

**DRAFT MINUTES  
MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD  
OF THE TOWN OF SARATOGA, 12 SPRING ST.,  
SCHUYLERVILLE, NY**

**March 14, 2011  
7:00 P.M.**

Supervisor Thomas Wood opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll call:** Ruth Drumm, Town Clerk, called the roll. Supervisor Thomas Wood- present, Councilman Fred Drumm - present, Councilman Charles Hanehan- present, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – present, Councilman James Jennings - present,

**Also present:** Deputy Town Clerk Linda McCabe, Town Attorney William Reynolds, Zoning Officer Gil Albert, Highway Superintendent Dave Hall, Tax Collector Jim Gorham, Geraldine Freedman, Sherry Doubleday, Wendy Lukas, John Deyoe, Jacob Zakrzewski, and Brittany Wood

**Recognitions/Presentations/ Bid openings/ Public Hearings: None**

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Councilman Charles Hanehan and seconded by Councilman James Jennings to accept the minutes of the February 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting as written.

Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Fred Drumm – aye, Councilman Charles Hanehan – aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilman James Jennings – aye. Carried 5 – 0.

**Town Clerk's report for February 2011:** Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for the Animal Population Control Program \$68.00. Fees paid to New York D.E.C. for hunting and fishing licenses \$0. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses \$22.50. Dog license fees to Supervisor Thomas Wood \$300.00. Clerk fees to Supervisor Thomas Wood \$67.50. Total State, County, and Local Revenues received were \$458.00.

**Zoning Officer's report for February 2011:** 5 Building Permits, 0 Building Permit Renewals, 4 Building Inspections, 2 Certificates of Occupancy, 1 Fire inspection, 1 Complaint, and 5 misc. appointments. A check for \$920.00 was given to Supervisor Thomas Wood.

**Dog Control officer's report for February 2011:** The report was read by Supervisor Thomas Wood: answered 27 complaints, took 1 dog to the shelter, 1 bite case, issued 10 warnings, 4 summonses were issued, and traveled 92 miles.

**Town Court report for February 2011:** The following were closed: 99 Vehicle & Traffic, 19 Criminal/Penal Law, 2 DEC/ENCON, 4 Dog cases, 1 DWI, 1 Town & Village Ordinance, 2 Small Claim/Civil, 1 Eviction, 0 Bench trials, 0 (case transfers) Divestiture Forms sent to County Court, 7 attended the Science of Speed School, 0 Defendants sentenced to probation, 8 hours of community service issued, 20 days of jail time issued, 1 Order of Protection issued, and \$9,385.00 in fees were paid to the NY State Comptroller.

**Tax Collector's report:** Tax Collector Jim Gorham reported that he has collected \$2,607,212.97 through March 11, 2011, on 2,622 parcels (88%).

**Historian's report:** Sean Kelleher submitted the following March report:  
In the past month, I think the most important activity was adding the piece of steel from the World Trade Center to the town's collection and it will be excellent addition to the pocket park in front of Town Hall. I appreciate the Town Board's support with this effort. In addition the Quaker Springs Fire Department provided a pick-up truck and volunteers to assist in this effort. The volunteers that supported this project were Council Member Jim Jennings, Chief Don Ormsby, and Firefighter (and retired town employee) Leon Derby. We should also thank the Board of Fire Commissioners for supporting this effort.

I applied with the Supervisors permission for an 1812 Interpretive Trail Wayside Exhibit Grants with the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership. I just found out (and had to revise this report) that we were awarded the grant. The concept would be to develop a wayside that shows connections between the Battles of Saratoga in 1777 and the how that inspired the country in the War of 1812 to forge an American identity. In addition, the story of the U.S.S. Saratoga and the role the ship played in the Battle of Plattsburg is poorly known in our region, so the wayside exhibit can illustrate this aspart of the community's history. The concept would be to put the wayside up at Town Hall. The interesting ties are that the Battle of Plattsburg happened on September 11th. The sign will be bi-lingual. The costs to the community are minimal - the Historian's time on the text of the signs and researching the image. The only cost will be any images used on the sign which should be covered within the established budget for the Historian's office.

Our local activities in the Historian's office continue to gain notice. I have been asked by the County Historian to prepare a paper on our photo scanning programs. In addition, the Town History will be featured in the Saratoga County Proceedings Publication. The Genealogy Group meets on Tuesday, March 15 at 10 am in the Schuylerville Public Library. Photo Scanning Session on Saturday, March 19 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at Town Hall Archive Scanning Working Session is planned for Thursday, March 24 at 4:30 pm at Saratoga Town Hall followed by a program on Saratoga Area Postcards for Old Saratoga Historical Association meeting starting at 7:30 pm at the Saratoga Town Hall. This is a great chance to learn about old postcards from our friend, historian, author and (oh yea) Town Supervisor Tom Wood.

The Old Saratoga Happening continues with positive response. It has been picked up by a

number of newspapers and internet sites. It is bringing attention to our community and I hopeful during our summer tourism season the results will be more visitors to our community.

**Assessor's report:** Victoria Hayner submitted the following:

February was a busy month in the Assessor's Office. We received all exemption applications up until March 1st. Thank you to all the property owners for their prompt response to filing of their applications.

We continue entering our sales and for the month of January and February. We had 8 valid sales and 14 non-valid sales; of these sales, 19 sales involved residential property, 2 involved vacant land and 1 was commercial.

Field review was done in February and on March 1<sup>st</sup> for taxable status. We reviewed our new construction and building permits so that values will be set according to their percent of completion on March 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be continuing to update our files with pictures as we receive Certificates of Occupancy from the building inspector throughout the year.

March will be busy with setting new values on properties that have had building during the past year and for properties whose owners have stopped by and had discussions with me regarding their assessment. Our assessment roll will be set by mid-April for public inspection after May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Highway Superintendent's report:**

- ❖ Patching of roads will continue, presently patching Fitch Road.
- ❖ Cleaning up downed trees from the ice storm.
- ❖ We will be removing snow from intersections between storms.
- ❖ The new pickup has arrived and is being lettered today and the radio will be installed.
- ❖ We have been busy with water this past week.
- ❖ The brush landfill will reopen the first Saturday in April from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm, for brush no larger than 3" in diameter.

**Supervisor's report:**

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2011**

**GENERAL FUND – TOWNWIDE (A FUND)**

Balance on hand Feb. 1	\$ 763,831.38
Feb. Revenues	+ 581,739.37
Feb. Disbursements	- 117,726.35
Jan. Justice Court Fines Disbursed	
In February	<u>- 5,095.00</u>
Balance Feb. 28	\$ 1,222,749.40

**GENERAL FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (B FUND)**

Balance on hand Feb. 1	\$ 450,983.82
Feb. Revenues	+ 85,615.00

Feb. Disbursements	<u>- 107,125.78</u>
Balance Feb.28	\$ 429,473.04

**HIGHWAY FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (DB FUND)**

Balance on hand Feb. 1	\$ 939,780.43
Feb. Revenues	+ 100,000.00
Feb. Disbursements	<u>-114,257.53</u>
Balance Feb. 28	\$ 925,522.90

SCHUYLER PARK CAPITAL PROJECT Feb. 28	\$ 88,976.87
YOUTH RECREATION & SERVICE Feb. 28	\$ 1,658.96
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE Feb. 28	\$ 12,785.51
BUILDING RESERVE Feb. 28	\$ 150,008.71
SCENIC BY WAYS GRANT Feb. 28	\$ 309.66
PARK RESERVE Feb. 28	\$ 51,956.55

- ❖ **Sales Tax Received – February 2011 - \$82,855, up 4.85% from last February**
- ❖ **January Mortgage Tax - \$21,601**

**Public comments on agenda items:** Geraldine Freedman and John Deyoe addressed the board.

**Committee reports:**

**Landfill:** No report.

**Insurance:** No report.

**Youth:** Councilman Michael McLoughlin reported that the Schuylerville Central School Basketball team should be congratulated for going to the sectionals.

**Senior Citizens:**

**The Old Saratoga Seniors** met on February 16, 2011 with 40 members attending including 2 new members. Penny & Don Pitt entertained with their music. The following trips are planned:

- ❖ March 17<sup>th</sup> – a St. Patrick Festival in Hawley, PA
- ❖ May 12<sup>th</sup> – Turning Stone Casino
- ❖ June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Dock & Dine in Saybrook, CT

They also met on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, with 52 members attending, including one new member and two guests. A speaker from the Saratoga County Public Health and Sherry Doubleday spoke on emergency preparedness.

**Park Committee:** No report.

**Office of Emergency Management: Sherry Doubleday** reported that the booklet *Are You Ready To Protect Yourself And Your Family In An Emergency?* has been printed and will be distributed in schools, town hall, churches, senior groups and other select spots. A dry run emergency drill will take place in April where designated heads will be called to see how many people respond. It will then be discussed on how it could be improved.

Sherry Doubleday is also looking into the Public Access Defibrillation Program, “PAD”. She suggested that defibrillators would be located on each floor of the town hall. She added that Dr. Christopher Thomas would write the script but other criteria must also be met.

Sherry stated that their next meeting is on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Committee to Honor Volunteer Firefighters & Emergency Medical Service Workers: Sean Kelleher, Committee Co-chair, reported:** No report.

**GSES, QSFD, SLPID/SLA Reports: No reports.**

**Old business:**

**Village Dissolution Proposition-** Supervisor Thomas Wood stated that the Village of Schuylerville’s Election is taking place tomorrow from noon to 9:00 p.m. He noted that on their ballot it states that the Town of Saratoga has not agreed to provide Fire Protection Service. He emphasized that a document was provided to Mayor Sherman stating that the Town of Saratoga would provide fire protection should the village dissolve. He added that the village residents would not be without fire protection for even one second.

**New business:**

On a motion by Councilman Charles Hanehan and seconded by Councilman Fred Drumm the following **Resolution #11-41– Appointment to Schuyler Park Committee – Laurie Griffen** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Fred Drumm – aye, Councilman Charles Hanehan – aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilman James Jennings – aye. Carried 5 – 0.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Saratoga and the Town of Northumberland have entered into a municipal cooperation agreement for the operation of Schuyler Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the Schuyler Park Municipal Cooperation Agreement requires the establishment of a six person committee; three of which are to be residents of the Town of Saratoga and three of which are to be residents of the Town of Northumberland; and **WHEREAS**, the initial three year term of Laurie Griffen is expiring; now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that Laurie Griffen be appointed to a three year term, May 12, 2011 through May 11, 2014, on the Schuyler Park Committee.

**Communications:**

- ❖ **Hudson Crossing Park & Saratoga National Historical Park in Partnership are Hosting an Electronics Recycling Day on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Hudson Crossing Park Play Garden, Champlain Canal Lock 5, 121 Rt. 4. For more information: [www.hudsoncrossingpark.org](http://www.hudsoncrossingpark.org) or call (518) 859-1462. There is a charge of \$0.35/lb.**
- ❖ **Thank you from the Olde Saratoga Senior Citizens for the town’s donation to their organization which helps fund their day trips.**
- ❖ **Saratoga County is sponsoring a Veterans’ Discount Program. Honorably discharged veterans can apply through the Saratoga County Clerk’s Office. Call with questions – Saratoga County Clerk’s Office (518) 885-2213 or Saratoga County Veterans’ Agency (518) 884-4115.**
- ❖ **Notification that SBA Network Services is proposing to construct a cell tower at the lands of the Congregation of Sharra T’fille at 84 Weibel Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY**
- ❖ **The Alcove Marina in Coveville is hosting a skeet shooting event – “Take a Shot for Breast Cancer” on March 20, 2011.**

**Privilege of the floor:**

Wendy Lukas urged the board to consider forming an Ethics Committee.

**Upcoming meetings:**

- ❖ **Village of Schuylerville’s Dissolution Vote – March 15<sup>th</sup>, Noon – 9:00 p.m.**
- ❖ **Agenda meeting – Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.**
- ❖ **Regular town board meeting – Monday, April 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Audit the Bills:** On a motion by Councilman Fred Drumm and seconded by Councilman James Jennings the following **Resolution #11-42 Approving the payment of bills in Abstract 3G** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Fred Drumm – aye, Councilman Charles Hanehan – aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilman James Jennings – aye Carried 5 – 0.

**RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga to authorize payment of the bills listed in Abstract 3G (03/14/2011) in the following amounts:

<b>General Fund A</b>	<b>Voucher No. 70 through 99</b>	<b>\$ 15,580.12</b>
<b>General Fund B</b>	<b>Voucher No. 15 through 23</b>	<b>\$ 5,273.02</b>
<b>Highway DB</b>	<b>Voucher No. 24 through 48</b>	<b>\$ 61,905.39</b>
<b>Schuyler Park H</b>	<b>Voucher No. 2</b>	<b><u>\$ 220.00</u></b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 82,978.53</b>

**A motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.** was made by Councilman Fred Drumm and seconded by Councilman Charles Hanehan. Supervisor Thomas Wood – aye, Councilman Fred Drumm – aye, Councilman Charles Hanehan - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilman James Jennings – aye  
Carried 5 – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Drumm  
Town Clerk