

TOWN OF SARATOGA TOWN BOARD
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
12 SPRING ST., SCHUYLERVILLE, NY
September 9, 2024
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, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg – present.

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

Recognitions/Presentations/ Bid openings/Public Hearings:

Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law #3 of 2024 – Extending the Moratorium on Major Solar Collection Systems in the Town of Saratoga. Proof of notice in the Saratogian on August 31st, 2024 having been provided, Supervisor Murray opened the Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m., asking those wishing to speak to please state their name and address for the record and direct their questions/comments to the Board. Seeing as no one wished to speak, Supervisor Ian Murray closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Public Hearing on the Mass Gathering Permit for Saratoga Rowing Association Regatta - Proof of notice in the Saratogian on August 31, 2024 having been provided, Supervisor Ian Murray opened the Public Hearing at 7:08 p.m., asking those wishing to speak to please state their name and address for the record and direct their questions/comments to the Board. Seeing as no one wished to speak, Supervisor Ian Murray closed the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, **to accept the minutes of the August 12th, 2024 Regular Town Board meeting as written.** Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

Carried 5 – 0

Town Clerk’s report for August 2024: Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for the Animal Population Control Program \$47.00. Fees paid to New York D.E.C. for hunting and fishing licenses \$1,285.93. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses \$90.00. Dog license fees to Supervisor Ian Murray \$225.00. Clerk fees to Supervisor Ian Murray \$165.82. Total State and Local Revenues received were \$1,813.75.

Zoning Officer’s report for August 2024: 7 Building Permits, 20 Building Inspections, 10 Certificates of Occupancy, 0 Junkyard Permits, 0 Complaints, 0 Fire Inspections, 0 Order to Remedy, 6 misc., 14 Building Permit Renewal and 0 Property Maintenance Inspections. A check for \$5,061.65 was given to Supervisor Ian Murray.

Dog Control officer's report for August 2024: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer answered 13 complaints, took 2 dogs to the shelter, 2 bite cases, traveled 133 miles, issued 6 warnings and 3 summons' were issued.

Town Court report for August 2024: Closed Traffic Tickets - 27, Closed Criminal/Penal Law cases – 2, Closed Civil Cases – 4, Closed Encon/DEC – 6, Closed DWI's – 0, Closed Town & Dog cases – 1. The following checks were submitted to Supervisor Ian Murray for fines & fees: \$318.00 from Justice Charles Sherman - and \$1,735.00 from Justice John McCarron.

Tax Collector's report for August 2024: No report.

Historian's report for August 2024: No report.

Assessor's report August 2024: No report.

Supervisor Murray stated that before we get to the Highway Superintendents report that he would like to thank Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell and Josh Weaver. There was an incident at Schuyler Park on Saturday September 7th, 2024 the first day of soccer at the park. The portable toilets were tipped over, which caused a mess by the playground area in Schuyler Park. Highway Superintended Ryan Campbell closed off the area and waited until Stone Industries was able to get there to clean up the area.

Pat Temple also received a text message and picture from an individual that rented the pavilion that same weekend, that garbage was spewed all over the place.

Highway Superintendent's report for August 2024:

- ❖ Currently Mowing ditch lines & Right of way
- ❖ Cleaned up multiple blow downs & debris from recent storms
- ❖ Took down large dead tree in front of 117 River Rd endangering barn
- ❖ Paved Caldwell Road & tied in driveways
- ❖ Ditched & repaired washout area on Caldwell Road w/ 6 top
- ❖ Hauled in shoulder material for upcoming projects
- ❖ Striping completed on both Grange Hall & Burgoyne Road
- ❖ Shoulders completed on Caldwell, Burgoyne & Grange Hall Roads
- ❖ Replaced radiator fan, shroud, fan clutch & Idler pulley on Truck #5
- ❖ Replaced cracked surge tank coolant reservoir on Truck #6
- ❖ Replaced main air tank & fittings on Truck #2
- ❖ Assisted in paving projects w/ Towns of Stillwater, Moreau, Luzerne, Providence, Day, Wilton Village of Schuylerville & Saratoga County DPW

Supervisor’s report:

**SUPERVISOR’S REPORT AUGUST 2024
GENERAL FUND – TOWNWIDE (A FUND)**

Balance on hand 8/1/2024	\$ 710,603.08
Revenues	+ 46,253.03
Disbursements	- (208,026.41)
Balance 8/31/2024	\$ 548,829.70

GENERAL FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (B FUND)

Balance on hand 8/1/2024	\$ 2,278,150.03
Revenues	+ 2,304.00
Disbursements	- (3,000.00)
Balance 8/31/2024	2,277,454.03

HIGHWAY FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (DB FUND)

Balance on hand 8/31/2024	\$ 564,712.85
SCHUYLER PARK 8/31/2024	\$ 108,097.99
YOUTH RECREATION & SERVICE 8/31/2024	\$ 8,673.85
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE 8/31/2024	\$ 80,747.85
BUILDING RESERVE 8/31/2024	\$ 483,750.23
CDPHP & HRA 8/31/2024	\$ 6,807.58
AHC HOME IMPROVEMENT 8/31/2024	\$ 61,990.00
SCENIC BY WAYS QRTRLY 8/31/2024	\$ 312.25
PARKS RESERVE 8/31/2024	\$ 376,956.55
GFNB Certificate of Deposit 8/31/2024	\$ 794,303.08
NYCLASS 8/31/2024	\$ 774,696.54

- 1. July 2024 Mortgage Tax Received** – \$ 14,001.63
- 2. August 2024 Sales Tax Received** - \$ 198,988.00
- 3. August 2024 (AUC) Adult Use Cannabis Tax Received** – no update
- 4. Saratoga County Sheriff’s update** – August 2024 Statistics paperwork was passed out to Town Board Members at the meeting.
- 5. Building Code update** –Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer Gil Albert stated that whenever there is a change to New York State Code we have to update the Town Law. The Town’s Attorney is currently working on this update and the Town will schedule a Public Hearing for next month.
- 6. Dump Update** – Supervisor Murray stated he thought it would be a good idea to share the prorated bonus the Town of Saratoga received from the profit sharing of the

Town of Northumberland dump. All Town of Saratoga Board Members agreed and the Town will do a resolution next month to share the prorated bonus the Town received with the villages within the Town.

- 7. Trails Grant Award** – Supervisor Murray advised the Town was awarded a \$10,000.00 Trails Grant from the County. Supervisor Murray stated the plan is to upgrade some of the equipment that is used for the trails and parks.

Supervisor Murray also advised the Town Board that the Town was also awarded a \$10,000.00 Economic Grant from the County. This grant will help to finish up some of the outdoor area at the Gateway Visitors Center including irrigation, lighting and signage at the Visitors Center.

- 8. NYSERDA Grant Award** – The Town was also awarded a \$5,000.00 Grant from NYSERDA for new electric landscape equipment and Supervisor Murray thanked Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg for her work on getting this grant.
- 9. Letter of Intent** – Roohan Realty is contracted to help rent out space that is available at the Town Offices. Supervisor Murray received an offer that was for an approximate 24% reduction in the current rent. The potential tenant is looking for upgraded power, drainage etc. Supervisor Murray feels this is a substandard offer and the opinion of the Town Board is to decline this offer.

Public comments on agenda items: Dio Kaufman understands there were a couple incidents at Schuyler Park and the Town believes it was probably the mischief of children. In conclusion, the Town thinks the park should put up a couple cameras to catch whomever may be doing this. In theory, Dio Kaufman thinks this is fine but wants to know how this squares the logic in what has happened in her community. Dio Kaufman stated she presented photos and drone footage of what their landlord did with destroying homes and leaving trash all over their community for months and in some cases over a year, with no consequences. Supervisor Murray stated these are two separate situations and advised Dio Kaufman the Town understands her situation and the Town is sensitive to it and will continue to work on it. Supervisor Murray advised that Dio Kaufman is involved in a landlord tenant issue, the park is Town property and we are liable for it. The issue at the Schuyler Park was a health and safety issue that had to be fixed.

Committee reports:

Landfill: no report.

Insurance: no report.

Youth: no report.

Park Committee: no report.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM): no report

WEMS Report: no report

Old business: None

New business:

On a motion by Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, the following **Resolution #24-59 Local Law #3 of 2024 – Extending the Moratorium on Major Solar Collection Systems in the Town of Saratoga** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires -aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg - aye

Carried 5–0.

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes that solar energy offers benefits for energy conservation and reduction of reliance on fossil fuels and, as such, the development of major solar energy systems continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board previously imposed a six-month Moratorium on the construction of any major solar collection systems until October 8, 2024 in order to temporarily restrict the development of major solar collection systems so that the Town Board may consider enactment of land use regulations to encourage appropriate development of major solar collection systems that are consistent with the Town’s land use development and zoning objectives; and

WHEREAS, a draft Local Law is being prepared to address issues presented by major solar collection systems; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that additional time is needed for its review of proposed regulations, finalization of a draft Local Law and compliance with statutory procedural requirements to ensure that regulations governing solar energy facilities adequately protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town; and

WHEREAS, a proposed Local Law was prepared which extends the Moratorium on the construction of major solar collection systems for an additional six months until April 8, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law is a Type II Action under 22 New York Code of Rules and Regulations §§617.5, and no further action is therefore required to comply with SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board duly held a Public Hearing on the proposed Local Law on September 9th, 2024 and heard all interested persons;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The Town Board hereby adopts Local Law No. 3 of 2024.

The Board hereby authorizes and directs the Town Clerk to file the Local Law with the New York Secretary of State in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Duly adopted this 9th day of September, 2024

On a motion by Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, the following **Resolution #24-60 Mass gathering Permit 2024 Saratoga Rowing Association, Rowing Regatta** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires -aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg - 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 Regatta:

Saratoga Rowing Association
543 Union Avenue
P.O. Box 750
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Contact: Kristi Wagner, Regatta Director

Rowing Regatta to be held Saturday, October 26th and Sunday, October 27th at Fish Creek, Saratoga Lake, with approximately 6,000+ people attending over the two-day event; 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 September 9, 2024 for input by interested persons, and

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

RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga that the permits be granted 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 event is 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.

Privilege of the floor: Dio Kaufman addressed the Board.

Upcoming meetings:

- ❖ Regular Town Board meeting – Wednesday, October 9th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Audit the Bills: On a motion by Councilmember Gary Squires and seconded by Councilmember Ruth Drumm, the following **Resolution #24-61- Approving the Payment of Bills in Abstract 9G of 2024** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg – 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 2024 in the following amounts:**

General Fund DB	No. 526-539	\$ 115,152.60
General Fund A	No. 508, 522, 525, 540-553	\$ 94,959.34
General Fund B	No. 512, 557-559	\$ 4,981.77
General Fund H	No. 554-556	\$ 3,431.27
General HP	No. 560	\$ <u>9,750.00</u>

Grand Total \$ 228,274.98

A motion was made by Councilmember Gary Squires and seconded by Councilmember Ruth Drumm **to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.**

Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg - aye
Carried 5 – 0

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Conover
Town Clerk