

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

**July 13, 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: Deputy Clerk Emilee Shevlin, 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, meeting notices and the draft agenda for this meeting.

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

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, **to accept the minutes of the June 8th, 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 June 2026: Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for the Animal Population Control Program \$49.00. Fees paid to New York D.E.C. for hunting and fishing licenses \$6612. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses \$22.50. Dog license fees to Supervisor Ian Murray \$225.00. Clerk fees to Supervisor Ian Murray \$156.38. Total State and Local Revenues received were \$519.00.

Zoning Officer's report for June 2026: 8 Building Permits, 18 Building Inspections, 9 Certificates of Occupancy, 0 Junkyard Permits, 0 Complaints, 0 Fire Inspections, 1 Order to Remedy, 5 misc., 6 Building Permit Renewals and 0 Property Maintenance Inspections. A check for \$4,223.95 was given to Supervisor Ian Murray.

Dog Control officer's report for June 2026: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer answered 14 complaints, took 0 dogs to the shelter, 2 bite cases, traveled 61 miles, issued 0 warnings and 0 summons' were issued.

Supervisor Murray advised the Dog Control Officer, Inspection Report came back from NYS Ag & Markets. The report came back good and satisfactory. Supervisor Murray stated DCO Ed Cross does a great job.

Town Court report for June 2026: 21 Traffic tickets closed, 3 Criminal/penal law case closed, 0 civil cases closed, 5 Encon/DEC closed, 1 DWI cases closed, 0 Town and Dog cases closed. Supervisor Ian Murray received a check from Justice John McCarron in the amount of \$1,544.00, a check from Justice Charles Sherman in the amount of \$100.00, for a total of \$1,644.00

Tax Collector's report June 2026: No report.

Historians Report — June 2026

Submitted by Sean Kelleher, Town Historian

June marked a period of sustained momentum as preparations accelerated toward the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Activity expanded across digital outreach, public programming, and regional collaboration. Efforts remain focused on connecting residents and visitors to the Town's role in the American Revolution, particularly as planning advances toward the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga

Digital Metrics and Growth:

Digital storytelling continues to serve as a central component of outreach, with strong and measurable engagement across platforms.

- ❖ Substack subscriptions increased by approximately 13% over the previous month
- ❖ A total of 36 original articles were published, generating 11,906 views.
- ❖ The Town Historian's WordPress site recorded 1,000 views.
- ❖ Facebook reach declined to approximately 71,420 views.

In total, the Historian's digital platforms generated approximately 87,326 views in June.

Public Programs and Outreach:

Public programming expanded throughout June and early July, with four events demonstrating strong community engagement:

- ❖ A Lafayette Marker dedication in Schuylerville drew approximately 80 attendees on a notably warm Sunday afternoon.
- ❖ A presentation was delivered at the Chapman Museum in Glens Falls.
- ❖ A book launch event featured Darley Newman host of PBS's Travels with Darley, highlighting her new publication on visiting Revolutionary War sites, including this community. The Partnership for Saratoga 250 has supported her upcoming season, and will she will serve as a social media ambassador for Saratoga 250.
- ❖ Fourth of July festivities at Saratoga Race Course and in downtown Saratoga Springs highlighted the Saratoga Revolutionary Experience centered in Schuylerville.

Events and Community Engagement:

Planning continues for the Turning Point Parade and Festival, as well as for the 2027 commemoration of the Battles of Saratoga. The Turning Point Parade has received national attention, including mention in a recent CNN article, and the Town's work continues to gain visibility through partnerships with Discover Saratoga and I love NY. Infrastructure remains an ongoing priority. Storm events and seasonal wear require regular maintenance of banners, historical markers and public spaces. These efforts would not be possible without the consistent support of the Highway Department. Ryan Campbell and his crew have demonstrated both professionalism and a strong sense of ownership in maintain and improving the Town's historic infrastructure. Their work plays a vital role in preserving the community's heritage while supporting its economic vitality. Their continued commitment is sincerely appreciated.

Highway Superintendent's report for June 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
- ❖ Multiple repairs made to trucks & equipment
- ❖ Cleaned shop & equipment
- ❖ Ditched Wilbur, Hill, Burgoyne & Walsh Roads
- ❖ Installed new driveway culverts Wilbur & Burgoyne
- ❖ Installed 250th Banner at Town Hall
- ❖ Repainted Fire Escape at Town Hall
- ❖ Completed trail head entrance & parking lot at south end of Siege Trail
- ❖ Installed message board at Siege Trial entrance
- ❖ Installed new Lafayette historical sign at Visitors Center in Village
- ❖ Assisted in road construction with the Towns of Wilton, Stillwater, Ballston, Halfmoon, Greenfield & Northumberland

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT June 2026:

GENERAL FUND – TOWNWIDE (A FUND)

Balance on hand 6/1/26	\$1,014,611.83
Revenues	+ 238,781.43
Disbursements	- (304,886.61)
Balance 6/30/2026	\$ 948,506.65

GENERAL FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (B FUND)

Balance on hand 6/1/2026	\$2,413,986.44
Revenues	+ 4,240.22
Disbursements	- (6,289.82)
Balance 6/30/2026	\$2,411,936.84

HIGHWAY FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (DB FUND)

Balance on hand 6/1/2026	\$ 314,167.35
Revenues	+ 191,483.80
Disbursements	- (52,462.33)
Balance 6/30/2026	\$ 453,188.82

SCHUYLER PARK 6/30/2026	\$ 119,784.14
YOUTH RECREATION & SERVICE 6/30/2026	\$ 8,673.85
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE 6/30/2026	\$ 245,057.80
BUILDING RESERVE 6/30/2026	\$ 484,618.36
CDPHP & HRA 6/30/2026	\$ 5,123.74
CDBG PROJECT 6/30/2026	\$ 16,533.20
SCENIC BY WAYS QTRRLY 6/30/2026	\$ 312.61
PARKS RESERVE 6/30/2026	\$ 376,956.55
GFNB Certificate of Deposit 6/30/2026	\$ 873,415.50
NYCLASS 6/30/2026	\$ 834,091.19
GFNB – ICS General Fund	\$1,001,576.23

Mortgage Tax June 2026 Distribution - \$ 15,334.50

Sales Tax June 2026 Distribution - \$191,394.00

Public comments on agenda items: No one spoke.

Committee reports:

Landfill: Supervisor Murray advised ground water testing has been done and we received results about a week ago. Supervisor Murray has forwarded the report to the Town Engineer Ken Martin and Councilmember Gary Squires.

Insurance: Supervisor Murray stated Dave Meager from Amsure will be here at out August 10th, 2026 meeting to review the Town's insurance which renews mid-August.

The underwriter from NYMIR came last Thursday, July 9th, 2026 and inspected the Highway Garage, Town Hall and Schuyler Park.

Youth: Supervisor Murray passed out the schedule for the recreational Summer Trip Program. The Town of Saratoga and the Town of Northumberland partnered and combined recreational monies. Several trips are scheduled for the youth of both Towns. The following trips are scheduled for 7/8/26 at Fort Hardy Park, 7/15/26 white water rafting at Adirondack Adventure, 7/22/26 Valley Cats Baseball game, 7/29/26 Adirondack Extreme High Ropes course, 8/5/26 The Fun Spot and 8/12/26 Rocksport Rock Climbing.

Park Committee: The Town received a noise complaint from a resident. One of the organizations at Schuyler Park was using audio equipment / loudspeaker. It has been determined that no audio equipment will be allowed or used at Schuyler Park.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM): No report.

Old / Other Business: None

New Business:

On a motion by Councilmember Ruth Drumm and seconded by Councilmember Andy Ellis the following **Resolution #26-46 Authorization for Health Insurance** 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, on an annual basis the Town Board enters into insurance contracts to provide health insurance coverage for eligible employees; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed proposals for contracts to commence August 1, 2026; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to sign contracts for health insurance benefits for active employees with Capital District Physicians Health Plan, for Medical Plan SUSF8313 - HDEPO HSA Qualified 320 Silver, effective August 1, 2026 for a one-year term and for pre 65 eligible retirees and/or their spouse. The deductible will be reimbursed by the town through a special account that CDPHP can withdraw deductibles from as needed. The Town will pay the first \$1500.00 of deductibles for single plans and the first \$3,000.00 for employee plus one plans as currently being done.

On a motion by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires the following **Resolution #26-47 Walnut Street – Joseph J. Turcotte Jr.** 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 Saratoga County tax map for the Town of Saratoga shows an area on the north side of Burgoyne Street designated as “Walnut Street”, and

WHEREAS, research by the Town into this parcel of land shows that it has never been used, worked, opened or maintained as a public highway and is therefore a so-called “paper street”, and

WHEREAS, the Town has nevertheless received a request from Joseph J. Turcotte Jr., whose property adjoins Walnut Street on the west (Tax Map #157.-1-52), to quitclaim the area adjacent to his parcel to the extent of one-half the width of Walnut Street, and running along his easterly boundary, and

WHEREAS, a certified survey of the aforesaid property, dated June 18th, 2026, showing the area to be conveyed, has been prepared by James M. Vianna, PLS, it is now, therefore

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor execute a quitclaim conveyance of said property to Joseph J. Turcotte Jr., and that the aforesaid map be filed with the Saratoga County Clerk, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the preparation and filing of these papers be done at the sole expense of Joseph J. Turcotte Jr.

Communications: Councilmember Gary Squires received an email from a concerned citizen who happened to notice that the “Nielson” road sign was spelled incorrectly. This person’s family are direct descendants of Captain John Neilson of the Saratoga Battlefield, who had a family farm on Neilson road. For decades there appears to have been confusion over the spelling of the Neilson name. Her email went on to say that in 2006 it was corrected to read Neilson. Now, it’s back to being spelled incorrectly. “For the sake of history and as well as the legacy of the Neilson family she is asking for the sign to be corrected to Neilson Road.”

Superintendent of Highway Ryan Campbell stated that he is currently researching the spelling of the name of the road. Highway Superintendent Campbell is currently in contact with Saratoga County, NYSDOT and is also waiting to hear back from 911 dispatch to see what they have logged in their system for the spelling of the name.

Councilmember Gary Squires advised the Old Saratoga Knolls road sign is also incorrect.

Councilmember Squires advised that all property records and the development name are spelled Olde

Saratoga Knolls Lane. Councilmember Squires advised that Google maps take the information from the street signs therefore it does not recognize “Olde Saratoga Knolls Lane” which is the proper destination.

Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell said he would order new signs and get them put up.

Privilege of the floor: None.

Upcoming meetings:

- ❖ Regular Town Board meeting – Monday, August 10th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Audit the Bills: On a motion by Councilmember Ruth Drumm and seconded by Councilmember Andy Ellis the following **Resolution #26-48 Approving the Payment of Bills in Abstract 7G 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 7G of 2026 in the following amounts:**

General Fund DB	No. 401-415	\$ 50,157.98
General Fund A	No. 362-368, 370, 375-377, 379, 384, 394, 399-411, 416-436	\$ 27,463.35
General Fund B	No. 380, 395 & 437	\$ 4,011.98
General Fund H	No. 369, 438-440	<u>\$ 5,806.24</u>
Grand Total		\$ 85,311.85

A motion was made by Councilmember Gary Squires and seconded by Councilmember Ruth Drumm to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 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