

TOWN OF SARATOGA TOWN BOARD
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
12 SPRING ST., SCHUYLERVILLE, NY
MARCH 10, 2025
7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Ian Murray opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call: Town Clerk Michelle Conover, called the roll: Supervisor Ian Murray - present, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – absent, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires – present, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg – present.

Also present: Deputy Town Clerk Emilee M. Jones, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Gil Albert, Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell and other interested persons.

Recognitions/Presentations/ Bid openings/Public Hearings: None

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Gary Squires and seconded by Supervisor Ian Murray, **to accept the minutes of the February 10th, 2025 Regular Town Board meeting as written.** Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – absent, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

Carried 3-0

Town Clerk's report for February 2025: Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for the Animal Population Control Program \$34.00. Fees paid to New York D.E.C. for hunting and fishing licenses \$51.96. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses \$0. Dog license fees to Supervisor Ian Murray \$150.00. Clerk fees to Supervisor Ian Murray \$153.04. Total State and Local Revenues received were \$389.00.

Zoning Officer's report for February 2025: 7 Building Permits, 4 Building Inspections, 2 Certificates of Occupancy, 0 Junkyard Permits, 0 Complaints, 0 Fire Inspections, 0 Order to Remedy, 4 misc., 3 Building Permit Renewals and 0 Property Maintenance Inspections. A check for \$4,084.10 was given to Supervisor Ian Murray.

Dog Control officer's report for February 2025: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer answered 11 complaints, took 0 dogs to the shelter, 2 bite cases, traveled 20 miles, issued 10 warnings and 10 summons' were issued.

Town Court report for February 2025: 28 Traffic tickets closed, 4 Criminal/penal law case closed, 3 Civil cases closed, 0 DWI cases closed, 1 Encon/DEC closed, 0 Town and Dog cases closed. Supervisor Ian Murray received a check from Justice John McCarron in the amount of \$2,190.00, a check from Justice Charles Sherman in the amount of \$35.00, for a total of \$2,225.00.

Tax Collector's report for February 2025: As of March 2, 2025, 87% of taxes have been collected, with a total to date of \$3,737,861.72. 1,827 mailed in their payments, 225 made payments on-line and 693 payments were made by wire transfer.

Historians Report: No Report.

Assessor's Report February 2025: No Report.

There was a brief discussion between the Town Board Members and Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell about road signs.

Highway Superintendent's report for February 2025:

- ❖ Cleared tree's & large branches from highways & right of way
- ❖ Repaired/replaced damaged or missing road signs throughout town
- ❖ Patched pot holes throughout town highways
- ❖ Removed snow & ice from town highways and parking lots
- ❖ Made repairs & updates to building
- ❖ Phone system back on line
- ❖ HVAC system serviced & repaired
- ❖ Cleaned shop & equipment
- ❖ Service started on rollers
- ❖ Repaired air leak & brake issue Truck 6
- ❖ Serviced transmission Truck 6
- ❖ Replaced spinner motor Truck 7
- ❖ Replaced damaged hydraulic lines on front of loader
- ❖ Inner cooler lines replaced Pick up 4

Supervisor's report:

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT JANUARY 2025

GENERAL FUND – TOWNWIDE (A FUND)

Balance on hand 2/1/2025	\$1,827,483.10
Revenues	+ 247,695.70
Disbursements	<u>-(1,231,969.42)</u>
Balance 2/2/2025	\$ 843,209.38

GENERAL FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (B FUND)

Balance on hand 2/1/2025	\$2,302,214.67
Revenues	+ 2,785.00
Disbursements	<u>-(10,327.33)</u>
Balance 2/28/2025	\$2,294,672.34

HIGHWAY FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (DB FUND)

Balance on hand 2/1/2025	\$ 230,405.98
Revenues	+ 166,082.00
Disbursements	<u>-(101,010.40)</u>
Balance 2/28/2025	\$ 295,477.58

SCHUYLER PARK 2/28/2025	\$ 55,189.47
YOUTH RECREATION & SERVICE 2/28/2025	\$ 8,673.85
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE 2/28/2025	\$160,816.72
BUILDING RESERVE 2/28/2025	\$484,015.20
CDPHP & HRA 2/28/25	\$ 5,279.16
AHC HOME IMPROVEMENT 2/28/25	\$ 60,106.00
SCENIC BY WAYS QTRRLY 2/28/2025	\$ 312.41
PARKS RESERVE 2/28/2025	\$376,956.55
GFNB Certificate of Deposit 2/28/2025	\$832,083.37

NYCLASS 2/28/2025

\$792,263.07

February 2025 Distribution - Sales Tax Received -\$157,072.00

February 2025 Distribution - Mortgage Tax Received – \$

Supervisor Murray got a request from the Town of Saratoga Court Office looking to replace the current window with bulletproof or heavy-duty safety glass. Supervisor Murray reached out to Allerdice who does our glass work. Allerdice quoted two window types 1. 7/16” safety glass cost \$2,150.00 and 2. ½” cost \$1,950.00, this cost includes the new frame and the safety glass. Zoning Officer Gil Albert will go and speak with the Court office on Tuesday, March 11th, 2025 regarding their concerns with their current window.

Public comments on agenda items: Darlene McGraw addressed the Town Board.

Committee reports:

Landfill: No report.

Insurance: No report. Supervisor Murray stated we received our new Tractor and he has advised the insurance company to add it to our policy.

Youth: No report.

Park Committee: No report.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM): No report.

WEMS: No report.

Old Business: None.

7: 23 p.m. Councilman Michael McLoughlin arrived at the meeting.

New Business:

Supervisor Murray stated we would like to extend the Solar Moratorium by 3 months. The draft is all done on the Solar Regulations and was sent to our Attorney to go through legally and get it back to us, which is taking longer than what we expected. After the Attorney’s approve, the Town will schedule a public hearing and any additional edits and then adoption of the Local Law. We need 3 months to get this accomplished.

On a motion by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, the following **Resolution #25-36 Extending the Moratorium Three Months on Major Solar Collection Systems in the Town of Saratoga** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray-aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

Carried 4– 0

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga has placed two, six month (April 2024 – September 2024 and October 2024 - March 2025) temporary moratoriums to adequately study, review and plan for updated legislation on major solar collection systems. A draft plan is complete and currently going through the necessary legal review process. Once legal review has been completed and necessary edits have been made, a public hearing on proposed Local Law #1 of 2025 will be conducted. To complete these remaining tasks, a three-month moratorium will be extended effective April 2025- June 30, 2025.

WHEREAS, this moratorium affects all major Solar Collection Systems that currently do not have Planning Board preliminary approval and negative declaration on SEQR.

WHEREAS, a public hearing will be held, input received from townspeople for Local Law 1 of 2025, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board, of the Town of Saratoga extend the temporary moratorium of Local Law #3 of 2024, placing a temporary moratorium on Major Solar Collection Systems for an additional three months, effective April 2025 - June 30, 2025.

Supervisor Ian Murray asked Masen Webster who is a Conservation Assistant with Saratoga PLAN to step up and please explain what we are going to do here tonight and answer any questions to the Town Board may have.

Masen went on to say that Saratoga PLAN is a land trust representative for Saratoga County. This is a New York State grant that funds the protection of active farmland through the placement of conservation easements by selling off the development rights of a parcel.

Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg asked a question regarding the soil information that is provided within this resolution. Supervisor Murray explained soils on this parcel are considered class one soils and all soils in the Country, especially in New York State have a soil map and identifies the class of soil, drainage characteristics, these are of state wide importance, in general, soils around the rivers are, most times identified as class one soils.

On a motion by Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, the following **Resolution #25-37 Providing Endorsement of Anita Hodson Application via Saratoga Plan for New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Saratoga** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

Carried 4 – 0

WHEREAS, Anita Hodson is the owner of certain real property consisting of approximately 192 acres of viable agricultural land in tax map parcels #208.1-51 located 129 River Road in the Town of Saratoga, Saratoga County, New York, also known as Hodson Farm (the “Property”), desires to protect the Property for agricultural purposes by conveying a permanent conservation easement on the land;

WHEREAS, the Property is in active agricultural production and features productive agricultural soils, including 67% Prime Soils, 4% Soils of Statewide importance and 3% Prime if Drained Soils, as defined by the Natural Resources Conservation Services;

WHEREAS, the Property is located within Saratoga County’s Agricultural District #1, created pursuant to Article 25-AA of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law;

WHEREAS, Saratoga County adopted an Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan in December 1997 that recommends supporting local farmland conservation projects;

WHEREAS, the Town of Saratoga, which adopted a Comprehensive Land Use Plan in March 2002 that recognizes “the irreplaceability of the Town’s ‘Prime’ agricultural soils, the importance of actively farmed lands to the agricultural industry, the rural landscape character of the

community, and the inherent susceptibility to development.” Stating a long-term goal to “to preserve the ‘Prime’ agricultural soils and actively-farmed land to the greatest extent possible.”

WHEREAS, the Town of Saratoga adopted an *Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan* in December 2018 which recommends participation in purchase of development rights programs in partnership with Saratoga Plan;

WHEREAS, Saratoga PLAN is organized for, among other purposes, conserving real property and is a “qualified organization” to accept, purchase, and hold conservation easements under Article 49, Title 3 of the Environmental Conservation Law of the State of New York and Section §170(h) of the Code of Treasury Regulation;

WHEREAS, Ms. Hodson is making a charitable donation to cover the gap in funding in order to make these conservation projects viable;

WHEREAS, Ms. Hodson and Saratoga PLAN agree that the purpose of the conservation easement will be to conserve viable agricultural land by preventing the conversion of the Property to non-farm uses. In achieving such prevention, the Property shall be forever reserved for continued agricultural use; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Saratoga Town Board endorses the submission of a grant application from Saratoga PLAN to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for funding to purchase development rights on the Hodson Farm Property and for Saratoga PLAN to hold and uphold a perpetual conservation easement on the land.

Communications: John Still owner of Still’s Cove Restaurant and Marina sent a letter to the Town Board on an issue he is having due to loss income at his restaurant and marina due to the infestation of an aquatic invasive species and water chestnuts in the cove. The boat traffic in the cove causes the vegetation to break off and float to his property in large islands stopping and clogging their empty dock. There is also a beaver dam blocking the natural flow of the water east to west in the cove.

John Still is asking that the Town purchase an aquatic harvester to capture and remove the invasive aquatic species at the Cove.

Still’s Cove letter also included a report by Saratoga County PRISM after an aquatic pull of August 30, 2024. Where ten people removed 1,800 pounds of water chestnuts and other aquatic invasive species at the Cove.

Still’s Cove also provided letters of support from owners who have property along the Cove that are interested in the restoration of the Cove.

Supervisor Murray stated that the Town will supply letters of support for Still’s Cove for any grants or permits they may need to clean up the Cove. Overall, the Town won’t be purchasing an aquatic harvester or applying for any grants due to it not benefiting the Town as a whole.

Supervisor Murray stated, we do support their efforts and would like to help where possible.

Privilege of the floor: Darlene McGraw addressed the Town Board.

Upcoming meetings:

❖ Regular Town Board meeting – Monday, April 14th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Audit the Bills: On a motion by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, the following **Resolution #25-35 Approving the Payment of Bills in Abstract 3G of 2025**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

Carried 4 - 0

RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga to authorize payment of the bills listed in **Abstract 3G of 2025 in the following amounts:**

General Fund DB	No. 094, 120-135	\$ 62,137.88
General Fund A	No. 095-098, 119, 136-163	\$ 48,454.07
General Fund B	No. 164-166	\$ 663.45
General Fund H	No. 167	\$ 25.62
General Fund HPO	No. 099-104	\$ 31,730.00

Grand Total \$143,011.02

A motion was made by Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin to enter into Executive Session at 7:51 p.m. to discuss matters relating to proposed, pending or current litigation and to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Motion was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

Carried 4-0

A motion was made by Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, to exit Executive Session at 8:06 p.m., with no Board action taken. Motion was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg – aye.

Carried 4-0

A motion was made by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

Carried 4– 0

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Conover
Town Clerk