

TOWN OF SARATOGA TOWN BOARD
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
12 SPRING ST., SCHUYLERVILLE, NY
June 09th, 2025
7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Ian Murray opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance at 7:01 p.m.

Roll call: Town Clerk Michelle Conover, called the roll: Supervisor Ian Murray - present, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – absent, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – present, 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, Noel Swanson, Andy Ellis, Alex Fasulo, Bri Zell, Lisa Fasulo, Deb Peck Kelleher, Theresa Capozzola, Paul Murphy and other interested parties.

Recognitions/Presentations/ Bid openings/Public Hearings:

Recognition – Supervisor Murray wants to recognize Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell who is also Chief of the David Nevins Fire Department. On May 31st, 2025 the Village of Victory had a horrific fire at the Victory Mill. To put the fire in perspective the mill was five stories and 200,000 sq. ft., which is equivalent to approximately 20 homes that burnt up in one evening. Over twelve fire departments responded to this emergency.

Supervisor Murray reached out and thanked all the Supervisors and the Mayor of Saratoga Springs that offered mutual aid that night. Supervisor Murray wants to recognize and say thank you to our local professionals especially Quaker Springs Fire Department, Schuyler Hose Company and both ladies' auxiliaries.

Supervisor Murray would also like to thank the Town of Saratoga Highway Department. Both Craig Sutherland – Quaker Springs Fire Department and Josh Weaver – David Nevins Fire Department and Town of Saratoga Highway employees Mike Marshal and Chris Benn who also responded to the scene. There was an issue with traffic control, so Mike and Chris helped until the Sheriff's Department responded. Supervisor Murray went on to say with the weather the way it was that day with all the wind and rain, trees came down on the Towns roadways that night, so the Town Highway Department was called out again. Supervisor Murray would like to thank the Highway Department for all their efforts that day.

Supervisor Murray would like to also thank the David Nevins Fire Department for responding and mainly, our Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell. Ryan was commander on site that evening with over 100 firefighters and thankfully no one was injured. Supervisor Murray thanked Ryan again and all the professionals that were on site. Supervisor Murray asked everyone to join him in thanking Superintendent Ryan Campbell, Ryan received a standing ovation from everyone present at the meeting.

Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell thanked everyone. Ryan explained there were over one-hundred firefighters and twenty-three apparatuses at the scene of the fire. For over twelve hours it was considered as an emergency scene. After the emergency the scene was declared over the scene was held for six full days straight 24/7 coverage until the scene was deemed safe for the demolition crew.

Bid Opening: On May 23rd, 2025 the Installation Lighting and Controls upgrade, Invitation to bid ad was sent to the Saratogian and also posted on the Town of Saratoga website. Sealed bids would be received at Town Hall, 12 Spring Street, Schuylerville, NY 12871. The bids will be publicly opened at 7:00 p.m. local time on June 9, 2025 at the Town Hall, 12 Spring Street, Schuylerville, NY 12871. Sealed bids will be received at the same location at any time before said opening. No bids were received. Supervisor Murray stated Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg will update the board later in the meeting.

Supervisor Ian Murray opened the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law #1 of 2025, Solar Energy Facilities Law at 7:08 p.m., asking those wishing to speak to please stand at the podium, state their name and address, direct their comments to the Board and keep within the 3-minute time-frame allowed each person. The following addressed the Board in opposition of proposed Local Law #1 of 2025.

Alex Fasulo, resident – Coveville Road. Alex started a pollinator farm to support and revive the endangered bees and butterflies. Solar facilities installations would disrupt the migrations it will bring a level of herbicide spraying that would destroy her farm overnight. The pesticides, mowing and soil compaction that would be required would kill all the pollinators that she is attracting to her farm. Solar facilities would reduce property values.

After a solar farm leaves, it will ruin the land with chemicals that leach into the soil. It would be the most anti thing the Town could allow especially in a Town that prides itself on the Right to Farm law. Alex feels that solar panels belong in smarter places. There is over 4,500,000.00 sq ft of retail, government, big box stores space in Saratoga County alone that could support solar panels, there is also 34 miles of I-87 where panels could go, or even suspend as a solar canopy.

Noel Swanson – Developer /Representative Cypress Creek Renewables, Santa Monica, Ca. Noel appreciates everything that has gone into the Town's code revisions. He feels the revisions are excessively restrictive particularly on tier 3 systems. He would like the Town Board to heed his request and reject the amendment that is being considered. He asks that this proposed Local Law# 1 be tabled for an additional 3 months to allow for industry input. Supervisor Ian Murray stated we didn't design this law for developers it was designed for the residents of the Town of Saratoga.

The following addressed the Board in favor of proposed Local Law #1 of 2025.

Andy Ellis, resident – River Road. Andy believes proposed Local Law #1 is thorough and thinks it's a positive for our Town. We have a rich agricultural history and historical significance. He believes this proposed Local Law will protect our area and be good for our residents.

Deb Peck Kelleher, resident – Route 32S. Deb thanked the Board for spending so much time putting together a well thought ordinance. Deb has several questions and concerns she advised the Town Board of. Supervisor Murray asked if she would please email her comments regarding Local Law #1, Deb agreed and in conclusion she would like the Board to revise this proposed law to expand the use of roof top or ground mounted solar on-site generation at our residences, farms commercial properties and revised the proposed laws to make it feasible for large land owners to lease a small portion of their property for community solar.

Deb thinks the limitations on tier 3 solar installations will cause more rapid loss of farmland and open space than if a more measured law was enacted. Farmers and other large land owners are currently renting their fields to other farmers that are continually approached by housing developers to sell their land for millions of dollars. Eventually these farmers and their heirs will sell their land for houses. Small community solar offers these land owners an opportunity to earn a nice income from leasing 20-30 acres of their land and allow them to keep the remaining acres as farmland.

Paul Murphy, resident- Hill Road. This proposed Local Law #1 was handed out to 48 households on the West side of the Town of Saratoga. Paul thanked the Board for a very thorough and well-done proposal. The majority feel strongly about protecting their green and wildlands. The residents feel the law is appropriate. They believe this is the right kind of program for our community. Paul stated this law is supported on the west side of the Town of Saratoga.

John Cashin, resident – Cedar Bluff. John sent in written comments for the Board to consider. John believes that proposed Local Law #1 to be a comprehensive approach to this form of renewable energy development. John did suggest amendments to consider before passing Local Law #1. Increasing setbacks for residential properties and public roads (tier 3 or 4). Sound limit clarification, stronger forest preservation standards, deforestation and vegetation offset requirements, glare monitoring and mitigation.

Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg asked what are we going to do if we want to implement changes based on the verbal and written comments brought before the Board. Supervisor Murray didn't think there would be any changes he feels these are more language rather than policy issues. Supervisor Murray stated he will review all the verbal and written comments and if there is a need to be edited and added to the Local Law before it gets voted on.

Supervisor Ian Murray closed the Public Hearing at 7:24 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Ruth Drumm and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, **to accept the minutes of the May 12th, 2025 Regular Town Board meeting as written.** Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – absent, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

Carried 4-0

Town Clerk's report for May 2025: Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for the Animal Population Control Program \$51.00. Fees paid to New York D.E.C. for hunting and fishing licenses \$94.48. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses \$45.00. Dog license fees to Supervisor Ian Murray \$235.00. Clerk fees to Supervisor Ian Murray \$190.52. Total State and Local Revenues received were \$616.00.

Zoning Officer's report for May 2025: 12 Building Permits, 22 Building Inspections, 9 Certificates of Occupancy, 1 Junkyard Permits, 0 Complaints, 0 Fire Inspections, 0 Order to Remedy, 3 misc., 13 Building Permit Renewals and 0 Property Maintenance Inspections. A check for \$5,089.40 was given to Supervisor Ian Murray.

Dog Control officer's report for May 2025: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer answered 16 complaints, took 1 dog to the shelter, 1 bite case, traveled 97 miles, issued 7 warnings and 1 summons' were issued.

Town Court report for May 2025: 16 Traffic tickets closed, 1 Criminal/penal law cases closed, 1 Civil case closed, 0 Encon/DEC closed, 1 DWI case closed, 0 Town and Dog cases closed. Supervisor Ian Murray received a check from Justice John McCarron in the amount of \$1,896.00, a check from Justice Charles Sherman in the amount of \$240.00 for a total of \$2,136.00.

Tax Collector's report for May 2025: No Report.

Historians Report May 2025: No Report.

Assessor's Report May 2025: No Report.

Highway Superintendent's report for May 2025:

- ❖ Cleared large branches, trees & brush from Highways & right of way
- ❖ Mowed & trimmed town properties & right of ways
- ❖ Repaired/replaced damaged or missing road signs throughout town

- ❖ Patched pot holes throughout town
- ❖ Swept roads & intersections
- ❖ Regarded all dirt roads
- ❖ Replaced radiator on Truck 6
- ❖ Hauled in multiple loads of shoulder stone & asphalt for projects
- ❖ Attended paving printables seminar
- ❖ Attended slat summit seminar
- ❖ Installed docks at town boat Launch Route 4
- ❖ Installed 250th banners throughout town & villages
- ❖ Assisted Village or Schuylerville with tree removal & hanging banners
- ❖ Shimmed and paved both Burke & Walsh Road
- ❖ Assisted with paving projects in the Towns of Easton, Moreau & Malta.

Supervisor's report:

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT MAY 2025

GENERAL FUND – TOWNWIDE (A FUND)

Balance on hand 5/1/2025	\$ 664,430.90
Revenues	+ 308,156.61
Disbursements	- (283,302.44)
Balance 5/31/2025	\$ 689,285.07

GENERAL FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (B FUND)

Balance on hand 5/1/2025	\$2,304,828.36
Revenues	+ 7,784.00
Disbursements	- (4,902.83)
Balance 5/31/2025	\$2,307,709.53

HIGHWAY FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (DB FUND)

Balance on hand 5/1/2025	\$ 325,716.06
Revenues	+ 173,828.38
Disbursements	- (45,290.72)
Balance 5/31/2025	\$ 454,263.71

SCHUYLER PARK 5/31/2025	\$ 53,634.92
YOUTH RECREATION & SERVICE 5/31/2025	\$ 8,673.85
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE 5/31/2025	\$160,850.58
BUILDING RESERVE 5/31/2025	\$484,125.80
CDPHP & HRA 5/31/2025	\$ 4,365.00
AHC HOME IMPROVEMENT 5/31/2025	\$ 91,681.00
CDBG PROJECT 5/31/25	\$ 16,533.20
SCENIC BY WAYS QRTRLY 5/31/2025	\$ 312.45
PARKS RESERVE 5/31/2025	\$376,956.55
GFNB Certificate of Deposit 5/31/2025	\$832,083.37
NYCLASS 5/31/2025	\$800,627.77

May 2025 Distribution - Sales Tax Received - \$ 173,758.00

May 2025 Distribution- Mortgage Tax Received - \$ 6,301.50

Public comments on agenda items:

Committee reports:

Landfill: No report.

Insurance: No report.

Youth: No report.

Park Committee: No report.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM): No report.

WEMS: No report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: On a motion by Councilmember Gary Squires and seconded by Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg, the following **Resolution #25-43, Support for the New York State Assembly and Senate to Pass a Strong Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (Senate Bill 1464 / Assembly Bill 1749)** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – absent, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

Carried 4 – 0

WHEREAS, packing makes up approximately 40% of the waste in New York state, and;

WHEREAS, managing waste costs New York taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars annually, and;

WHEREAS, most plastic packaging is not recyclable, and reuseable and refillable packaging systems are not widely available, and;

WHEREAS, plastic causes serious pollution, including litter and use of toxic chemicals, and;

WHEREAS, companies that produce packaging should be responsible for the costs of managing packaging waste, not just taxpayers, and;

WHEREAS, enacting the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, pending in New York Assembly and the New York Senate, would reduce waste, increase recycling rates, create jobs, reduce toxicity in packaging, provide millions of dollars in savings for local governments and taxpayers, and lower greenhouse gas emissions, and;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Saratoga urges the New York state legislature to pass and Governor Kathy Hochul to sign into law a strong and effective Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, Senate Bill 1464/Assembly Bill 1749, and;

RESOLVED, further, that the Town of Saratoga shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, New York Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, and New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the local state assemblymember, the local state senator, and all other deemed necessary and proper.

Communications: Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg addressed the Board regarding the High Impact Energy Grant. There were four actions that the engineer suggested when the assessment was performed. One - lighting retrofit in the northeast wing, Second - thermostats, third – insulation, fourth – weatherization. Quotes were received for the thermostats but, what's happened since we received these quotes is that National Grid has a new program that will be rolling out to the public in

the near future. Once it's been rolled out to the public Councilmember Lautenberg will reach out to her contact with National Grid as their contractor for these programs. She explained that the Town can literally get these thermostats for pennies.

We did an RFP for lighting and controls and we didn't get a response. Our CDRPC – (Capital District Regional Planning Commission) mentor suggested that the Town look into National Grid again since they have expanded their support for programs like this. We may qualify for their small business program and there is a possibility, we may be able to get up to 70% off all fixtures which, was not this way when the process began. The Town will have to work with a National Grid partner/contractor. We've been referred to one contractor who is located in Central New York, which is not a good fit location wise, but it's somewhere to start. Hopefully by the end of July we can be able to do our first deliverable to NYSERDA and get the first \$2,500.00 of the \$10,000.00 grant. It's like a little incentive to move things along. More to come.

Privilege of the floor: Deb Peck Kelleher addressed the Board.

Upcoming meetings:

- ❖ Special Town Board meeting – Tuesday, June 24th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ Regular Town Board meeting – Monday, July 14th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Audit the Bills: On a motion by Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, the following **Resolution #25-44 Approving the Payment of Bills in Abstract 6G of 2025**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – absent, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – aye, 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 6G of 2025 in the following amounts:**

General Fund DB	No. 336-345	\$194,948.41
General Fund A	No. 318-320, 332-335, 346-364	\$ 22,356.46
General Fund B	No. 365-366	\$ 367.21
General Fund H	No. 333, 367	\$ 1,556.69
General Fund HPO	No. 368-369	\$ <u>4,170.00</u>
Grand Total		\$229,834.57

A motion was made by Councilmember Gary Squires seconded by Councilmember Ruth Drumm to enter into Executive Session at 7:51p.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 – absent, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, 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 8:11 p.m., with no Board action taken. Motion was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – absent, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg – aye.

Carried 4-0

A motion was made by Councilmember Ruth Drumm and seconded by Supervisor Ian Murray to adjourn the meeting at 8:13p.m. Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – absent, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

Carried 4– 0

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Conover
Town Clerk