

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

**March 9th, 2026  
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 – present, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires – present, Councilman Andy Ellis - present.

**Also present:** Deputy Town Clerk Emilee Shevlin, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Gil Albert, Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell.

**Posting Dates:** Supervisor Murray read posting dates for the draft minutes, meeting notices and the draft agenda for the upcoming meeting.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Councilmember Gary Squires and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, **to accept the minutes of the February 9th Regular Town Board meeting as written.** Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilman Andy Ellis - aye.  
**Carried 4 –0**

**Town Clerk’s report for February 2026:** Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for the Animal Population Control Program \$41.00. 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 Ian Murray \$277.50. Clerk fees to Supervisor Ian Murray \$277.50. Total State and Local Revenues received were \$524.00.

**Zoning Officer’s report for February 2026:** 4 Building Permits, 9 Building Inspections, 5 Certificates of Occupancy, 0 Junkyard Permits, 0 Complaints, 0 Fire Inspections, 0 Order to Remedy, 5 misc., 5 Building Permit Renewals and 0 Property Maintenance Inspections. A check for \$2,502.90 was given to Supervisor Ian Murray.

**Dog Control officer’s report for February 2026:** Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer answered 10 complaints, took 1 dog to the shelter, 0 bite cases, traveled 61 miles, issued 6 warnings and 0 summons’ were issued.

**Town Court report for February 2026:** 21 Traffic tickets closed, 2 Criminal/penal law case closed, 2 civil cases closed, 1 DWI cases closed, 2 Encon/DEC closed, 0 Town and Dog cases closed. Supervisor Ian Murray received a check from Justice John McCarron in the amount of \$1,433.00, a check from Justice Charles Sherman in the amount of \$240.00, for a total of \$1,673.00.

**Tax Collector’s report February 2026:** 86% of taxes have been collected, with a total to date of \$3,887,784.53. 1,755 mailed in their payments, 264 made payments on-line, 691 wire transfer.

**Historian’s report February 2026:**

February was a comparatively quieter month for the Historian’s Office, providing an opportunity to advance research, writing, and digital outreach while continuing to support regional history initiatives connected to the upcoming semiquincentennial observances.

During the month, I focused significant time on expanding the Town's digital history presence. My Substack publication, which shares local Revolutionary War research and regional heritage stories, grew by approximately **17% in the past month**, reaching **just under 350 daily viewers**. Over the course of February, I published **20 original articles**, many highlighting connections between the Town of Saratoga and broader Revolutionary War narratives. These articles help position the Town as a source for historically grounded storytelling and heritage tourism interest as the America250 and Saratoga250 commemorations approach.

Social media engagement also remained strong. The Town Historian Facebook presence reached **nearly 12,000 viewers over the last month**, demonstrating continued public interest in Saratoga's Revolutionary history and related programming.

One of the month's most successful in-person programs was a collaborative event held at the **Brookside Museum**, organized with **Saratoga 250 Commission** and the **Saratoga County History Center**. The event, a **Revolutionary War "Tavern Night,"** was a sold-out fundraiser and drew strong community participation. I served as the evening's emcee and tavern keeper, guiding the program while six historical interpreters presented varied perspectives from the Revolutionary era. The program combined storytelling with period-inspired food and drink, creating an engaging way for the public to explore the political and social divisions that shaped the American Revolution.

**March 4 evening also featured the premiere at Saratoga Arts** of the first Saratoga250 documentary, "**Henry Knox: Resolved – Forged by Revolution.**" The screening brought together historians, filmmakers, and community members to celebrate the project and discuss its importance for interpreting the Revolutionary story in our region. Following the premiere, I participated in a panel discussion alongside the historians and filmmakers involved in the production.

The documentary will receive broader distribution in March. It will air on **WMHT Public Media** on **March 9 at 9:00 PM** and will also be available nationally through the PBS app. On **March 13**, the film will be released on the **Saratoga 250 YouTube channel**, providing an additional platform for sharing Saratoga County's Revolutionary history.

Following the public release, I plan to leverage professional and media connections in the Boston area to promote the film and highlight Saratoga County as a heritage tourism destination. This outreach aligns with a strategic opportunity in mid-March, when Boston commemorates the **Evacuation Day** on March 17. That anniversary traditionally generates heightened public interest in Revolutionary War history, making it an ideal moment to draw attention to Saratoga's role in the broader war.

Locally, I will also be hosting **two community screenings of the documentary** in Ballston Spa and Halfmoon, providing additional opportunities for residents to engage with this new interpretation of Henry Knox's story and its connections to our region.

Looking ahead, preparations are underway for several significant public programs this spring. On **May 2**, Schuylerville will host the **5th Annual Turning Point & Women in War Symposium**, bringing together leading scholars including **Bruce Venter, Susan Brewer, Anne Clothier, Jack Kelly, James Richmond**, and **Paul Staiti**. The symposium will explore the human dimensions of the **Battles of Saratoga**, including the experiences of soldiers, civilians, and families affected by the conflict.

The following day, **May 3**, Saratoga 250 will host the **1780 Ballston Raid Guided Coach Tour**, led by historian **James Richmond**. This program retraces the route of the Royalist raid on frontier settlements in Saratoga County. Using petitions preserved in the New York State Archives, the tour examines the personal experiences of residents who endured displacement, loss, and uncertainty during the war.

It is also officially time for the **2026 fundraising campaign for the Turning Point Parade & Festival** to begin. Tickets are now available for a raffle featuring **one-of-a-kind, locally crafted cornhole boards**. **Only 100 tickets will be sold, at \$20 per ticket**, with the drawing taking place during the **Comedy Show at the American Legion on March 21**.

Tickets are available at **Revive Body & Soul, the American Legion**, or through members of the organizing team including **Paul Chojnacki, Seán Kelleher, Rosemary Roberts, Beth Woodard, and Amanda Brill**. Tickets for the comedy show are also available. The boards feature beautiful local craftsmanship and will make a great addition to summer cookouts and gatherings while supporting an important community event.

These programs, along with continued writing, research, and digital outreach, will help build momentum toward the 250th anniversary commemorations while reinforcing the Town of Saratoga's role as a center for Revolutionary War interpretation and heritage tourism.

Respectfully submitted,

**Sean Kelleher**

Historian, Town of Saratoga

**Assessor's report February 2026:** No Report.

**Highway Superintendent's report for February 2026:**

- ❖ Cleared large branches, trees & brush from Highways & right of way
- ❖ Patched pot holes throughout Town
- ❖ Repaired/replaced damaged or missing road signs throughout Town
- ❖ Removed Snow & Ice from Town Highways, Parking Lots & Sidewalks
- ❖ Monthly maintenance completed on trucks & equipment
- ❖ Multiple repairs made to trucks & equipment
- ❖ Annual PM equipment services have been started.
- ❖ Primary focus this month has been on removing large problematic trees from the ROW & cutting back for safety & line of sight

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT February 2026:**

**GENERAL FUND – TOWNWIDE (A FUND)**

Balance on hand 2/1/2026	\$ 386,580.25
Revenues	+ 1,745,663.40
Disbursements	- (1,062,880.96)
Balance 2/28/2026	\$ 1,069,362.69

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

Balance on hand 2/1/2026	\$ 2,427,213.39
Revenues	+ 1,835.70
Disbursements	- (381.18)
Balance 2/28/2026	\$ 2,428,667.91

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

Balance on hand 2/1/2026	\$ 150,301.63
Revenues	+ -
Disbursements	- (80,437.64)
Balance 2/28/2026	\$ 69,863.99

SCHUYLER PARK 2/28/2026	\$ 108,076.01
YOUTH RECREATION & SERVICE 2/28/2026	\$ 8,673.85
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE 2/28/2026	\$ 244,984.80
BUILDING RESERVE 2/28/2026	\$ 484,468.32
CDPHP & HRA 2/28/2026	\$ 3,646.16
AHC HOME IMPROVEMENT 2/28/2026	\$ -
CDBG PROJECT 2/28/2026	\$ 16,533.20
SCENIC BY WAYS QRTLRY 2/28/2026	\$ 312.57
PARKS RESERVE 2/28/2026	\$ 376,956.55
GFNB Certificate of Deposit 2/28/2026	\$ 848,314.69
NYCLASS 2/28/2026	\$ 824,335.44

**February 2026 Distribution - Sales Tax Received - \$ 174,854**

**February 2026 Distribution- Mortgage Tax Received - \$ 17,840.65**

**February 2026 Distribution – AUC Tax Received - \$ 3,591.62**

**Public comments on agenda items:** None.

**Committee reports:**

**Landfill:** No report.

**Insurance:** No report.

**Youth:** Councilmember Michael McLoughlin congratulated Meaghan Lynch of Schuylerville Central School who captured the State Championship for long jump and is now ranked #1 in New York State and #7 in the U.S. in long jump. In the triple jump she earned the title of Public-School State Runner -Up and Federation State Runner Up.

**Park Committee:** No report.

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

**WEMS:** No report.

**New Business:**

Supervisor Murray stated we have two vacancies for alternate members of the Planning and Zoning Boards. Andy Ellis was elected as Councilmember of the Town Board so we have a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals. George Olsen retired and Chuck Pafundi has moved up to a full Board Member of the Planning Board. Supervisor Murray has been in contact with both Chairman Bill Moreau of the Zoning Board and Chairman Walt Borisenok of the Planning Board asking them to select, interview and vet candidates for each board and they have gotten back with the following recommendations:

On a motion by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Andy Ellis the following **Resolution #26-34 Authorizing the Appointment of an Alternate Member of the Planning Board** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilman Andy Ellis – aye.

**Carried 4 – 0**

*WHEREAS*, the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga, State of New York, has established a Planning Board pursuant to the New York State Town Law §271; and

*WHEREAS*, New York State Town Law §271 authorizes a Town Board to establish an Alternate Planning Board members position for the purpose of substituting for such members when necessary; and

*WHEREAS*, a vacancy currently exists for an alternate member on the Town of Saratoga Planning Board; and

*WHEREAS*, the Town Board is authorized pursuant to the laws of the State of New York to appoint members and the alternate to the Town Planning Board; and

*WHEREAS*, the Town Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to fill said vacancy; and now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga hereby appoints Rick Schwerd to serve as alternate member of the Planning Board and; be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the term of the appointment shall begin on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 and expire on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2033.

On a motion by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, the following **Resolution #26-35 Authorizing the Appointment of an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilman Andy Ellis - aye.

**Carried 4 – 0**

*WHEREAS*, the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga, State of New York, has established a Zoning Board pursuant to the New York State Town Law §271; and

*WHEREAS*, New York State Town Law §271 authorizes a Town Board to establish an Alternate Zoning Board members position for the purpose of substituting for such members when necessary; and

*WHEREAS*, a vacancy currently exists for an alternate member on the Town of Saratoga Zoning Board; and

*WHEREAS*, the Town Board is authorized pursuant to the laws of the State of New York to appoint members and the alternate to the Town Zoning Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to fill said vacancy; and now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga hereby appoints Michael Krasodomski to serve as alternate member of the Zoning Board and; be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the term of the appointment shall begin on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 and expire on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2033.

**Communications:** None

**Privilege of the floor:** no one spoke.

**Upcoming meetings:**

- ❖ Regular Town Board meeting – Monday, April 13th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

**Audit the Bills:** On a motion by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, the following **Resolution #26-36 Approving the Payment of Bills in Abstract 3G of 2026**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilman Andy Ellis - 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 2026 in the following amounts:**

<b>General Fund DB</b>	<b>No. 111-113, 116-129</b>	<b>\$ 44,598.65</b>
<b>General Fund A</b>	<b>No. 083-085, 093, 097, 098, 109, 130-154</b>	<b>\$ 27,325.24</b>
<b>General Fund B</b>	<b>No. 099, 155-157</b>	<b>\$ <u>572.76</u></b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$ 72,496.65</b>

A motion was made by Councilmember Andy Ellis and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Andy Ellis - aye.

**Carried 4 – 0**

**Meeting Adjourned**

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Conover  
Town Clerk