

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

The Town of Shandaken Town Board Monthly Meeting Monday, October 5, 2026. Public Hearing on Tax Cap at 6:15. Shandaken Town Hall. 7209 Rt. 28 Shandaken, NY

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

Members
Barbara Mansfield – Supervisor
Kevin VanBlarcum - Board Member
Kyle Steen – Board Member
Elizabeth Kneissl – Board Member
Robert Drake – Board Member

Recording Secretary **Joyce Grant - Town Clerk**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING — LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2026

***A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law § 3-c
The Town of Shandaken foresees the necessity to exceed the Tax Levy Limit established in
General Municipal Law § 3-c.***

The Shandaken Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, October 5, 2026, at 6:15 PM at the Shandaken Town Hall, 7209 State Route 28, Shandaken, NY 12480, to hear all persons in favor of or opposed to the adoption of said Local Law.

By Order of the Shandaken Town Board



**Town of Shandaken Town Board
Monthly Meeting**

**Monday October 5, 2026 – 7pm
Public Hearing Tax Levy 6:15**

- 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**
Presentation by Kevin O'onnor – RUPCO Wellington in Pine Hill
- 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:**
- 10. Resolutions:**
 - 122. Pay All Bills**
 - 123. Set Public Hearing on 2027 Preliminary Budget**

- 124. Adopt LL#2 2026 – Override Tax Levy Limit
- 125. Supporting Wastewater in Phoenicia
- 126. Purchase Replacement Highway Vehicle Ram 5500 Regular Cab
- 127. Purchase Replacement Highway Vehicle Ram 5500 Crew Cab
- 128. Authorize Retention SLR Consultant – Wellington
- 11. Open Public Comment
- 12. Meeting Adjournment *In Memory of Jay Bramen, Sr. & Mike Pushman*

Supervisor Report October 2026
Revenues For September, 2026

Vital Statistics	\$20.00
Zoning Fees	\$100.00
Ambulance	\$46.67
Town Clerk Fees/EZ Pass	\$360.00
HWY Deferred Comp Reimbursement	\$80.00
Higley	\$119.84
Building Permit Fees	\$3,478.00
Dog Licenses	\$54.00
Planning	\$400.00
Shandaken Rural Cemetary	\$500.00
Hudler Cemetary/State Aid Funds	\$9,720.68
Olivera Cemetary/Plot Sale/Donations	\$100.00
Sales Tax	\$66,042.41
HWY Reimbursement (Eric Cell Phone)	\$62.52
Gas/Diesel Reimb. (Big Indian Fire Co.)	\$339.98
Gas/Diesel Reimb. (Phoenicia Fire Co.)	\$2,471.71
Interest On Accounts	\$3,498.20
Justice Fees	\$3,506.00
Health Care Benefits (Payments)	\$480.06
TMA Funds	\$2,964.00
DEC SMART GROWTH	\$125,000.00
Phoenicia Water Rents	\$3,800.00
TOTAL	\$223,144.07



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

SEPTEMBER 2026 Monthly Report

INCIDENT TYPE	NUMBER	INCIDENT TYPE	NUMBER
911 Misdia/No Voice/Abandoned	4	Harassment	2
Accident PIAA/PDAA	9	Local Law	
Abandoned Vehicle	1	Lock Out	1
Alarm Burglary/Panic/Robbery	8	Lost/Missing Person	2
Animal Complaint/Investigation	2	Noise Complaint	1
Assist EMS/Fire	13	Property Retrieval/Lost/Found	
Criminal Mischief	1	Public Service/Special Detail	
Disorderly Conduct	2	Open Door	
Encon Violation		Property Check	484
Larceny	3	Road Hazard	5
Community Oriented Policing Project	2	School Check	7
Custody Dispute	1	Shots Fired	
Civil	5	Suspicious Activity	12
Disabled Vehicle	4	Traffic Stop	29
Dispute	3	Trespass	
Domestic Dispute	1	Vehicle and Traffic Complaint	19
Erratic Vehicle		Welfare Check	14
Foot Patrol	2	Field Interview	
Fraud		Warrant	
Mental Health Law	2	Total	157

SUMMONS ISSUED	12
ARRESTS	4

Property Checks	484
Total w/property checks	641



TOTAL CALLS RECEIVED- 34
MUTUAL AID GIVEN- 3
MUTUAL AID RECEIVED- 5
TOTAL TRANSPORTS- 17
TOTAL NO TRANSPORT/ STANDBY/ RELOCATIONS – 12

Chief of Operations Report to the Town Board September 2026

During September, the Ambulance Service responded to 34 calls. We provided mutual aid to Greene County three times and received mutual aid five times from Empress, Margaretville, Olive, and Woodstock because of overlapping calls in our district. Greene County standby responses decreased, consistent with the recommendation that local resources are not depleted for routine standby coverage outside our primary service area.

Staffing continues to stabilize. The department has reached its full-time staffing quota, and all previously hired employees have completed the onboarding process with one paramedic waiting for regional certification. There remains one full-time employee out with a work-related injury. Overtime and actual shift coverage will continue to be evaluated as personnel become fully operational.

Quality Improvement remains a priority. Agency representatives met with Ulster County regarding its MedAssist pilot and use of technology to strengthen patient-care record review and corrective-action tracking. The Medical Director remains actively involved, and the onboarding examination is now part of the evaluation process for incoming paramedics. Recent New York State protocol changes will be implemented after regional guidance is issued.

The agency's operating certification has been renewed by NYS DOH. Immediate administrative priorities include renewing the controlled-substance license before it expires at the end of October and completing the transition to independent medication purchasing, storage, and accountability before January 1, 2027.

Documentation and billing reconciliation remain priorities while CAD-to-ESO integration is completed and validated. A station safety concern also requires review: an indoor oil tank at the M. F. Whitney Fire House has reduced storage space, is near oxygen tanks without a proper barrier, and may be struck by vehicles backing into the building.

Overall, the Ambulance Service continues to improve. Current priorities are staffing stability, clinical quality and documentation, the controlled-substance transition, policy review, and resolution of the identified station safety concern.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Williams
Chief of Operations
Town of Shandaken Ambulance

RESOLUTION #122-26

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	\$ 309,395.74
Highway	504,001.58
Phoenicia Water	8,100.34
Pine Hill Water	3,975.19
Phoenicia Lights	776.86
Chichester Lights	108.64
Pine Hill Lights	452.28
Pine Hill Sign	35.45
State Aid Grant/Funds	137,684.66
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	\$ 965,520.74

AND MOVES ITS ADOPTION

Seconded by: KNEISSL

ROLL CALL – 5 AYES

SETTING PUBLIC HEARING ON 2027 PRELIMINARY TOWN 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

WHEREAS the preliminary budget will be posted 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 2027 Tentative Budget and hold a Public Hearing thereon, at the Shandaken Town Hall on **Wednesday November 4, 2024 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.

AND MOVES ITS ADOPTION

Seconded by: MANSFIELD

ROLL CALL – 5 AYES

TABLED Motion to Table Drake/Mansfield. Carried

RESOLUTION - #124-26

SETTING MEETING TO ADOPT TOWN OF SHANDAKEN LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2026 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 Page 7 of 9

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Shandaken Town Board will hold a Special Meeting and a Public Hearing on **Wednesday November 4, 2024 at 6:15 PM preceding the Regular Monthly Meeting**, 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

RESOLUTION - #125-26

SUPPORTING WASTEWATER TREATMENT IN PHOENICIA

WHEREAS the New York City Watershed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Paragraph 122 (b) indicated that “New Infrastructure Funds may be used to construct new WWTPs (Wastewater Treatment Plant) or community septics, including related sewerage collection systems, or to create and fund septic districts, in the following Identified Communities; and

WHEREAS the Hamlet of Phoenicia is listed as the 6th highest priority district among the Identified Communities and is currently the only location from that list that does not have a wastewater treatment plant or associated septic district; and

WHEREAS the programs outlined in this MOA are critical to both New York City’s Filtration Avoidance Declaration and the protection of water quality throughout the region; and

WHEREAS the implementation of a wastewater treatment solution for the Hamlet of Phoenicia remains critical to the health and economic wellbeing of the hamlet, the town, and the broader region, AND

WHEREAS both Shandaken’s current and upcoming comprehensive plans include support for Phoenicia septic including language requesting the town, “Restart discussions with the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) and New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) about funding a wastewater treatment plant in the hamlet of Phoenicia, given changes in community sentiments and needs.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Town of Shandaken requests that New York City’s Filtration Avoidance Declaration and any future Memorandums of Understanding pertaining to the NYC Watershed include this ongoing support for a WWTP serving the hamlet of Phoenicia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Town of Shandaken shall work with all partner agencies to seek implementation of a WWTP; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Shandaken Town Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the following individuals and entities:

- Lisa Garcia - Commissioner, Department of Environmental Preservation
- James McDonald, Commissioner, New York State Department of Health
- Patrick Palmer, Chief, NYC Watershed, New York State Department of Health
- Amanda Lefton, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation
- Michael Martucci, Regional Administrator, EPA Region 2
- Katie Lynch, Water Division, EPA Region 2
- Tina Molé, President, Catskill Watershed Corporation
- Ric Coombe, Chair of the Executive Committee, Coalition of Watershed Towns

AND MOVES ITS ADOPTION

Seconded by: STEEN
ROLL CALL – 5 AYES

RESOLUTION - #126-26 **OFFERED BY: STEEN**
FOR PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT HIGHWAY VEHICLE

WHEREAS the Town of Shandaken Highway Superintendent has identified a vehicle for replacement; and

WHEREAS the Town Highway Superintendent has identified this vehicle available through the OGS Contract, #PC9491SB, Award # 23166, Vendor # 1100229794.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Shandaken Town Board does hereby authorize the Town Supervisor to approve the purchase of ONE (1) 2026 RAM 5500 Regular Cab & Chassis 4X4. Stainless Dump body & Plow Cost not to exceed \$105,000.00

AND MOVES ITS ADOPTION
Seconded by: VANBLARCUM
ROLL CALL 5 AYES

RESOLUTION - #127-26 **OFFERED BY: VANBLARCUM**
FOR PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT HIGHWAY VEHICLE

WHEREAS the Town of Shandaken Highway Superintendent has identified a vehicle for replacement; and

WHEREAS the Town Highway Superintendent has identified this vehicle available through the OGS Contract, #PC9491SB, Vendor # 1100229794

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Shandaken Town Board does hereby authorize the Town Supervisor to approve the purchase of ONE (1) 2026 RAM 2500 Tradesman Crew Cab 4x4 V8 HEMI with Plow for the Cost not to exceed \$65,000.00.

AND MOVES ITS ADOPTION
Seconded by: KNEISSL
ROLL CALL 5 AYES

RESOLUTION - #128-26 **OFFERED BY: KNEISSL**
AUTHORIZING RETENTION OF SLR CONSULTING FOR INDEPENDENT THIRD-PART TECHNICAL REVIEW OF THE WELLINGTON REDEVELOPMENT, 310 MAIN STREET, PINE HILL

WHEREAS Wellington Blueberry LLC, in partnership with RUPCO, has applied to the Town of Shandaken Planning Board for Special Use Permit and Site Plan approval for the redevelopment of The Wellington, 310 Main Street, Pine Hill, New York (Tax Map No. 4.46-1-32.110) (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS the Planning Board has been reviewing the Project and the Town’s Floodplain Administrator is on the Planning Board; and

WHEREAS SLR International Corporation ("SLR", “SLR Consulting”) is currently contracted by the Town of Shandaken for flood mitigation projects; and

WHEREAS the Town Board has determined that SLR has no conflict of interest with respect to the Project, including through any prior or current work for the Applicant, RUPCO, or the Project, and that its existing Town engagements do not impair its independence; and

WHEREAS pursuant to New York Consolidated Laws, lien Law - LIE § 71-a the Applicant's escrow agreement, the reasonable costs of consultant review, not to exceed \$20,000, are to be borne by the Applicant.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the retention of SLR to provide independent third-party review of the Project's application materials, including engineering, sewer and water capacity, stormwater, flood risk, traffic, and SEQRA documents, and to report its findings to the Town of Shandaken Code Enforcement and Zoning Enforcement Officers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supervisor is authorized to execute an agreement with SLR consistent with the Proposal, subject to approval by the Town Attorney as to form, effectively October 1, 2026; and

AND MOVES ITS ADOPTION

Seconded by: MANSFIELD

ROLL CALL – 5 AYES

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christina Varga spoke regarding the 2026 Phoenicia Festival of the Arts and the controversy surrounding the Festival’s “Wise Women” panel. Varga stated that Councilmember Elizabeth Kniessl had contacted Festival partners and funders expressing concern that the Festival was offering an anti-trans panel, which Varga said was untrue. She described the panel as women in their 70s and 80s discussing creativity, aging, healing herbs and menopause. Varga further stated that Supervisor Barbara Mansfield had contacted community members regarding panelist Susun Weed, suggested an alternate herbalist and encouraged others to contact the Christina Varga. Christina Varga said she believed Festival organizers should determine their own programming and panelists and that differing viewpoints should be addressed through conversation.

Varga briefly reviewed the success of the Festival and inaugural Phoenicia Film Festival, thanked participating artists, volunteers, businesses and community partners, and said plans for 2027 include a steering committee and a trans elders panel intended to encourage respectful intergenerational dialogue.

Dave Pillard addressed Supervisor Mansfield regarding her September 15 written response concerning the Festival controversy. Pillard questioned what he viewed as a double standard between the Supervisor's position regarding freedom of speech and the objections raised concerning Susan Weed. He characterized the situation as an overreach and stated his opinion that Mansfield's response had been written to provide cover for Councilmember Kniessl. He concluded by acknowledging the positive contributions both Mansfield and Kniessl have made to Shandaken.

Vicki Starr stated that she was one of the individuals who wrote to the Mid-Hudson Arts Council concerning Susan Weed's participation in the Festival and specifically stated that no one pressured her to write the letter. Starr said she had personally contacted Varga to discuss her concerns and acknowledged Varga's work bringing arts programming to Phoenicia.

Starr explained that she is the parent of a transgender child and worries daily about her daughter’s physical safety. She said her objection was not based simply upon disagreement with Weed's opinions or an effort to restrict free speech, but upon concerns

for the safety of transgender people. Starr alleged that Weed had prior harassment convictions, had physically attacked people and was openly anti-trans. Starr said she had asked Varga to consider whether transgender residents might therefore experience genuine fear about Weed's participation rather than merely disagreeing with her views.

Starr said Varga responded that open debate could be healthy for the community and that she would moderate the panel. Starr said this did not adequately address her concern, which she viewed as one involving safety. Starr clarified that she was not alleging that Weed intended to come to the Festival and physically attack transgender people, but objected to providing a platform to someone whom she described as having previously been convicted in connection with physical attacks on others. She expressed concern that discussion surrounding transgender people could escalate and contribute to hostility already present within portions of the community.

Starr concluded that these concerns were why she wrote the letter, asked that her concern for her family, friends and transgender members of the community be respected, and emphasized that her purpose was not to silence anyone's personal opinions. Her comments provided additional explanation of the concerns regarding Susun Weed and her sense from Christina's response led her to believe she hadn't acknowledged safety concerns.

Councilmember Kevin VanBlarcum thanked the speakers and acknowledged the sensitivity of the issue. He encouraged face-to-face communication rather than exchanges through social media, but advised that the discussion was moving away from matters of Town Board business. He reminded speakers that public comment is directed to the Board and offered to continue conversations with individuals after the meeting.

Sandy Pope commented on the negative tone of some community discussions on social media and expressed concern about anti-trans rhetoric in the community. She supported Varga's proposal for a steering committee for future festivals and suggested that the community consider more constructive ways of addressing disagreements.

Further comments were made regarding social media and the value of face-to-face communication. When a resident later asked how the Festival controversy had begun, the Board again indicated that the matter was not Town business, noted that the subject had been discussed at the previous meeting, and offered to discuss it further after the meeting. The Board then directed public comment back to matters involving Town business.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 on a Mansfield/Steen Motion. Carried. All in favor