

**TOWN OF SARATOGA  
TOWN BOARD DRAFT MEETING MINUTES  
12 SPRING ST., SCHUYLERVILLE, NY  
September 13, 2021  
6:00 P.M.**

Supervisor Thomas Wood opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll call:** Town Clerk, Linda McCabe, called the roll: Supervisor Thomas Wood- present, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – present, Councilman James Jennings – present, Councilman Gary Squires - present, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm - present.

**Also present:** Deputy Town Clerk Michelle Conover, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Gil Albert, Highway Superintendent Don Ormsby Jr., Attorney William Reynolds, Pat Temple, Tracey Clothier, Mike Panich, Wendy Lukas, Paul Murphy, Allan Weils.

**Recognitions/Presentations/ Bid openings/Public Hearings:** Tracey Clothier, The LA Group, appeared before the Board to review and update them on the progress for the Town's Comprehensive Plan updates. She provided the Board with a newsletter and said they began working on this a few months ago. They now have a core committee along with a small budget. They're looking at all new Town resources and most of the work will be completed by the core committee, then it will go to the Planning Board, Zoning Board and Ag committee for review and input. The Plan is on the Town's website so that all residents have access to it. Due to the COVID variant, she said The LA Group will make one public presentation to the Town Board at a public meeting once complete. She asks any resident with comments or questions concerning the plan, to do so in writing or email them to her or to the Town Supervisor. She said she will continue with news letters to keep everyone updated.

Mike Panich, The LA Group, gave a power point presentation on the history and progress of the Champlain Canalway Trail plan. Packets were handed out to the Board members showing the conceptual trail plan. He then stated these trails are part of the Empire State Trail system and he walked the Board through the trails, explaining the Town will have a total of 9 miles of trails, 8' – 12' wide, once complete, from one end of the Town to the other. He reviewed implementation for the submission of the CFA Grant proposal and will know in December if it's been accepted. If so, we can go forward with the next section of the trail. The trails will go from Waterford to Whitehall once completed. The trail system promotes tourism and positive economic opportunities. The trails in this area will be extremely special once done, as there are unique historic portions of the trail, along with unique wildlife in the Town. He then thanked the Board.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember James Jennings, **to accept the minutes of the August 9, 2021 Town Board meeting as written.** Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilman James Jennings – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm - aye.

**Carried 5 – 0**

**Town Clerk's report for August 2021:** Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets

for the Animal Population Control Program \$50.00. Fees paid to New York D.E.C. for hunting and fishing licenses \$1,544.36. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses \$0. Dog license fees to Supervisor Thomas Wood \$240.00. Clerk fees to Supervisor Thomas Wood \$185.64. Total State and Local Revenues received were \$2,020.00.

**Zoning Officer's report for August 2021:** 15 Building Permits, 21 Building Inspections, 4 Certificates of Occupancy, 0 Junkyard Permit, 0 Complaints, 0 Fire Inspections, 0 Order to Remedy, 3 misc., 8 Building Permit Renewals and 0 Property Maintenance Inspections. A check for \$4,097.75 was given to Supervisor Thomas Wood.

**Dog Control officer's report for August 2021:** Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer answered 23 complaints, took 2 dogs to the shelter, 1 bite case, traveled 98 miles, issued 18 warnings and 0 summonses.

**Town Court report for August 2021:** 25 Traffic tickets closed, 3 Criminal/penal law cases closed, 1 DWI case closed, 1 Encon/DEC closed and 3 Town cases closed. The court submitted a check to Supervisor Thomas Wood in the amount of \$100 for fines & fees from Justice Waldron and a check in the amount of \$2,920 for fines & fees from Justice Sherman.

**Tax Collector:** *Any & all questions you have concerning unpaid taxes & proper amount due, should be directed to the County Treasurer's office at: #518-884-4724.*

**Historian's report for August 2021:** No report

**Assessor's report August 2021:** No report.

**Highway Superintendent's report for August 2021:**

- ❖ Mowing at ditches and trails
- ❖ Shimming on Neilson Rd. and Trombley Rd., then blacktopped with Evolution
- ❖ Used trucks from Wilton, Stillwater, Malta and Northumberland
- ❖ Used Schuylerville DPW workers for traffic control
- ❖ Used small excavator to clear brush and trees from town launch
- ❖ Cut back part of trestle on Brown Rd. with jack hammer attachment
- ❖ Repaired cooling assembly on truck 1, exhaust pipe on truck 2, Suspension spring on truck 3 and chain replaced on sweeper
- ❖ Crack sealed on Burgoyne Rd., Mezera Rd. and DeGarmo Rd.
- ❖ Hauled crusher run for Victory
- ❖ Hauled blacktop with Wilton, Northumberland, Providence and Malta

**Supervisor's report for August 2021:**

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT AUGUST 2021**

**GENERAL FUND – TOWNWIDE (A FUND)**

Balance on hand 8/1/2021	\$ 979,471.49
Revenues	+ 65,986.32
Disbursements	- <u>240,651.03</u>
Balance 8/31/2021	\$ 803,806.78

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

Balance on hand 8/1/2021	\$1,800,893.35
--------------------------	----------------

Revenues	+ 2,797.28
Disbursements	- <u>5,627.06</u>
Balance 8/31/2021	\$1,798,063.57

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

Balance on hand 8/1/2021	\$ 995,966.60
Revenues	+ 141,121.36
Disbursements	- <u>79,566.31</u>
Balance 8/31/2021	\$1,057,521.65

SCHUYLER PARK CAPITAL PROJECT 8/31/2021	\$ 192,002.91
YOUTH RECREATION & SERVICE 8/31/2021	\$ 8,673.85
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE 8/31/2021	\$ 302,492.54
BUILDING RESERVE 8/31/2021	\$ 411,965.76
TRUST & AGENCY 8/31/2021	\$ 61,682.47
HOME IMPROVEMENT GRANT 2 8/31/2021 (holding checks until funds are deposited)	\$ 113.53
HISTORIC HUDSON HOOSICK RIVER P'SHP 8/31/2021	\$ 1,877.91
CDBG PROJECT 8/31/2021	\$ 8,861.76
SCENIC BY WAYS QRTRLY 8/31/2021	\$ 311.85
PARKS RESERVE 8/31/2021	\$ 426,956.55
PROPERTY TAX CAP RESERVE 8/31/2021	\$ 1,311.32
GFNB Certificate of Deposit 8/31/2021	\$ 753,691.56
NYCLASS 8/31/2021	\$ 702,175.94

**Sales Tax Received August 2021-** \$141,084.00

**Mortgage Tax Received July 2021-** \$28,345.00

**Public comments on agenda items:** Wendy Lukas and Paul Murphy addressed the Board.

**Committee reports:**

**Landfill:** No report

**Insurance:** No report.

**Youth:** No report

**Senior Citizens:** No report

**Park Committee:** No report

**Office of Emergency Management (OEM):** No report.

**QSFD August 2021 Reports:** Fire Chief Don Ormsby reported that Quaker Springs Fire Department has had a total of 67 calls to date and added the new boat is in and anyone interested in seeing it should go out to the Quaker Springs Fire Department on Thursday evening. He also noted the new dock will most likely go in next year.

**WEMS August 2021:** No report

**Old Business:**

Census update - Supervisor Thomas Wood stated over the past ten years there's been moderate growth for the Town of Saratoga. The County census breakdown report shows the Town's growth has been .25% - .27% per year. He then noted that Saratoga County had the fastest growing cities and towns of any county in Upstate New York.

Zoning update – Supervisor Thomas Wood noted the Board may need to look into regulations for Airbnb rentals and clear cutting. He asked the opinion of Zoning Officer Gil Albert. Zoning Officer Gil Albert responded he's received many complaints concerning noise levels, parking and safety issues of Airbnb rentals, especially in the Lake Residential district of the Town. He said he knows it is not a popular subject with most of the State, but after the collapse of the deck at an Airbnb in the Lake District, he believes it is time to seriously look at regulating this business within the town. The town needs to have control over this safety issue and if the Board agrees with this, he will contact members of the planning and zoning boards to begin looking into the precise language, requirements, etcetera, but only with Board approval. The last time the Joint Board wanted to do this with clear cutting and Airbnb rentals, the Town Board was adamantly against it, so if the Board is just going to shoot it down again, he won't bother or waste their time with this. After a lengthy discussion with the Board, Supervisor Thomas Wood said he supports this and to go forward with it. Zoning Officer Gil Albert stated he will notify members of the Boards.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) update – Supervisor Thomas Wood stated the Town has received another check in the amount of \$791.96, for a total amount of \$194,768.65 received to date. He's been told the Town will receive an additional check in the amount of \$194,769.64 in the summer of 2022. The Town is holding tight on spending any of this money until the exact eligible expenditures are known. He added the Town has until December 2024 to spend the money.

SRI update – Supervisor Thomas Wood stated the Town has received a new 5 year Inspection Plan for the sprinkler system and he is still awaiting answers to the questions some Board members had. A decision will be made once they receive those answers.

2022 Budget Workshop #2 - Supervisor Thomas Wood stated they need to set the date for the second Budget workshop and suggested September 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>. After a brief discussion, the Board opted to hold the workshop on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 p.m.

SLPID update – Supervisor Thomas Wood stated representatives from the Town of Saratoga, Malta, Stillwater, Saratoga Springs and the County Planner, met with NYS and dealt with

SLPID's concerns; it was a productive meeting. He noted that Tracey Clothier said the Town of Saratoga has some of the best regulations around the Lake that she's seen. They will meet again in mid-October with the County.

**New business:**

Supervisor Thomas Wood wanted to thank Ronalee Myers for donating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 9/11 flag to the Town. The flag is flying in the Recognition Park in front of the Town Hall.

Supervisor Thomas Wood stated the Saratoga Rowing Association has submitted a Mass Gathering Permit application to hold the Head of the Fish Regatta on 10/30 – 10/ 31/2021 during the hours of 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. each day. Their information is in the Board's packet to read at their leisure.

Boat Launch proposal – Supervisor Thomas Wood said there is a need for traffic flow pattern, parking and signage at the Boat Launch on Rt. 4. He'd asked The LA Group for a proposal and the Board has the proposal in their packets. He asked them to look it over and added there's a good chance this can be accomplished without The LA Group.

Supervisor Thomas Wood noted the Board received a thank you card from the Garden Club.

On a motion by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, the following **Resolution #21-76 – Two Brothers Park**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilman James Jennings – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm - aye.

**Carried 5 – 0**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Saratoga continues to encourage the establishment of parks and focus on our local history; and

**WHEREAS**, Saratoga Plan currently owns approximately a one acre parcel of land on Evans Street in the Village of Victory, overlooking Fish Creek; and

**WHEREAS**, Saratoga Plan no longer wishes to develop the land for a park and has offered it for free to the Town of Saratoga for a park; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Saratoga desires to take possession of the land and develop it into a small park with the focus on two brothers and the Revolutionary War; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga agrees to take title to the approximately one acre parcel of land on Evans Street in the Village of Victory.

On a motion by Councilmember Ruth Drumm and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, the following **Resolution #21-77 – Fund Request for Restoration of the Original Schuylerville Canal**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilman James Jennings – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm - aye.

**Carried 5 – 0**

**WHEREAS**, parts of the original Champlain Canal are in both the Town of Saratoga and the Village of Schuylerville; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Schuylerville and the Town of Saratoga have been working to find a way to clean out and restore the original canal in the Village and Town; and

**WHEREAS**, the EPA met with both the Town of Saratoga and the Village of Schuylerville and confirmed that the PCB levels do not trigger remediation by General Electric under the existing Record of Decision; and

**WHEREAS**, the EPA and DEC offered assistance, the Village and Town must proceed on their own with this project. To do so, the Village of Schuylerville seeks \$1,000 from the Town of Saratoga to help off-set the \$2,000 cost of engaging a professional Environmental Consulting firm to develop a Scope of Services; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga to assist the Village of Schuylerville with \$1,000.00, from A7110.4 Parks, to help with the cost of engaging a professional environmental consulting firm.

On a motion by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, the following **Resolution #21-78 – Designating CDBG Certifying Officer**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilman James Jennings – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm - aye.

**Carried 5 – 0**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Saratoga has been notified that any projects that include CDBG funds must be assessed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and related authorities listed at 24 CFR Part 58; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town of Saratoga designates Thomas N. Wood III as Certifying Officer, for all activities associated with the Environmental Review process to be completed in conjunction with NYS CDBG project number, 1030MH103-20, awarded to Town of Saratoga.

**Resolution 21-79** was postponed at this time.

**Communications:** None

**Privilege of the floor:** Allan Weils, Wendy Lukas and Paul Murphy addressed the Board.

**Upcoming meetings:**

- ❖ Regular Town Board meeting – Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall
- ❖ Budget Workshop #2 – September 23, 2021, 6 p.m.

On a motion by Councilmember Ruth Drumm and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, the following **Resolution #21-80 – Audit the Bills – Abstract 9G**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilman James Jennings – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm - aye.

**Carried 5– 0**

**RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga to authorize payment of the bills listed in **Abstract 9G of 2021 in the following amounts:**

<b>General Fund DB</b>	<b>No. 681 - 697</b>	<b>\$157,483.65</b>
<b>General Fund A</b>	<b>No. 644, 645, 647, 648, 658, 672 - 676, 678, 698 - 721</b>	<b>\$ 89,413.71</b>
<b>General Fund B</b>	<b>No. 722 – 725</b>	<b>\$ 9,356.52</b>
<b>H Schuyler Park</b>	<b>No. 646, 649, 670, 726, 727</b>	<b>\$ 1,130.45</b>
<b>HH</b>	<b>No. 653, 728 – 730</b>	<b><u>\$ 9,127.00</u></b>
<b>(Historic H-HR Partnership)</b>		

**Grand Total \$ 266,511.33**

Executive session: Cancelled.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ruth Drumm and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, **to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.** Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilman James Jennings – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm - aye.

**Carried 5 - 0**

**Meeting Adjourned**

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda A. McCabe  
Town Clerk