

TOWN OF DENNING TOWN BOARD BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Held on Tuesday, August 11th, 2026 at the Denning Town Hall.

Present: Supervisor David Brooks, Councilman Gregory Vurckio, Councilman Mike Dean, Councilman Kevin Smith, Councilman Scott Mickelson and Highway Superintendent Leonard Johnson.

No Public Present

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm by Supervisor David Brooks. The only order of Business at this meeting is the Audit of Highway and General Vouchers for the month of August 2026.

August 2026 Highway Vouchers presented to the Board by Highway Superintendent Leonard Johnson.

August 2026 General Vouchers presented to the Board by Supervisor David Brooks.

Review and discussion of all Vouchers.

Resolution No. 45 of 2026 - Approval and Payment of Highway and General Vouchers will be voted on at the Regular Meeting of the Town Board this date at 6:00 pm.

Supervisor Brooks requests a Motion to adjourn the Business Meeting. Councilman Gregory Vurckio motions to adjourn the Business Meeting at 1:28 pm, seconded by Councilman Scott Mickelson. All in Favor. Meeting Adjourned.

TOWN OF DENNING TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Supervisor Brooks.
Held on Tuesday, August 11th, 2026 at the Denning Town Hall.

Present: Supervisor David Brooks, Councilman Gregory Vurckio, Councilman Mike Dean, Councilman Kevin Smith, Councilman Scott Mickelson and Highway Superintendent Leonard Johnson

Public Present: Jenny Lee, Joy Monforte, Robert Drake, Robert Strickland, Paul Hnatiw and Thomas Cintula from the Grahamsville First Aid Squad.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor David Brooks presents Tom Cintula of the Grahamsville First Aid Squad with a check in the amount of \$10,157.69 representing the Town of Denning's Ulster County EMS Stabilization Plan Fund allotment. Mr. Cintula states that the funds will be use for the purchase of a Life Pack Monitor. Discussion follows. Mr. Cintula thanks the Board for the funds and the Board thanks the Grahamsville First Aid Squad for their volunteer service to the Town of Denning.

Supervisor Brooks introduces Jenny Lee for her update on the Denning Broadband issue. She in turn introduces Robert Drake, Shandaken Deputy Supervisor, who serves with her on the Ulster County Broadband Commission and is running for District 22 Legislator in November. Jenny reports that construction kicks off at the end of this month. Denning's buildout is coming from Fallsburg. Jenny reports that the construction buildout phase is on a 4-year plan and will be completed by 2030. Discussion follows. Supervisor Brooks and the Town Board thanks Jenny Lee, Mr. Drake and the Commission for all their hard work in spearheading the push for all un-served and underserved in Ulster County and particularly Denning.

The Town Clerk provided all Board members with a copy of the Agenda and Resolutions Nos. 45 through 48, the Budget vs. Actual through July 2026, and Draft Amendment to the Zoning Law regarding Short-Term Rental Regulations for review.

The Town Clerk Minute Book was signed prior to the meeting commencement. Motion to adopt last months' minutes as presented by Town Clerk Nancy Parrow made by Councilman Scott Mickelson, and seconded by Councilman Mike Dean.

Roll call vote:

Councilman Mike Dean AYE

Supervisor David Brooks AYE

Councilman Scott Mickelson AYE

Motion carried.

Deputy Supervisor Gregory Vurckio AYE

Councilman Kevin Smith AYE

Correspondence:

- Email received from CWT attorney Jeffrey Baker with the 2026 Ballot For Executive committee of the Coalition of Watershed Towns. Supervisor Brooks makes a motion to vote for Gregory Vurckio and Robert Drake as regular members and Barbara Mansfield as alternate. Motion seconded by Scott Mickelson. All in Favor with Councilman Gregory Vurckio Abstaining.
- Email from Denning Justice Court Clerk Erica Benvenuto advising that the 2026/2027 JCAP Grant application period is now open and requesting Board input regarding suggestions. Councilman Mike Dean asks that the Town request funding or partial funding for a new generator. Discussion follows.
- Supervisor Brooks reports that he wrote a letter of support for the Forstmann Castle at the Frost Valley YMCA to the NYS Board for Historic Preservation. Waiting to hear about acceptance at the September 9th meeting of that NYS Board.
- Email received from NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance regarding LGTMA (Local Government Temporary Municipal Assistance) check in the amount of \$19,278.00 being mailed to the Town of Denning in the next few days.
- Letter received from Ulster County Attorney with Ulster County and City of Kingston Sales Tax Agreement dated 2/25/26. Discussion follows.
- Email notification received from NYMIR regarding newly mandated cyber security training for 2026. Board will schedule viewing at members' convenience.
- Thank-you letter received from the Daniel Pierce Library for Denning's sponsorship of the annual Giant Pumpkin Party booklet.
- Quote received from Dennis Deyo at Red Hill Services LLC – estimate for construction services for demo and rebuild of Town Hall deck and ramp in the amount of \$9,700.00. Discussion follows.

Highway Superintendent Leonard Johnson reports:

- Second mowing of the season completed.
- Started brush cutting on Taylor, Wildcat, Round Pond and Red Hill roads.
- After-storm maintenance including cleaning pipes and clearing downed trees, etc.
- Patched Sugarloaf, Balace and Peekamoose Roads with Type 7 blacktop.
- Supervisor Brooks asks if budget will allow for paving? Possibly finish paving Sugarloaf. Discussion follows. Preparing to chip seal what can be done. Checking with Ulster County regarding sealing cracks with tar. Need to get financial information.
- Superintendent Johnson informs the Board that NYS approved Denning to go forward with the purchase of the 930A Hyundai Loader. Roller purchase is expensive and they are looking at other options.

- Riley Brook Project being done by the Rondout Neversink Stream Program is going well on Denning Road. Recent rain was an issue but things have settled out. Discussion follows.
- Getting Highway crew certified on brakes. Discussion follows.
- Supervisor Brooks reports that Andrew from Central Hudson is available to do a meeting with the Highway Dept. for downed wires training. Discussion regarding scheduling and including the Claryville Fire Department as well.

Planning Board report from Councilman Kevin Smith:

- Huttar Subdivision changes after previous meeting reviewed and subdivision is approved - 4 new conforming lots.
- Continued discussion of Short-Term Rental amendments to zoning law. Town of Olive STR regulations reviewed for possible inclusion regarding Denning’s amendments. Draft amendments to be reviewed at next meeting on August 20th. Discussion follows regarding Draft amendments given to the Town Board this evening for review.
- Councilman Smith reports that he will not be able to attend the August 20th meeting but has confirmed that Deputy Town Clerk Erica Benvenuto will attend to take minutes.

Highway Pre-Pay Vouchers presented by Hwy. Super. Johnson.
(See Warrant #8 Pre-Pay, Voucher Nos. 22 - 26)

Health Care Reimbursement Acct.	8PP-22	DA90608 · Health Ins.	-5,000.00
MVP Health Care, Inc.	8PP-23	DA90608 · Health Ins.	-13,709.31
Trust & Agency Account - FICA	8PP-24	DA90308 · Social Security/Medicare	-996.44
Trust & Agency Account - FICA	8PP-25	DA90308 · Social Security/Medicare	-114.75
Trust & Agency Account - FICA	8PP-26	DA90308 · Social Security/Medicare	-668.86
Grand Total:			-20,489.36

Highway Vouchers presented by Hwy. Super. Johnson.
(See Warrant #8, Vouchers Nos. 75 - 84)

Advance Auto Parts	75	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-313.47
Bottini Fuel Corporation	76	DA51104 · Maint Of Streets - Contr	-4,334.63
Callanan Industries, Inc.	77	DA51104 · Maint Of Streets - Contr	-298.96
Campbell Supply Company	78	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-3,896.73
Case Tire Service Inc.	79	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-2,321.70
H.O. Penn Machinery Co. Inc.	80	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-17,776.38
Home Depot Credit Services	81	DA51104 · Maint Of Streets - Contr	-47.96
Kenco Thread & Ink	82	DA51104 · Maint Of Streets - Contr	-444.00
Newburgh Power Equipment	83	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-74.93
Partners In Safety, Inc.	84	DA51104 · Maint Of Streets - Contr	-177.00
Grand Total:			-29,685.76

General Pre-Pay Vouchers presented by Supervisor Brooks.
(See Warrant #8 Pre-Pay, Vouchers Nos. 61 - 69)

Central Hudson-1	8PP-61	A8160.4 · Refuse & Garbage-Contractual	-34.28
Central Hudson-2	8PP-62	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-270.12
	8PP-63	A5132.4 · Highway Garage-Contractual	-426.35
Central Hudson – 2 Total:			-696.47
Charter Communications	8PP-64	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-271.32
HealthCare Reimbursement Acct	8PP-65	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-5,000.00
MVP Health Care Inc.	8PP-66	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-12,659.00
TRUST & AGENCY ACCT - FICA	8PP-67	A9030.8 · Social Security	-788.86

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Denning Town Board **HEREBY** approves Resolution No. 46 of 2026 formally introducing Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2026, Titled: Tax Levy Limit Override.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that if SAID Tax Cap Override is not needed then Local Law No. 1 of 2026 will be **RESCINDED**, by resolution as required by New York State law.

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

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Denning experiences massive and recurrent seasonal visitor influxes, drawing tens of thousands of recreationalists, hikers, and campers to regional destinations including the Frost Valley YMCA, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Peekamoose Blue Hole, the Slide Mountain Trail, and the historic Red Hill Fire Tower; and

WHEREAS, these high-volume visitor and backcountry visitation areas routinely suffer from complete cellular blackout and reliable radio frequency dead zones, severely delaying emergency response times and endangering the lives of both stranded visitors and local volunteer first responders; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Denning hosts critical technological infrastructure vital to regional safety and scientific monitoring, including critical NYS Mesonet weather stations and United States Geological Survey water monitoring stations, which require uninterrupted, real-time data transmission and robust telemetry links that are compromised by inadequate local communication frameworks; and

WHEREAS, the extreme vulnerability of the region's vast wildlands was starkly demonstrated by the Sundown-Whitehouse wildfires of 2024, during which local, county, and state firefighting forces faced extreme communications failures while trying to coordinate rapid mutual aid and public evacuation warnings in rugged terrain; and

WHEREAS, reliable public safety communication infrastructure is a foundational requirement to safeguard human life, protect property, coordinate multi-agency emergency operations, and secure vital environmental and meteorological data streams against future natural disasters;

WHEREAS, the Town of Denning has a small tax base of approximately 500 residents that must support a massive influx of visitors, further compounded by the fact that 78 percent of the land is owned by the DEC and DEP, and another 9 percent is off the tax roll due to non-profit ownership by the YMCA; and

WHEREAS, Denning is fully ready for tower construction, backed by existing zoning laws for wireless telecommunications facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Denning hereby formally petition the Ulster County Executive and the Ulster County Legislature to prioritize the siting, funding, and construction of dedicated public safety communication towers within the geographic boundaries of the Town of Denning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk of the Town of Denning is directed to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Ulster County Executive and members of the Ulster County Legislature.

Motion made by: Supervisor David Brooks

Seconded by: Councilman Kevin Smith

VOTE:

- Supervisor: David Brooks - AYE
- Council Member: Gregory Vurckio - AYE
- Council Member: Scott Mickelson - AYE
- Council Member: Mike Dean - AYE
- Council Member: Kevin Smith – AYE

CERTIFICATION:

I, Nancy A Parrow, Town Clerk of the Town of Denning, Ulster County, New York, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Denning on the 11th day of August, 2026, a quorum being present and voting.

In witness whereof, I have set my hand and affixed the seal of the Town of Denning this 17th day of August, 2026.

Supervisor Comments: David Brooks reports:

- Supervisor Brooks reports that Denning ID badges have been issued to the Highway Dept. Crew, Supervisor, Deputy Supervisor, Councilmen, R&R Center Manager, Assessor, Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk, and Code

Enforcement Officer. An official Code Enforcement Officer Badge is being considered for the new CEO.

- Supervisor Brooks reports that Ulster County should be paving the new bridge in Sundown by the end of this month.

Councilmen Comments:

- Councilman Gregory Vurckio reports on the most recent CWT Meeting of July 20th 2026.
 - Side agreement / FAD implementation moving slowly. DEC still wanting to modify water withdrawal permit on land acquisition.
 - DEC wants to review land acquisition also before finishing conservation easements.
 - River Keeper sued NYC DEP over the side agreement because of no SEQRA done, which may cause delays.
 - Albany Court annulled the wetlands regulations because DEC didn't comply with SEQRA.
 - New CWT dues for Denning \$525.00. Used to be \$750.00. Now aligns with other towns having lower dues.
 - August 17th CWT meeting has been canceled.
- Councilman Scott Mickelson reported on the Justice Court. Single matter before Court on August 6th. Defendant brought razor blade to Court which was confiscated at the metal detector. Fine imposed. No other matters before the Court.
- Councilman Mike Dean reports he will continue to check on activity at 106 Porcupine Road this coming weekend. No other comments.
- Councilman Kevin Smith has no further comments.

Public Comments:

- Joy Monforte asks about the annual Court revenue. Supervisor Brooks will review and get that information. Joy asks about the Short Term Rental amendments to the Zoning Law and Supervisor Brooks reports that the Board is currently reviewing same and the Planning Board will start review at this month's meeting on the 20th.
- Paul Hnatiw asks the Board if there was any discussion regarding his suggestion at the last meeting about the Town providing brush and downed tree chipping after storms to keep the threat of wildfires down from residents doing their own clean up. Councilman Vurckio voices concern regarding abuse of the proposed suggestion and Highway Superintendent Johnson is concerned about road blockage, frequent storms, and issues regarding equipment, etc. Discussion follows.
- Paul Hnatiw voices concern regarding continued speeding on Sundown and Peekamoose Roads by cars and motorcycles in groups. Discussion regarding asking for more Sheriff coverage and possible speed sled positioning, hopefully before the Labor Day weekend. Mr. Hnatiw offers his store parking lot in Sundown. Another location suggested is the Claryville Firehouse parking lot. Discussion follows.
- Robert Drake offers to check with the Shandaken Chief of Police to see if coverage can be expanded on the weekends for speeding issues. Possibly alert 911 when groups are reported to be coming through. If Denning has any other issues he may be able to help with please let him know. The Board thanks him for his continued interest in Denning.

- Supervisor Brooks advised Highway Superintendent Johnson to install additional speed zone signs.
- Paul Hnatiw also comments on the continuing junk car issue at VanWangers. Supervisor Brooks states he will speak with Mr. VanWagner.
- Robert Strickland addresses the Board regarding the noise and stockpiling boundary line issue regarding the Riley Brook Project. He is advised that it is not a Town project but is a Rondout Neversink Stream Program project. He states there was no notification to residents regarding the scope of the project and there is also road damage from the construction and heavy equipment. His conversation with Brenden revealed that the project does not include fixing the road after it is completed, but RNSP could possibly get extra money to fix the road. Brenden to advise of the process regarding letters of support, etc. Mr. Strickland would like notification of when the rock crushing will be done because of noise issues. He also expresses concern about the upcoming Ulster County work on the bridge replacement scheduled for 2027 and road closure. Highway Superintendent Johnson advises that one lane will be kept open during that bridge replacement and the road will not be closed. Discussion follows.
- Jenny Lee asks Supervisor Brooks if he was notified by the State or the County regarding the recent manhunt. Supervisor Brooks confirms that he was NOT notified by any law enforcement agencies regarding notifying residents or searches conducted in Denning. Discussion follows.
- Supervisor Brooks asks Robert Drake about recent flooding in Shandaken. Discussion follows.

Supervisor Brooks asks if there are any further Public Comments or Councilman Comments. There are none.

Motion to adjourn the Town Board meeting at 7:30 pm made by Councilman Gregory Vurckio and seconded by Councilman Scott Mickelson. All in Favor. Motion Carried. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy A Parrow, Town Clerk, August 17, 2026.

The next Town Business meeting will be held at 1:00 pm on Wednesday September 9th, 2026 at the Denning Town Hall, and the next Town Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday September 9th, 2026 at the Denning Town Hall, 1567 Denning Road, Claryville, NY.