

Town of Denning – Town Board Meeting
Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Brooks.
Held on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at the Denning Town Hall.

Present: Supervisor Brooks

Councilmen: Gregory Vurckio, Kevin Smith, Mike Dean, and Scott Mickelson.

Highway Superintendent Leonard Johnson.

Public Present: Brenden Wagner of the Rondout-Neversink Stream Program (RNSP), and Barbara and Paul Hnatiw

The Town Clerk Minute Book was signed prior to the meeting commencement.

The Town Clerk gave the Board members their copy of the Agenda and Resolution Nos. 44 and 45 of 2025, Budget vs. Actual January through June 2025, and most recent NYAOT Talk of the Towns May/June periodical.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Brooks thanks Brenden Wagner for appearing before the Board regarding the RNSP's project at Riley Brook. Mr. Wagner presents the latest plan set for the Board Member's review. He also confirms that after the 14-night survey there is no evidence of bats so the project can go forward. Discussion follows regarding the possibility of the Town doing the culvert installation and being reimbursed for time and materials. The remainder of the project would then go out to bid in the Fall and commence in June of 2026. The Town Board agrees that the RNSP will purchase the culvert and the rock and the Town will do the install. Discussion follows.

Mr. Wagner also discusses future RNSP projects with the Board.

Councilman Mike Dean requests information from Mr. Wagner regarding why there are plantings done by the RNSP where Dinch Road meets Denning Road blocking it off. Mr. Wagner explained that attorney for DEP stated that it was an abandoned road. Councilman Dean feels that it is not an abandoned or qualified abandoned road and will research the matter. Mr. Wagner states that he will look into it on his end as well. Discussion follows.

Supervisor Brooks asks Mr. Wagner about certain areas in Denning including State land and the campgrounds where fallen trees are blocking the creek path. It is a potential hazard during a flood event and will cause serious damage. Discussion follows.

The Board thanks Mr. Wagner for appearing this evening.

Supervisor Brooks inquires if all Councilmen have read the June 2025 Minutes and asks if there are any amendments. All respond that the Minutes have been read and that there are no amendments.

Motion to adopt last months' minutes by Councilman Gregory Vurckio, seconded by Councilman Scott Mickelson. All in favor.

Councilman Mike Dean	AYE	Councilman Kevin Smith	AYE
Councilman Gregory Vurckio	AYE	Councilman Scott Mickelson	AYE
Supervisor David Brooks	AYE		

Motion carried following a unanimous roll call vote.

Correspondence – by Supervisor David Brooks.

- Email received from Mike Gaffney, Deputy Director / Fire Coordinator Ulster County Department of Emergency Services, stating that the Whitehouse Fire report was too large to email so it is in the mail to Supervisor Brooks today.
- Email received from March Gallagher, Ulster County Comptroller, with the invitation to her Town Hall on July 29, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the Claryville Fire Hall, Claryville, NY regarding federal funding matters. Discussion follows.
- Received June donation check to the Town from the Frost Valley YMCA in the amount of \$8,300.00. Supervisor Brooks and the Town Board express their gratitude to CEO Riel Pierbooms and the Frost Valley Board of Trustees for their ongoing support.

Continued... Correspondence – by Supervisor David Brooks.

- Received check from Ulster County in the amount of \$5,563.71 for Mortgage tax collected 10-1-24 to -31-25.
- Received check from Ulster County as payment to the Town Supervisor in Final Settlement of the 2025 Tax Warrant in the amount of \$591,680.44.
- Received confirmation that Pestmaster will conduct a week of Nuisance Wildlife Trapping starting 7/14/25 due to groundhog infestation at Town Hall.
- Email received from Howard Kreft, NYS DEC Forest Ranger, announcing that after 12 years he is resigning and has accepted a new position in New York City with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.
- Email received from NYS DEC announcing the completion of major upgrades at the Peekamoose/Blue Hole Parking Area and Trail with a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, July 9th, 2025 at 11:00 am. The Highway Superintendent notes that parking areas are now blocked off with rocks at the Falls and other areas along Peekamoose Road.
- Email received from NYMIR regarding upcoming Workplace Violence and Harassment and Discrimination Annual Training Webinars. Highway Superintendent Johnson confirms that the Highway employees have completed the required training for 2025. The Town Clerk will schedule the required training for the Town Board members.
- Email received regarding Authorization for the County of Ulster's Sales Tax Agreement with the City of Kingston regarding increased allocation of Sales Tax distribution to the Towns. No specific information regarding Denning's share is available at this time.
- Thank-you letter received from the Daniel Pierce Library for sponsoring the 39th Annual Pumpkin Party.
- Press Release received regarding March Gallagher's statement on the Enacted Federal Budget.
-

Highway Report: by Highway Superintendent Leonard Johnson.

- Continued work on dirt roads and ditching. Discussion follows.
- Continued work on roadside mowing and brush removal.
- Viking is scheduled to be on site to repair all issues with the new truck next week.
- Robert Green confirming that the other new truck delivery date has been pushed back to the end of August. Discussion follows.
- Supervisor Brooks requests update on auction of other trucks. Highway Superintendent Johnson states that he will update auction information. Discussion follows. All Board Members agree to go to auction for the International, 550 and old pickup.
- Confirmed that check was hand-delivered to Robert Green for payment of new truck received.
- Cab Protector/Back Rack received for new truck for installation. Supervisor Brooks states that it needs lights.
- Supervisor Brooks requests Superintendent Johnson look at the Peekamoose Lake Dam and check for any ongoing issues.
-

Planning Board Report - by Liaison Councilman Kevin Smith.

- Councilman Smith reports that Planning Board had no new business at the June meeting.
- The Planning Board is reviewing zoning rules and regulations for ongoing training.
- The next Planning Board meeting is Thursday July 17, 2025. Supervisor Brooks states that Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Karl Von Hassel plans to attend an upcoming meeting to confer with the Planning Board.

Highway Pre-Pay Vouchers presented by Hwy. Super. Johnson.
(See Warrant #7 Pre-Pay, Voucher Nos. 20 - 23)

Health Care Reimbursement Account	7PP-20	DA90608 · Health Ins.	-5,000.00
MVP Health Care, Inc.	7PP-21	DA90608 · Health Ins.	-12,701.87
Robert Green Auto & Truck Inc.	7PP-22	DA51302 · Machinery Equipment	-78,900.27
Trust & Agency Account - FICA	7PP-23	DA90308 · Social Security/Medicare	-706.66
		Grand Total	-97,308.80

Highway Vouchers presented by Hwy. Super. Johnson.
(See Warrant #7, Vouchers Nos. 72 - 78)

Advance Auto Parts	72	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-270.99
H.O. Penn Machinery Company Inc.	73	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-1,738.58
Liberty Home & Garden	74	DA51104 · Maint Of Streets - Contr	-139.95
Liberty Trading Post	75	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-159.92
North East Parts Group	76	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-91.00
Tractor Supply Credit Plan	77	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-164.98
United Ag & Turf	78	DA51404 · Brush and Weeds Contra	-562.29
		Grand Total	-3,127.71

General Pre-Pay Vouchers presented by Supervisor Brooks.
(See Warrant #7 Pre-Pay, Vouchers Nos. 45 - 55)

Central Hudson 1	7PP-45	A8160.4 · Refuse & Garbage-Contractual	-52.42
Central Hudson 2	7PP-46	A5132.4 · Highway Garage-Contractual	-422.18
	7PP-47	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-311.72
		Central Hudson 2 Total:	-733.90
Charter Communications	7PP-48	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-235.15
Daniel Pierce Library	7PP-49	A1010.4 · Town Board-Contractual	-45.00
United States Treasury	7PP-50	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-43.65
Elan Financial Services	7PP-51	A1670.4 · Central Data Processing Contrac	-39.00
HealthCare Reimburse Account	7PP-52	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-5,000.00
MVP Health Care Inc.	7PP-53	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-11,776.21
TRUST & AGENCY ACCT - FICA	7PP-54	A9030.8 · Social Security	-341.23
TRUST & AGENCY ACCT - FICA	7PP-55	A9030.8 · Social Security	-703.84
		Grand Total	(18,970.40)

General Vouchers, presented by Supervisor Brooks.
(See Warrant #7, Voucher Nos. 86 - 94)

C.R. Yaun Plumbing, Inc.	86	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-924.03
Jonathan Follender, Reim.	87	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-1,076.95
Grahamsville First Aid Squad	88	A4540.4 · Emergency Services-Contractual	-2,405.75
MVP Select Care Inc.	89	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-35.00
Cindy Mickelson, Reim.	90	A1220.4 · Town Supervisor-Contractual	-234.99
NYS Town Clerks Association	91	A1410.4 · Town Clerk-Contractual	-85.00
UCRRA	92	A8160.4 · Refuse & Garbage-Contractual	-3,215.77
Jane Witthohn	93	A3510.4 · Dog Control-Contractual	-50.00
YE OLDE TV TOWNSMAN	94	A1355.4 · Tax Assessor-Contractual	-111.00
		Grand Total	-8,138.49

Capital Vouchers, presented by Supervisor Brooks.
(See Warrant #7, Voucher Nos. None)

Supervisor Brooks inquires if the Councilman are satisfied with the audit of the Vouchers. The Councilmen respond in the affirmative.

Resolution No. 44 of 2025

WHEREAS New York State General Municipal Law Sections 103 and 104-4 permit the pre-audit function of vouchers, as a form of internal controls in the checking of claims and supporting documentation, And

WHEREAS the Sections 118 and 119 of New York State Municipal Law also authorize the auditing authority to approve of Said vouchers, And

WHEREAS the Office of the New York State Comptroller Division of Local Governments and Accountability: Budgets and Finances also approves of this method.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Denning Town Board **HEREBY** approves of and authorizes payment of the following Warrants:

Highway Fund Pre-Pay Warrant No. 7 Voucher Nos. 20 - 23.

Highway Fund Warrant No. 7 Voucher Nos. 72 - 78.

General Fund Pre-Pay Warrant No. 7 Voucher Nos. 45 – 55.

General Fund Warrant No. 7 Voucher Nos. 86 – 94.

Capital Fund Sewage Disposal Warrant No. 7 - None.

WHEREUPON the Resolution was put to a vote, and recorded as follows: Motion to adopt and approve by Councilman Gregory Vurckio, 2nd by Councilman Kevin Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Mike Dean AYE

Councilman Scott Mickelson AYE

Councilman Kevin Smith AYE

Councilman Gregory Vurckio AYE

Supervisor David Brooks AYE

Motion carried following a unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution No. 45 of 2025

WHEREAS, the Town of Denning has been notified that the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding from the NYSDoT for the fiscal year 2025 will be in the amount of \$229,082.73 and the PAVENY Apportionment will be \$43,941.88; and the EWR, (Extreme Winter Recovery) apportionment will be \$37,360.54; together with POP (Patch Our Potholes) apportionment will be \$29,294.59 making the total funding amount \$339,679.74 for the year 2025. And as

The 2025 Budget has appropriated \$250,000.00, an additional \$89,679.74 needs to be appropriated to the 2025 Budget.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Denning Town Board **HEREBY** authorizes the Supervisor to increase State Aid (CHIPS) DA3501 and Appropriation Improvement of Roads, (CHIPS) DA5112.2 in the amount of \$89,679.74.

WHEREUPON the Resolution was put to a vote, and recorded as follows: Motion to adopt and approve by Councilman Mike Dean, 2nd by Councilman Scott Mickelson.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Mike Dean AYE

Councilman Scott Mickelson AYE

Councilman Kevin Smith AYE

Councilman Gregory Vurckio AYE

Supervisor David Brooks AYE

Motion carried following a unanimous roll call vote.

Supervisor Comments:

- Advises the Board he had a phone conference with SLR and CWC regarding the Sundown Stream Project. They will come up with an amount for the armoring of Peekamoose Road and if agreeable the Town will pass a Resolution. Discussion follows.
- Advises anyone in need of a septic in the watershed and is contacting the CWC to get it done as quickly as possible due to possible upcoming changes and limitations in budgeting.
- Advises the Blue Hole/Peekamoose parking lot opening ceremony is tomorrow. Discussion continues regarding speed limits and enforcement in Town. Also discuss the Frost Valley Road speed limit issue.
- **Supervisor Comments:**

Continued...Supervisor Comments:

- Advises the Board that NYS DEC now has cameras at the dumpster sites at the campgrounds and Blue Hole.
- Discussion regarding Whitehouse Fire Report.
- Advises the Board that the proposed cell tower on Brooks Hill Road in Sundown is dead. The only viable one at this point is at Sagandorff's to aid with emergency communications. Discussion follows.

Councilmen Comments:

- Councilman Gregory Vurckio reports he was not at the most recent CWT meeting and has not received the minutes as of today.
- Councilman Scott Mickelson reports that there will be Court on July 16th and there are a few matters on the docket.
- Councilman Mike Dean asks Supervisor Brooks about an offer on the property and dwelling for sale next to the Highway facility. Supervisor Brooks responds that he offered \$60,000.00 and the realtor did not entertain the offer as they are asking \$99,000.00. Discussion follows. Councilman Dean also notes that there is a locked gate at the Scofield property off of Denning Road and that DEP has to have access. The matter will be researched. Discussion follows.
- Councilman Kevin Smith has no further comments.

Public Comments:

- Paul and Barbara Hnatiw report that an additional pick-up truck (Ford) has been on the VanWagner property for a few months and it needs to be off the road. Mr. Hnatiw provided the Board with photos. Review and discussion follow. Supervisor Brooks agrees that from the photos the Ford is definitely in the right of way and will take action with Mr. VanWagner.
- Supervisor Brooks asks the Hnatiws about the pig situation at the neighbors that was noted at last month's meeting. It is reported that the pigs are gone as they escaped and ruined a neighbor's yard. They are not aware of all the circumstances, but the pigs are no longer there. The Hnatiws report that there are chickens everywhere, and in the road, as are the owners children. There is also manure on the road. It is reported that there are free-roaming animals - 2 dogs, and numerous chickens and guinea hens. There is no visible chicken coop. The Hnatiws report that the chickens are butchered and sold by the owners. Discussion follows. Supervisor Brooks will do a site visit.

Supervisor Brooks asks if there are any further Councilmen comments. There are none.
Supervisor Brooks asks if there are any further Public comments. There are none.

Motion to adjourn the Town Board meeting at 7:45 pm made by Councilman Gregory Vurckio and seconded by Councilman Mike Dean. All in Favor. Motion Carried. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Parrow, Town Clerk, July 14, 2025.

The next Town Board Meeting and Town Business Meeting to be held at the Denning Town Hall on Tuesday, August 12th, 2025 scheduled to begin at 6pm.