53
Phoenicia Lights	804.62
Chichester Lights	19.61
Pine Hill Lights	494.39
Septic Account	325.00
Oliveria Cemetary	500.00
Ambulance Donation	692.99

	\$ 668,553.48

AND MOVES ITS ADOPTION

Seconded by: KNEISSL
ROLL CALL 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT (STEEN)

RESOLUTION # 103-26

OFFERED BY: KNEISSL

AMENDING SUMMER RECREATION PERSONNEL PAY

WHEREAS, under § 20, Notes of Decision 9 of the Town Law, the Town Board shall appoint all employees of the Town;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of Shandaken amend the position of Shandaken Summer Recreation personnel, Gemini Palla, from Returning Counselor to First-Year Counselor, at \$16.00 per hour.

AND MOVES ITS ADOPTION

Seconded by: MANSFIELD
ROLL CALL 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT (STEEN)

AUGUST 3, 2026

RESOLUTION #104-26

OFFERED BY MANSFIELD

HIRING AMBULANCE OFFICER & PAY RATES

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following personnel be appointed to the Shandaken Town Ambulance at rates not to exceed the following:
Paramedic, Part Time – **Tammy Rhinehart** at \$33.00 per hour;
and that as provided under Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) effective January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2026, said employees shall serve at the discretion of the Ambulance Chief and Town Board.

AND MOVE ITS ADOPTION

Seconded by: DRAKE
ROLL CALL 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT (STEEN)

RESOLUTION #105-26

OFFERED BY DRAKE

SUPPORTING EAGLE AND WILDLIFE HEALTH

WHEREAS, the Town of Shandaken recognizes the bald eagle as a symbol of our nation and an important part of the natural beauty, environmental heritage, and ecological health of the Catskill Region; and

WHEREAS, bald eagles and other birds of prey have made a remarkable recovery in New York State and are increasingly observed throughout the Town of Shandaken, including along the Esopus Creek, reservoirs, forests, and waterways; and

WHEREAS, the Town proudly celebrates Eagle Day on August 22, on the 40th Anniversary of the Shandaken Eagle Statue; and

WHEREAS, scientific studies have shown that lead fragments from ammunition and discarded fishing tackle can be ingested by eagles and other wildlife, causing illness or death, and that lead fragments may also remain in game meat intended for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, eagles and other wildlife may also be harmed through secondary poisoning from certain rodenticides consumed by prey animals, and increased public awareness can help reduce these preventable risks; and

WHEREAS, the voluntary use of non-lead ammunition, fishing tackle, and other wildlife-friendly practices can help protect eagles and other wildlife while preserving New York's valued hunting, fishing, and outdoor traditions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Shandaken supports educational efforts, including the **#SwapOutTheLead** initiative, and respectfully encourages hunters, anglers, property owners, and outdoor enthusiasts to voluntarily consider non-lead ammunition, non-lead fishing tackle, and other wildlife-friendly practices whenever practical to help protect eagles, wildlife, waterways, and the natural environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town recognizes and appreciates the many hunters, anglers, landowners, conservationists, and outdoor enthusiasts who already practice responsible wildlife stewardship and voluntarily adopt measures that help protect eagles and other native wildlife; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town encourages public education and awareness during the Town's annual Eagle Day celebration and throughout the year to promote wildlife conservation, environmental stewardship, and the protection of our natural resources for future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Ulster County Legislature, Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger, and other interested conservation organizations and agencies.

AND MOVES ITS ADOPTION
Seconded by: VANBLARCUM
ROLL CALL 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT (STEEN)

Resolution #106-26 **Offered By VANBLARCUM**

SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON ADOPTION OF 2026 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing must be held within 90 days for the purpose of hearing all those in favor or against the adoption of the 2026 Comprehensive Master Plan for the Town of Shandaken; and

WHEREAS, legal notice of any required public hearing must be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the community at least 10 calendar days before the hearing date; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Shandaken has scheduled the first two public hearings and at such hearings any person may be heard in favor or against the Comprehensive Master Plan as compiled, or for or against any items or items therein contained.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of Shandaken will meet and review the 2026 Comprehensive Master Plan and hold a Public Hearings thereon, at the Shandaken Town Hall on Monday, August 17 at 6:00, preceding a Board Workshop, and Monday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m., preceding a Regular Monthly Meeting,

AND MOVES ITS ADOPTION
Seconded by: KNEISSL
ROLL CALL 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT (STEEN)

MOTIONS by Mansfield/Drake – All carried.

- 1- That the Town Board accept the resignations of Donna LeMoine & Kimberly Neal.
- 2- That the Town Board of the Town of Shandaken authorize Supervisor Mansfield to advertise, interview, and fill the vacant position of Code Enforcement Officer effective August 3, 2026, at a rate of \$30.00 per hour for 20 hours per week, not to exceed \$11,200 for the remainder of 2026. as established in the annual town budget or as otherwise fixed by the Town Board.

Meeting adjourned on a Drake/Mansfield motion at 8:30

Signed this 5th day of August, 2026

Joyce Grant - Town Clerk