

TOWN OF ROSENDALE
TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP
MARCH 4, 2026
SAFETY RADIO TOWER PUBLIC HEARING

Supervisor Walsh opened the meeting at 6:00 PM followed by the pledge of allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for Ellen Braren and Douglas Kreck.

Present:	Supervisor	Jeanne L. Walsh
	Councilmember	Robert Fade
	Councilmember	Marc Cassidy
	Councilmember	Carrie Wykoff
Excused:	Councilmember	Ashley Sweeney

Also Present: Jill LaFera; Assistant to the Supervisor, Kenneth Hasseett; Deputy Supervisor and Joseph La Fera; RMC Building Manager.

The Public Hearing to review Ulster County’s answers to the questions asked on February 2, 2025, for the sighting of the Ulster County Radio Tower opening was read at 6:05 PM by the Town Clerk. Supervisor Walsh made a motion to open the Public Hearing, 2nd by Councilmember Cassidy. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Public Comments

Perry Soule – resident – Said he is a retired Police Chief for the town and has served the community for over 36 years. The biggest concern they always had were the radio communications for EMS, Fire and Police. He said this mission is critical for communications and the County has worked so long and hard to prepare a better radio system. The most important part is until someone has a problem and needs emergency services the importance isn’t realized until then. He said the whole picture that the County is drawing out to make the radio system work much better than it is. The impact of needing help and not getting it is very important.

Aubrey VanAken – resident – She said she understands the impact with radio communications and luckily, they have not had any issues where they have needed assistance. Her concern is why does it have to be in this residential area. She said she knows the UCCC has been brought up and wants to know of the tests that have been done with this location. She also said it is not about the looks of the tower, but it is about the

health risks in the future. Everyone has been told that it's under the FCC guidelines of the frequency that is allowed. She is also concerned about the value of their property is going to drop. This home has been purchased as their forever home but is now having doubts if she wants to stay in the area. She asked if there was a different area that can be explored or if it can be pushed back on the acreage. Aubrey said she went to her doctor, and she has no genetic markers for any kind of cancer. She said if something comes up in the future it could probably be environmental or the tower.

Kevin Keller – resident – He said he is the past Fire Chief of the Bloomington Fire Company and has been a member of Bloomington for 49 years. He said until someone stood outside a building with a crew inside and you can't communicate with them is a feeling that no one will understand. The job as a Chief is to be responsible for the people inside that building, trying to save property and lives. He said they can't secure the safety of people, and they need reliable radio communication.

Connie Harkin – resident – She said that no one is saying that better emergency communication is not needed. She said this is a 19-story tower in a residential area. She asked why on the SEQR forms residential area was not checked off, why must it be that high and at this location and not the UCCC. Connie asked Dennis where he got his data from. She stated with this tower is going to lose 20% of their property value and wants to know what the town is going to do for them. She also said she wanted to know the amount of money the town is getting for it.

Aubrey VanAken – resident – She said she feels like this isn't an us versus them, and that is not the case whatsoever.

Supervisor Walsh said there was a public hearing in February last year and this is the hearing to address the answers to the questions and is hearing a lot of the same questions. She said the County has produced a document to answer some of those questions. There is controversy on both sides. She also said to make it clear that this is a radio tower and the ones being pointed out are not the same.

Patchin Podes – resident – He asked if the tower will be rented out to put cellular on it. Supervisor Walsh said there is a component to put cell on it but it hasn't been discussed 100% but it is being considered because of the lack of cell service.

Dennis Doyle thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He said this isn't a us and them, it is a we. He said that these facilities are difficult to site. Alternatives are always looked at,

size is always looked at for the coverage it needs and alternates sites are looked at. They do like to look at sites the County owns and municipal sites for obvious reasons. Dennis gave a presentation of what they have done so far and where the project is, the response to the questions the Town Board asked them to respond to and things related to permitting.

A resident asked if anyone had investigated Joppenbergh Mountain. Dennis replied that they looked at this site and Suny Ulster, but they believe Joppenbergh has a conservation easement.

Connie Harkin – resident – She said it depends where on campus this is being compared to can make a big difference. Dennis replied, the site they looked at was the highest point on campus and is about 90 feet higher than the Rosendale site and the coverage is not as good.

Lindsey Grossman – Ulster County Legislature - Asked to clarify when the FCC standards look at a most conservative that assumes that all the transmitters are firing. Was it also made into the assumption that the two cellular companies would also be there in addition to the public radio system. Dennis replied they are assuming every antenna, and everything admits RF admissions simultaneously with every other antenna on the tower.

Aubrey VanAken – resident – Asked that Dennis said assuming, so it's not definitely sure. Supervisor Walsh said he is saying if every antenna is being used at the same time that's how they did the evaluation. Dennis said the assumption isn't on the calculation, every antenna is operating simultaneously as part of the calculation.

Connie Harkin – resident – Asked what the closest house to the tower will be. Dennis replied that the closest facility is the Town Hall, but Susan Street is probably the next closest residential structure on the corner of Susan and Michael.

Lindsey Grossman – Ulster County Legislature – said just to be clear about what the 1% and 9% mean, it compared against the maximum allowed FCC guidance for human life. Dennis said that is correct. She also said for people that work in this environment and know not to stand in the dangerous area they are at 1% at what the government says is the max limit. For the public who are playing at the park or who live down the street and don't know what to avoid are at 9% allowed by government safety. Dennis said yes, that is correct. She also asked at the base is the worst location for exposure with the maximum emissions and it gets less as you go up. Dennis replied to no. He said the antennas do not transmit downward they transmit outward and at a low pattern. The most difficult areas to look at

are the same height as the antenna and those distances drop off logarithmically which can be 250 to 300 feet.

Aubrey VanAken – resident – Asked what the closest house on Susan Street was. Dennis replied he did not have the address, but it is the one on the corner when you come around. She asked if they were going to get a crash course of what areas to avoid. Dennis replied said you don't have to worry about that and should be safe. Supervisor Walsh said they are asking how safe they are in their community. Dennis said these are standard set by the Federal Government and those standards are met. Lindsay Grossman said so it's not even a tenth of the maximum. Which means anything above this level would be unsafe and this is only less than 10% towards that maximum level.

Brenna Chase – resident – She said the FCCOT bulletin 65 and the government standards, asked when they were established and when are those studies from that this is based on. Dennis replied that they were looked at in 2009 and go back to 1996 telecommunications act and looked at again in 2019.

A resident asked what if the limits do change from the FCC and once the tower goes up is there going to be an actual test. Dennis said he cannot say what is going to happen with the limits, but it is not likely to run over them, but as you move away from the tower the emission change dramatically.

Connie Harkin – resident - asked when the 5G cellular service is added how will that change the numbers. Councilmember Fade said it should be less because 5G is a lower power. Dennis said what is being proposed for cellular facilities now isn't going to change and Verizon's proposal is 5G. Those emissions are already calculated, and it is calculated to handle two.

Brenna Chase – resident- Said these studies are based on the 90's before smart phones even existed. Dennis said the federal health experts said there was no need to update.

Dennis continued the presentation for the radio safety tower and explained cell phone coverage.

Marisa Podes – resident -Asked if there isn't cell coverage on the tower does that lower the tower. Dennis replied the minimum requirement starts above the tree line. He said it can be lowered but the County would have to decide on sacrificing coverage. The decision made on this tower was not because of the height, it was solely for the radio tower needs. Having

cell service is nice and an important addition but not the reason for the tower. Marisa also asked if there would be reconsideration for what the tower looks like trees or anything other than the tower. Dennis replied and said they investigated a mono pole, but the taller it is the more sway there is which can cause connections to be lost.

Aubrey VanAken – resident – said she heard Verizon has interest in the tower but asked why it isn't AT&T used with FirstNet. Steve from the County replied that there is a location for them on the tower as well they just haven't committed it yet.

Dennis continued the presentation.

Breanna Chase – resident – Asked if they would consider other design alternatives. Steve said that this would have to go to Tectonic for photo Syms on how it would look.

Connie Harkin – resident – Asked why on the short environmental form residential was not checked off and on another page, suburban is checked off, but it is residential. She also asked about the generator test that will be going off every day. Dennis replied they are tested once a week and in the 70 DBAA range.

Marisa Podes – resident – asked if there will be lights associated with the tower. Dennis said there will be security lights on the compound but not on the tower.

Residet – A resident said if this was still a school the tower wouldn't be here as there would be a lot of kids around. Dennis said there are schools that have towers on them and they could have approached the school district as well.

Dennis thanked the public for their response and questions.

Connie Harkin – resident – Asked what the income is that will be coming in. Supervisor Walsh replied there is not answer to that yet.

A Stone Ridge resident said his credentials are FCC radio operator with a RF transmitting license and have been doing this since 2005. He said the regulations in the 90's were a broad spectrum. It went through every frequency range in 1996, and frequency ranges haven't been added in 40 years and include 5G frequencies. He said safety wise; don't stand 2 feet directly in front of it while it's operating. The way it transmits and broadcasts is extremely safe.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to close the public hearing except for written comments due by March 11, 2026, at 4:00 PM, 2nd by Councilmember Cassidy. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Appointments/Resignations

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to approve Conrad Witte as a Full Time Police Officer for no more than 37.5 hours per week at \$29.19 per hour effective 2/17/2026, 2nd by Councilman Cassidy. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to increase the salary for Kevin Hines to \$23.33 per hour effective 1/1/2026, 2nd by Councilmember Fade. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to increase the salary for Rebecca Stokes to \$22.00 per hour effective 1/1/2026, 2nd by Councilmember Cassidy. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to increase the salary for Taylor McGrane to \$25.00 per hour effective 3/1/2026, 2nd by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to approve RMC Payroll Stipend for Taylor McGrane of \$1,125.00 for the remainder of 2026, 2nd by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to approve RMC payroll stipend for Taylor McGuffey of \$375.00 for the remainder of 2026, 2nd by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to approve High Falls Water District Payroll Stipend for Taylor McGrane for \$900.00 for the remainder of 2026, 2nd by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES,

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to approve High Falls Water District Payroll Stipend for Tayloe McGuffey for the remainder of 2026, 2nd by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Motions

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to accept the donation of \$600.00 from the Onteora Runners Club/Rosendale Runs for the recreation Center, 2nd by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Resolutions

Resolution 03-2026-#1 – Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement between the Town of

Rosendale and the workplace EAP of Westchester Medical Center, 2nd by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Resolution 03-2026-#2 – Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale authorizes the Supervisor to sign the lease agreement with Rene Garcia DBA Mana Café, 2nd by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Resolution 03-2026-#3 – Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale authorize an agreement with new energy project management services- Rondout Municipal Center Solar Project, 2nd by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Resolution 04-2026- Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale accepts the proposal for the purchase of a 2014 refurbished freightliner plow/spreader, 2nd by Councilmember Cassidy. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to pay bills, 2nd by Councilmember Fade. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

AUDIT OF BILLS

GENERAL FUND	ABSTRACT 3	VOUCHER #68-97	\$11,384.67
HIGHWAY FUND	ABSTRACT 3	VOUCHER #30-52	\$17,882.89
WATER FUND	ABSTRACT 3	VOUCHER #23-31	\$1,096.58
SEWER FUND	ABSTRACT 3	VOUCHER #25-35	\$4,509.43
RMC FUND	ABSTRACT 3	VOUCHER #38-45	\$3,209.59

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 PM, 2nd by Councilmember Cassidy. ROLL VOTE: 4 YES.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mandy Donald
Town Clerk