

**Town of Denning – Town Board Meeting**  
**Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Supervisor Brooks.**  
**Held on Tuesday, August 12, 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: Doug Hamilton- Red Hill Fire Tower Caretaker, 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. 46, 47 and 48 of 2025. Supervisor's Bookkeeper, Cindy Mickelson, advised that the current Budget v. Actual was not available as of this date.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Supervisor Brooks thanks Doug Hamilton for appearing before the Board regarding trash and other issues at the Red Hill Fire Tower and trailheads. Mr. Hamilton advised the Board that there have been two recent incidents where buses from summer camps have visited the site and left trash and an incident of trespassing on neighboring residents' property near the Denning Road trailhead parking lot. There are stewards assigned to the site from the Catskill Center, however they are not present all the time and the issues of course happen when they are not there. Discussion follows. Supervisor Brooks suggests putting the word out with Denning residents near the parking area to alert law enforcement regarding problems at the trailhead parking lots. Mr. Hamilton reports that the maximum number of a group visiting the site is 20 and maximum number for a group in a wilderness area is 12. He advises that when these groups show up they are oversized and should be ticketed. Ranger coverage is very sparse in the area and also covering Peekamoose/Blue Hole which is experiencing the same problems. It is reported that parking at the two trailhead parking areas for the Red Hill Fire Tower is pretty even. Councilman Mike Dean reports that on weekends the Denning Road parking area is usually full and cars are also parked on the road where they should not be and tickets should be issued for that as well.

Discussion follows regarding overuse and not enough Rangers in the area. NYS DEC replaced the damaged lean-to in the area about 4 or 5 years ago. There are port-a-potties at the Denning Road trailhead parking area but not on the Dinch Road side. There are no bear-proof containers at either parking area. There have been no aggressive bear reports at the Fire Tower.

Mr. Hamilton also reports that the Fire Tower lighting will take place on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Supervisor and Town Board thank Mr. Hamilton for appearing at the meeting and for his report and information.

Supervisor Brooks inquires if all Councilmen have read the July 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 Kevin Smith. 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.**

- Flyer received from the Cornell Local Roads Program regarding a caution notice for "Mobile Meth Labs" – large plastic water bottles containing hazardous materials for Meth production being left on our roadways. Highway crews are advised to use caution.
- Email received from the NYS Unified Court System regarding the 2025-2026 JCAP Grant application.

- Letter received from MVP regarding 17% increase for health insurance coverage for 2026 if approved. Supervisor Brooks advises that it will probably be closer to 15%.
- Email from Karl Von Hassel regarding his work on the STR list for Denning and he is working on suggested updates for the Zoning Law during the Moratorium.
- Email from Jenny Lee regarding Broadband updates and the Shandaken update to their zoning to raise the height for proposed cell towers in that town for Denning's review. Discussion follows. Ongoing push for underserved areas in Ulster County.
- Registration information for NYAOT Planning and Zoning School in Kingston, NY on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Planning Board Chair Joe Sibiga and Zoning Board Chair Joy Monforte have expressed interest to attend. Discussion follows.
- Correspondence received from NYSAOT regarding 2026 dues which remain the same from 2025. Also reported by NYSAOT that CHIPS funding was slightly increased for the past year.
- Email received from Ulster County regarding tax sale information update. There was no UC tax sale for 2025 and NYS has updated the law regarding proceeds from tax sales. Discussion follows.
- The Whitehouse/Sundown Fire Report was finally received from Ulster County. The cause is reported as a portable solar array atop a camper which was wired to a lithium battery on the ground. The Camper and 2 other structures were destroyed and 600+ acres damaged in the fire. Reported as a thermal runaway event from the lithium battery and ruled accidental.

#### **Highway Report: by Highway Superintendent Leonard Johnson.**

- The 2019 Backhoe has one more year of warranty and Superintendent Johnson requests that the Board consider extending the warranty in September of 2026. Discussion follows.
- Shopwork on vehicles going out for Auction.
- Results of the vehicle auction:
  - International - \$10,100.00
  - 350 Ford - \$ 5,700.00
  - 550 - \$18,400.00
  - Axehead - \$ 2,750.00
  - **TOTAL - \$36,950.00**
- Mowed Claryville roads for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time this season.
- Ditched Denning, Red Hill, and Red Hill Knolls Roads.
- Worked on 2018 F350 in-house, springs, ball joints and brakes.
- Took 2024 International to have warranty work done.
- Finished grading Black Bear, Barnes and Denning Roads.
- Spoke with Robert Green about new truck and body not being delivered to dealership as planned. The dealership promised delivery to Town by mid-September.
- Presented 284 Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys to Board for review and signatures. 6.4 miles of town roads repairs reviewed, discussed and paperwork signed. Superintendent Johnson to submit completed paperwork.
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#### **Planning Board Report - by Liaison Councilman Kevin Smith.**

- Councilman Smith reports that Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Karl Von Hassel attended the July Planning Board meeting to review protocol and procedures regarding STR applications and approvals with discussion regarding the Moratorium
- The Greenville Road-Cabrerra matter has not progressed. No further paperwork submitted for review.
- The Planning Board continues reviewing zoning rules and regulations for ongoing training.

Highway Pre-Pay Vouchers presented by Hwy. Super. Johnson.  
(See Warrant #8 Pre-Pay, Voucher Nos. 24 - 27)

MVP Health Care, Inc.	8PP-24	DA90608 · Health Ins.	-12,701.87
Trust & Agency Account - FICA	8PP-25	DA90308 · Social Security/Medicare	-770.90
Trust & Agency Account - FICA	8PP-26	DA90308 · Social Security/Medicare	-715.83
Trust & Agency Account - FICA	8PP-27	DA90308 · Social Security/Medicare	-729.23
		Grand Total	-14,917.83

Highway Vouchers presented by Hwy. Super. Johnson.  
(See Warrant #8, Vouchers Nos. 79 - 94)

A. Montano Co., Inc.	79	DA51104 · Maint Of Streets - Contr	-3,230.00
Advance Auto Parts	80	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-698.30
Bottini Fuel Corporation	81	DA51104 · Maint Of Streets - Contr	-2,073.20
	82	DA51104 · Maint Of Streets - Contr	-2,845.30
		Total Bottini:	-4,918.50
Finch Turf, Inc.	83	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-265.00
FleetPride	84	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-105.98
Hoffman Equipment	85	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-159.70
Kenco Work & Play Outfitter	86	DA51104 · Maint Of Streets - Contr	-442.00
Lacal Equipment	87	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-448.32
Liberty Trading Post	88	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-6.78
McDonald & McDonad Inc.	89	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-917.16
Mullally Tractor Sales	90	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-152.27
Mombaccus Excavating, Inc.	91	DA51104 · Maint Of Streets - Contr	-1,542.60
North East Parts Group	92	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-489.13
Romeo Ford	93	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-403.56
Tractor Supply Credit Plan	94	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-17.98
		Grand Total:	(13,797.28)

General Pre-Pay Vouchers presented by Supervisor Brooks.  
(See Warrant #8 Pre-Pay, Vouchers Nos. 56 - 64)

Central Hudson-1	8PP-56	A5182.4 · Street Lighting - Contractual	-169.44
Central Hudson-2	8PP-57	A8160.4 · Refuse & Garbage-Contractual	-43.90
Central Hudson-3	8PP-58	A5132.4 · Highway Garage-Contractual	-417.48
		A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-214.70
		Central Hudson -3 Total:	-632.18
Charter Communications-1	8PP-59	A5132.4 · Highway Garage-Contractual	-133.97
Charter Communications-2	8PP-60	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-235.15
MVP Health Care Inc.	8PP-61	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-11,776.21
TRUST & AGENCY ACCOUNT - FICA	8PP-62	A9030.8 · Social Security	-284.91
TRUST & AGENCY ACCOUNT - FICA	8PP-63	A9030.8 · Social Security	-763.47
TRUST & AGENCY ACCOUNT - FICA	8PP-64	A9030.8 · Social Security	-284.91
		Grand Total:	(14,324.14)

General Vouchers, presented by Supervisor Brooks.  
(See Warrant #8, Voucher Nos. 95 - 104)

Alleymor Inc. DBA Pestmaster Services	95	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-900.00
Central Hudson	96	A5182.4 · Street Lighting - Contractual	-167.69
ES11, LLC	97	A1670.4 · Central Data Processing Contrac	-205.00
Jonathan Follender, Reim.	98	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-1,076.95
MVP Select Care Inc.	99	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-35.00
Mike Preis, Inc.	100	A1910.4 · Unallocated Insurance	-869.00

Town of Neversink	101	A3510.4 · Dog Control-Contractual	-610.00
QUILL CORP	102	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-11.91
	102	A1410.4 · Town Clerk-Contractual	-23.44
	103	A1410.4 · Town Clerk-Contractual	-64.59
		Total Quill:	-99.94
UCRRA	104	A8160.4 · Refuse & Garbage-Contractual	-3,646.03
		Grand Total:	(7,609.61)

Capital Vouchers, presented by Supervisor Brooks.  
(See Warrant #8, Voucher No. 1)

Wind River Environmental	1	A8130.2 · Sew Treat & Disp/Capital Outlay	-7,426.00
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Supervisor Brooks inquires if the Councilman are satisfied with the audit of the Vouchers.  
The Councilmen respond in the affirmative.

**Resolution No. 46 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. 8 Voucher Nos. 20 - 23.
- Highway Fund Warrant No. 8 Voucher Nos. 72 - 78.
- General Fund Pre-Pay Warrant No. 8 Voucher Nos. 45 – 55.
- General Fund Warrant No. 8 Voucher Nos. 86 – 94.
- Capital Fund Sewage Disposal Warrant No. 8. Voucher No. 1

**WHEREUPON** the Resolution was put to a vote, and recorded as follows: Motion to adopt and approve by Councilman Mike Dean, 2nd by Councilman Gregory Vurckio.  
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. 47 of 2025**

**WHEREAS** New York State Town Law §64-3 permits local governments to adopt laws concerning the property, affairs or government of the Town, and General Municipal Law 3c allows an override to the tax levy limit. And

**WHEREAS** the Tax Override Law is a budgetary tool authorized and mandated for use by New York State, And

**WHEREAS** the Town of Denning Town Board intends to keep its financial obligations.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Denning Town Board **HEREBY** approves Resolution No. 47 of 2025 formally introducing Proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2025, Titled: Tax Levy Limit Override.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a Public Hearing be held on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 prior to the start of the regularly scheduled Town Board / Business Meeting at the Denning Town Hall to commence at 6 pm.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that if SAID Tax Cap Override is not needed then Local Law

No. 2 of 2025 will be **RESCINDED**, by resolution as required by New York State law.

**WHEREUPON** the Resolution was put to a vote, and recorded as follows: Motion to adopt and approve by Councilman Scott Mickelson, 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. 48 of 2025**

**WHEREAS** the Town of Denning Justice Court is soliciting the Denning Town Board for support and authorization in the application of a Grant from the New York State Justice Court Assistance Program, and

**WHEREAS** the Town of Denning has complied with the governor's Tax Cap Law, thereby limiting spending.

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it **RESOLVED** that the Board of the Town of Denning authorizes the Denning Town Court to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2025-26 grant cycle up to \$30,000.00.

**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.

#### **Supervisor Comments:**

- Advises the Board he had a phone conference with Senator Oberacker's Office regarding pre-covid grant monies for the Town are still available and Denning could possibly get increased funding due to cost increases for a possible pole building shelter and equipment. Superintendent Johnson to get prices for a loader and a roller. Discussion follows.
- Advises he met with the CWC yesterday regarding armoring Peekamoose Road. Discussion follows. Additional review of contract with SLR engineering and sign off at September Town Board meeting.
- Supervisor Brooks asks if anyone noted the speed sled that was supposed to be on the Frost Valley road last month as a deterrent. Discussion follows.

#### **Councilmen Comments:**

- Councilman Gregory Vurckio reports that he stopped and spoke to the stewards at the new Blue Hole/Peekamoose parking area recently and was advised that it is usually only half full. Problems persist with visitors parking illegally closer to Blue Hole, pedestrians still walking on the road and not enough rangers. Discussion continues.
- Councilman Vurckio also reports that he was not at the June CWT meeting and the July meeting was cancelled. He reviewed the minutes from the June meeting and summarizes as follows:
  - LAP/SAP negotiations were abruptly suspended according to Jeff Baker. Even though negotiations were going well the past year between NYC and all other parties about the fee acquisitions and licensing agreements.
  - In February Delaware County issued a resolution stating that they were against the fees but supported the license agreements. Talks continued in May but Riverkeeper issued a memo criticizing Delaware County's position on fees.
- On June 13<sup>th</sup> NYC called a meeting to discuss the disagreement between Riverkeeper and Delaware County but said there were significant

differences between the two parties and suspended all further discussions. Board members were asked their opinion and a few towns said that a riparian buffer was not needed.

- Conservation easements going well but towns that want to do a land swap were supported by DEP. Land swaps with DEC conservation easements were the hold up. DEC is holding up projects with long reviews.
- Councilman Vurckio reports that they are still working on wetlands mapping. Supervisor Brooks asks about streamside acquisition and land swap. Discussion follows.
- Councilman Scott Mickelson reports that there will be Court tomorrow, August 13<sup>th</sup> and there are 3 matters on the current docket – 2 speeding tickets and 1 sexual harassment matter.
- Councilman Mike Dean has no further comments.
- Councilman Kevin Smith has no further comments.

#### **Public Comments:**

- Paul and Barbara Hnatiw are present to update the Board regarding Peekamoose / Blue Hole issues observed from their store on Peekamoose Road. Discussion follows.
- The Hnatiws are also following up regarding abandoned vehicles stored on the VanWagner property. Additional vehicles have been noted. Discussion follows.
- Supervisor Brooks advises the Hnatiws and the Board that he did a site visit at the residence on Whitehouse Road discussed at previous Board meeting regarding chickens, pigs, trash issues, etc. He advised the homeowners that pigs are not allowed in the Zoning Law and he was told that they were gone. He also advised that the chickens need to be kept at least 100 feet off the road and was assured that a coop was being erected behind the house away from the road.
- Mr. Hnatiw also advises that there is a lot of large bear activity in Sundown. Discussion follows.
- Mr. Hnatiw requests additional information regarding the STR Moratorium, zoning acreage requirements for building, junk cars and forest fires. Discussion follows.

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 8:02 pm made by Councilman Gregory Vurckio and seconded by Councilman Scott Mickelson. All in Favor. Motion Carried. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Parrow, Town Clerk, August 13, 2025.

A Public Hearing for Tax Cap Override Local Law #2 of 2025 at 6 pm on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the Denning Town Hall @ 1567 Denning Road, Claryville, NY will be followed by the regularly scheduled Town Board & Business Meeting.