

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

**April 13th, 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 – present, Councilman Gary Squires – present, Councilman Andy Ellis - present.

Also present: Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Gil Albert, Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell and other interested parties.

Posting Dates: Supervisor Murray read posting dates for the draft minutes, tonight’s public hearing, meeting notices and the draft agenda for this meeting.

Recognitions/Presentations/ Bid openings/Public Hearings:

Public Hearing on the Mass Gathering Permits for Saratoga Rowing Association’s Regattas scheduled for April 18th, April 25th-26th, 2026 and May 9th-10th, 2026. Supervisor Ian Murray reviewed the measures taken to ensure the public’s safety at the Saratoga Rowing Association’s Regattas. Proof of notice in the Saratogian on April 6th having been provided, Supervisor Ian Murray opened the Public Hearing on the Mass Gathering Permits for the April 18th, April 25th -26th, 2026 and May 9th-10th, 2026 at 7:02 p.m., asking those wishing to speak to please stand at the podium, state their name and address for the record, direct their comments to the Board, and keep within the 3 minute time-frame allowed each person. Seeing as no one wished to speak, Supervisor Ian Murray, closed the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Ruth Drumm, **to accept the minutes of the March 9th, 2026 Regular Town Board meeting as written.** Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilman Andy Ellis - aye.
Carried 5 –0

Town Clerk’s report for March 2026: Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for the Animal Population Control Program \$38.00. Fees paid to New York D.E.C. for hunting and fishing licenses \$ 23.62. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses \$0. Dog license fees to Supervisor Ian Murray \$160.00. Clerk fees to Supervisor Ian Murray \$341.38. Total State and Local Revenues received were \$563.00.

Zoning Officer’s report for March 2026: 6 Building Permits, 11 Building Inspections, 5 Certificates of Occupancy, 1 Junkyard Permits, 0 Complaints, 0 Fire Inspections, 0 Order to Remedy, 5 misc., 3 Building Permit Renewals and 0 Property Maintenance Inspections. A check for \$1,035.20 was given to Supervisor Ian Murray.

Dog Control officer’s report for March 2026: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer answered 9 complaints, took 0 dog to the shelter, 1 bite cases, traveled 86 miles, issued 2 warnings and 0 summons’ were issued.

Town Court report for March 2026: 15 Traffic tickets closed, 0 Criminal/penal law case closed, 0 civil cases closed, 2 DWI cases closed, 0 Encon/DEC closed, 0 Town and Dog cases closed. Supervisor Ian Murray received a check from Justice John McCarron in the amount of \$ 650.00, a check from Justice Charles Sherman in the amount of \$150.00, for a total of \$800.00.

Tax Collector's report March 2026: 89% of taxes have been collected, with a total to date of \$4,0357,793.51. 1,778 mailed in their payments, 289 made payments on-line, 690 wire transfer, 132 at the County.

Historian's report March 2026:

March marked a period of significant growth in public engagement, digital reach, and regional visibility for the Town of Saratoga Historian's Office. Building on the quieter but productive groundwork laid in February, the month demonstrated measurable success in expanding both audience and influence as the Semiquincentennial approaches.

Digital outreach saw substantial gains across all platforms. The Substack publication experienced a 28% increase in subscribers since the beginning of March, reflecting sustained interest in Saratoga's Revolutionary War narratives and place-based storytelling. Over the course of the month, 34 original articles were published, generating more than 11,000 views. These pieces continue to connect local history to broader themes of the American Revolution, reinforcing Saratoga's interpretive leadership in advance of the 250th commemorations.

The Town Historian's WordPress site, while more static in nature, recorded approximately 1,100 views, serving as a stable reference point for residents and researchers. Social media reach expanded dramatically, with the Historian's Facebook page generating 57,400 views during the month. In total, the Historian's digital platforms approached 80,000 views in March alone—an important indicator of growing public interest and a meaningful driver of heritage tourism to the Town and surrounding region.

Public programming and media initiatives also advanced in notable ways. The documentary *Henry Knox: Resolved – Forged by Revolution* continued to gain traction following its release. Two community screenings within Saratoga County were well attended and positively received, demonstrating strong local engagement with Revolutionary War storytelling. Additional screenings are scheduled, including an upcoming program in Rensselaer County and participation in a film festival at the Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls. These events extend the reach of Saratoga's historical narrative beyond county lines while strengthening regional partnerships.

Looking ahead, preparations are underway for a series of public lectures tied to the 250th anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's seven-day visit to Saratoga in 1776. Early registration numbers are strong, and due to high demand, consideration is being given to adding a third presentation date. This program offers an opportunity to interpret Saratoga's role within the broader diplomatic and political landscape of the Revolutionary era, further enhancing its appeal to heritage tourists and local audiences alike.

Professional engagement at the national level also contributed to Saratoga's growing reputation. Attendance at a leading American Revolution conference in Richmond provided an opportunity to connect with scholars, museum professionals, and public historians from across the country. Notably, three Saratoga 250 commissioners were present, and Saratoga's initiatives were frequently part of broader conversations about public history and commemorative strategy. Informal discussions with representatives from Colonial Williamsburg suggested that Saratoga's marketing and interpretive efforts are being recognized as highly competitive on a national stage—an encouraging sign as the Semiquincentennial draws nearer.

Community-based initiatives also continued to build momentum. The first fundraiser for the 2026 Turning Point Parade & Festival has been successfully completed, with strong local support demonstrating continued investment in Saratoga's commemorative programming and civic life.

Taken together, March's activities reflect a coordinated effort to expand Saratoga's historical visibility through research, storytelling, public programming, and strategic outreach. The scale of digital engagement, combined with growing regional and national recognition, positions the Town of Saratoga as a leading voice in Revolutionary War interpretation and heritage tourism. These efforts will continue to build momentum toward the Semiquincentennial, ensuring that Saratoga's stories—especially those connected to the Battles of Saratoga—remain central to the national narrative of America's founding.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Kelleher

Historian, Town of Saratoga

Assessor's report March 2026: No Report.

Highway Superintendent's report for March 2026:

- ❖ Cleared large branches, trees & brush from Highways & right of way
- ❖ Repaired/replaced damaged or missing road signs throughout Town
- ❖ Patched pot holes throughout Town
- ❖ Removed snow & ice from Town highways, Rec areas & parking lots
- ❖ Made repairs & updates to buildings
- ❖ Multiple repairs made to trucks & equipment
- ❖ Cleaned shop & equipment
- ❖ Completed PM service on both Rollers & roadside mowers
- ❖ Completed PM service on Sweeper
- ❖ Completed PM services & brake inspection on all tandem dumps
- ❖ Started to remove & service winter equipment from trucks

Supervisor Murray asked Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell to go over the information regarding the Paver he would like to purchase, since we have a resolution later in the meeting for the approval to purchase.

The paver is a CAT 2011 AP55E, it's a solid machine. Ryan and his foreman went to look at the paver, they have been looking for some time for a newer one. They have been trying to upgrade their old one which is from 1989. They had hydraulic issues with the old one last year, which put a damper on their shimming and preparation for resurfacing of the roads. By doing this themselves it saves quite a bit of money. If we have to hire a company, we will have to pay prevailing wage and try to find trucks to keep things moving, with owning our own equipment we can run at our own pace with four to five trucks, so we'll save that money rather than paying prevailing wage.

Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell stated that some of the pavers have been selling for \$75,00.00 - \$100,000.00 and flying off the lots. This was the third paver they looked at and Ryan reached out to Supervisor Murray to get confirmation to make an offer and get them to hold it until this meeting. The company generously accepted, they were asking \$55,900 and Ryan offered \$52,00.00 and they accepted the offer. Ryan stated that they the previous owner will come up and show them the dos and don'ts of the paver. Ryan stated this speaks volumes of the company.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT March 2026:

GENERAL FUND – TOWNWIDE (A FUND)

Balance on hand 3/1/2026	\$ 1,069,362.69
Revenues	+ 221,886.77
Disbursements	- (284,004.60)
Balance 3/31/2026	\$ 1,007,244.86

GENERAL FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (B FUND)

Balance on hand 3/1/2026	\$ 2,428,667.91
Revenues	+ 351.26
Disbursements	- (641.82)
Balance 3/31/2026	\$ 2,428,377.35

HIGHWAY FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (DB FUND)

Balance on hand 3/1/2026	\$ 69,863.99
Revenues	+ 164,267.40
Disbursements	- (96,938.40)
Balance 3/31/2026	\$ 137,192.99

SCHUYLER PARK 3/31/2026	\$ 108,076.01
YOUTH RECREATION & SERVICE 3/31/2026	\$ 8,673.85
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE 3/31/2026	\$ 245,001.78
BUILDING RESERVE 3/31/2026	\$ 484,503.32
CDPHP & HRA 3/31/2026	\$ 3,839.37
AHC HOME IMPROVEMENT 3/31/2026	\$ -
CDBG PROJECT 3/31/2026	\$ 16,533.20
SCENIC BY WAYS QRTLRY 3/31/2026	\$ 312.61
PARKS RESERVE 3/31/2026	\$ 376,956.55
GFNB Certificate of Deposit 3/31/2026	\$ 848,314.69
NYCLASS 3/31/2026	\$ 826,812.67

March 2026 Distribution - Sales Tax Received - \$ 164,014.00

March 2026 Distribution- Mortgage Tax Received - \$ 18,211.50

Supervisor Murray stated that the Town of Saratoga’s new website is done and training classes will need to be done before the new site goes live.

Public comments on agenda items: Richard Reuther addressed the board.

Committee reports:

Landfill: No report.

Insurance: No report.

Youth: No report.

Park Committee: Councilmember Gary Squires advised the Schuyler Park Committee met on Tuesday, March 31, 2026 in preparation for the new season and the following items were discussed:

- ❖ Yearly Financials
- ❖ Field Readiness for Spring play – opening day was set for Monday, 4/6/26
- ❖ Maintenance with Collins Turf Service – continuing to provide excellent care of the fields
- ❖ Irrigation System – system start up scheduled for 4/22/26
- ❖ Trash pickup to continue weekly with the help of the Town of Northumberland Highway Department

- ❖ Porta-pots were in place 4/3/26 in preparation for the 4/6/26 opening.
- ❖ Ethan Lavendar Eagle Scout Project – Replacing the Girls Softball Dugout – will commence in June so as not to impact this season’s play

Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell stated that they got and delivered 18 ton of infield mix for Schuyler Park. He also they are also looking into getting a load of safe wood chips for the playground area.

Town of Saratoga Boat Launch

Councilmember Andy Ellis stated that he walked the trail and shoreline at the Town of Saratoga Boat Launch. Councilmember Ellis would like to organize a cleanup day with volunteers. He is looking toward the end April and plans on posting on our website and Facebook for volunteers to help with the clean-up.

Hudson Crossing Park

Councilmember Andy Ellis advised that he walked Hudson Crossing Park with Julie White. They looked at a couple decks that need help with the repair. The first one they would like to deal with is the kids deck that is in the shape of a boat, the deck framing will be inspected once the deck is taken up. Councilmember Ellis and McLoughlin have been working on the material list in order to repair this deck. The Canal clean up day at Hudson Crossing Park, is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and they are still looking for volunteers.

Fort Hardy Park

The friends of Fort Hardy Park Committee asked Councilmember Andy Ellis for some help in getting debris removed. The volunteers have been going there and cleaning up but can’t lift the heavy items. Councilman Ellis thanked Village Trustee Michelle Campbell for asking the Village DPW to go down to the park and remove the heavy debris items for the volunteers.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM): No report.

WEMS: No report.

New Business:

Supervisor Ian Murray stated that Engineer Ken Martin reached out to him after his review of mass gathering for the regatta and indicated that there was no narrative in the application. Supervisor Murray got a hold of the Saratoga Rowing Association and they will update the narrative on the application, everything else is complete, the certificate of insurance meets all requirements.

On a motion by Councilmember Andy Ellis and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin the following **Resolution #26-37 Mass Gathering Permit of 2026 – Saratoga Rowing Association Regattas** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilman Andy Ellis – aye.

Carried 5 – 0

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga has received and reviewed the application for a Mass Gathering Permit by the Saratoga Rowing Association for the following Regattas on Fish Creek, Saratoga Lake:

- ❖ April 18th, 2026, 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. – New York State Collegiate Championship. Estimated number of people attending is 1500 with a minimum of 300 vehicles.
- ❖ April 25th-26th, 2026 – 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. – Saratoga Invitational. Estimated number of people attending is 5,000 with minimum of 1,500 vehicles.
- ❖ May 9th-10th, 2026, 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. – NYS High School Championships. Estimated number of

attendees is 5,000 with 1,500 vehicles.

and

WHEREAS, the required information has been submitted, as required by Local Law #2 of 2006;
and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga has held a public hearing on April 14, 2025 for input by interested persons; and

WHEREAS, the event is desirable for the town, now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga grants the permit for said regattas, conditional upon the Town of Saratoga receiving a Certificate of Insurance for the above event naming the Town of Saratoga as additional insured in the amount of \$2 million, at least 5 business days prior to the event; that the events are found to be in compliance with the NYS Department of Health regulations of Chapter 1, Title 10, Part 18 by the NYS DOH when required; and that the review of the information required by Local Law #2 of 2006, Section 3 is found to be adequate.

On a motion by Councilmember Ruth Drumm and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, the following **Resolution #26-38 Board of Assessment Review (BAR) reappointment of Wendy Lukas** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilman Andy Ellis - aye.
Carried 5 – 0

WHEREAS, the term of BAR Member Wendy Lukas expired 9/30/2025 and; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga hereby reappoints Wendy Lukas for a 5-year term as Member of the BAR from 10/1/2025 – 09/30/2030.

On a motion by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, the following **Resolution #26-39 Authorization to Purchase a used CAT AP555 Paver:** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilman Andy Ellis - aye.

Carried 5 – 0

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga, authorizes Highway Superintendent Ryan Cambell to go forward with purchasing a used CAT AP555 Paver, Serial #A5D00143, Rubber Track 10 Ton Hopper 8ft x 6” screen for a total cost of \$52,000.00. Payment will be made from Highway Equipment-DB5130.2 to Precision Roads, Inc.

On a motion by Councilmember Gary Squires and seconded by Councilmember Andy Ellis, the following **Resolution #26-40 Declaring the Highway Department’s Blawknox Paver as Surplus Equipment and Authorization for the Highway Superintendent to Advertise said Surplus Equipment for Sale:** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilman Andy Ellis - aye.

Carried 5 – 0

WHEREAS, the Town of Saratoga Highway Superintendent has stated that the Blawknox Paver, is going to be replaced and is no longer needed now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board, of the Town of Saratoga, now declares the Blawknox Paver as surplus equipment and authorizes the Town Highway Superintendent to advertise the sale of said surplus equipment.

Communications: Supervisor Ian Murray received a letter from the American Legion Post 278 in Schuylerville inviting him and any representative from the Town to join them on Monday May 28th, 2026 9 a.m. for a short parade from the Post to the Veterans Park on South Broad Street, proceeded by a flag ceremony at the Post, conducted by Scout Troup 13.

The Town Board received a letter of recognition from a resident recognizing Cassidie Ruzycyky who works as a Clerk in the Town of Saratoga Assessor's office. The resident wanted to Thank Cassidie for helping for a second year in a row with the Senior Eligibility Tax Exemption. The note also stated that Cassadie is very professional, knowledgeable and empathetic to the community citizens she assists. They also wanted to inform the Town Board of what an outstanding job Cassidie is doing in our communities' behalf. She goes above and beyond each day and it shows.

Privilege of the floor: no one spoke.

Upcoming meetings:

- ❖ Regular Town Board meeting – Monday, May 11th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Audit the Bills: On a motion by Councilmember Ruth Drumm and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, the following **Resolution #26-41 Approving the Payment of Bills in Abstract 4G of 2026**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilman Andy Ellis - aye.

Carried 5 – 0

RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga to authorize payment of the bills listed in **Abstract 4G of 2026 in the following amounts:**

General Fund DB	No. 190-214	\$ 20,575.13
General Fund A	No. 163-170,172-174, 189, 215-235	\$ 28,824.33
General Fund B	No. 171, 175, 236-242	\$ <u>8,785.05</u>
Grand Total		\$ 58,184.51

A motion was made by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Andy Ellis - aye.

Carried 5 – 0

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Conover
Town Clerk