

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

**September 14th, 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, public hearing notice and the draft agenda for this meeting.

Recognitions/Presentations/ Bid openings/Public Hearings:

Supervisor Murray would like to thank Ronnalee Myers for her donation to the Town with the 25th anniversary flag of 9/11. The flag has been put up and is flying in our volunteer recognition park. The flag replaced the 10th anniversary flag that Ronnalee donated to the Town.

Supervisor Murray stated we have lost a longtime member of the Town of Saratoga and it's only fitting that we honor Robert F. "Bob" Hall for his 30 years of service to the Town of Saratoga. Supervisor Murray advised that it was Bob that encouraged him to get involved in public service back in 1997, Bob appointed him to the Planning Board and he's been involved ever since.

On a motion by Supervisor Murray and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin the following **Resolution #26-52 Honoring Robert F. "Bob" Hall** 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

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga, County of Saratoga, State of New York, held on September 14th, 2026, the following resolution was made as indicated above,

WHEREAS, Robert F. "Bob" Hall was born in 1935 in Saratoga Springs, NY; and

WHEREAS Bob Hall was a long-time resident of the Town of Saratoga; and

WHEREAS, Bob's education began in a one-room school house before graduating from Saratoga Springs High School; and

WHEREAS, Bob spent his career as a Superintendent with J.H. Maloy Construction Co; and

WHEREAS, Bob Hall was a proud and active member of our Quaker Springs Fire Department, Schuylerville Lions Club and beloved fixture of the Bacon Hill Reformed Church; and

WHEREAS, Bob's commitment to public service began as when he was elected to The Town of Saratoga Town Board in November of 1972 and serving until December 1993; and

WHEREAS, Bob Hall was elected Town Supervisor and served from January 1994 through December of 2003. During his service as Town Supervisor Bob was elected as Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors in 2002; and

WHEREAS, as Town Councilmember and Town Supervisor, Bob performed his duties with excellence, always with a positive outlook and respect for the residents, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, extend our best wishes to the family of Robert F. "Bob" Hall and be it further

RESOLVED, that these expressions of gratitude be made a permanent record of the minutes of this meeting.

- ❖ **Public Hearing on the Mass Gathering Permit for Saratoga Rowing Association Regatta -** Proof of notice in the Saratogian on September 4th, 2026 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 Gary Squires and seconded by Councilmember Ruth Drumm, **to accept the minutes of the August 10th, 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 August 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 \$1,281.24. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses \$45.00. Dog license fees to Supervisor Ian Murray \$230.00. Clerk fees to Supervisor Ian Murray \$456.76. Total State and Local Revenues received were \$2,062.00.

Zoning Officer's report for August 2026: 8 Building Permits, 20 Building Inspections, 4 Certificates of Occupancy, 0 Junkyard Permits, 1 Complaints, 0 Fire Inspections, 0 Order to Remedy, 8 misc., 3 Building Permit Renewals and 0 Property Maintenance Inspections. A check for \$2,156.50 was given to Supervisor Ian Murray.

Dog Control officer's report for August 2026: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer answered 16 complaints, took 0 dogs to the shelter, 1 bite cases, traveled 49 miles, issued 6 warnings and 1 summons' were issued.

Town Court report for August 2026: 19 Traffic tickets closed, 2 Criminal/penal law case closed, 1 Civil case closed, 2 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 \$735.00 a check from Justice Charles Sherman in the amount of \$580.00, for a total of \$1,315.00.

Tax Collector's report August 2026: No report.

Historians Report — August 2026

August was an active and productive month as we marked the Turning Point Parade and continued preparing for Victory Season. Across the Town, we kept building momentum in digital outreach, public programming, and regional engagement — all aimed at strengthening awareness of Saratoga's place in the Revolutionary story. Our efforts remain centered on connecting residents and visitors to the Town's role in the American Revolution, especially as preparations advance toward the 249th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga later this fall. These initiatives support long-term goals in heritage education, community identity, and tourism development.

And now we enter the best month of the year to be out here. Apple season and anniversary season run on the same roads. The battlefield is twenty minutes from a cider donut and our themed corn maze. And October brings the living history weekend, the ceremony on the Field of Grounded Arms, the concert, and the anniversary of the surrender itself — all inside eight days.

Two things worth doing.

First, get your concert tickets while they are still \$25, which runs through September 19th.

Second, download the free Saratoga Revolutionary Experience app before your next drive out. It's free, family-friendly, and the most hands-on history weekend of the year.

Living historians will take over Fort Hardy Park and bring the period between the two Battles of Saratoga and Burgoyne's surrender to life. Across the weekend you'll find military encampments, artillery

demonstrations, muster drills and musket firing, 18th-century music, a traveling forge, horse-drawn wagon rides, and hands-on activities for every age.

Siege Weekend at Fort Hardy Park

Saturday, October 10: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sunday, October 11: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Fort Hardy Park, 30 Ferry Street, Schuylerville

A Siege Weekend Passport will launch for the event, giving visitors a way to check in as they move through the grounds, experience the living historians' interpretations, and stop in to see the progress at the brand-new Saratoga Revolutionary Experience Center at 30 Ferry Street in Schuylerville.

All who complete the Siege Weekend Passport will be pre-registered for an exclusive opportunity to reserve tickets to the major 250th commemoration in America in 2027 — the 250th Battles of Saratoga Reenactments, coming October 9–10, 2027.

Also, download the free SRE app now so you're ready to have it navigate you to Saratoga's Revolutionary heritage sites and hear audio stories along the way.

And don't forget the Turning Point Passport — your free, self-guided way to explore the region where the Revolution turned. Fourteen stops and counting, running from Schuylerville through Stillwater, Ballston Spa, and Saratoga Springs. Museums, breweries, farms, kitchens, and the battlefield itself. October is coming. This is the moment to be out on the landscape where history happened.

Digital Metrics and Growth

Digital storytelling remains a central component of outreach, with strong and measurable engagement across platforms:

- ❖ Substack followers increased by approximately 6.32% over the previous month.
- ❖ A total of 30 original articles were published, generating 11,360 views.
- ❖ The Town Historian's WordPress site recorded 1,000 views.
- ❖ Social Media: 68.5% month-over-month jump, with approximately 155,572 views.

In total, the Historian's digital platforms generated approximately 167,993 views in July, which is a 62% growth.

Public Programs and Outreach

Public programming was early in the month:

- ❖ The Turning Point Parade had its 31st annual parade.
- ❖ The Parade put on a nice festival at Fort Hardy Park.

Events and Community Engagement

Planning continues for the 2027 commemoration of the Battles of Saratoga.

Highway Superintendent's report for August 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
- ❖ Mowed & trimmed Town properties & Trails
- ❖ Multiple repairs made to trucks & equipment
- ❖ Took down & returned banners Turning Point Parade
- ❖ Established work zones for roads under construction
- ❖ Shimmed & resurfaced Fitch, Brown, Condon & Caldwell Ext.
- ❖ Milled Intersection & driveway keyways
- ❖ Prepped & Swept roads
- ❖ Hauled in shoulder material
- ❖ Mixed shoulder material
- ❖ Paved crossover pipes & holes on Spook Hollow Rd.
- ❖ Repaired washout and established ditch line on Caldwell Rd.

- ❖ Added 10ft of culvert pipe and re-graded edge on Caldwell Rd.
- ❖ Assisted in road construction with the Towns of Galway, Ballston & Easton

Mortgage Tax August 2026 Distribution - \$ 17,854.00

Sales Tax August 2026 Distribution - \$ 223,316.00

AUC Quarterly Tax - August 2026 Distribution - \$ 4,917.13

Public comments on agenda items: No one spoke.

Committee reports:

Landfill: No report.

Insurance: No report

Youth: No report

Park Committee: The Schuyler Park Committee met Tuesday 9/08/26 in preparation for the Fall sports season. At this meeting the following items were discussed:

- ❖ Yearly Financials – There has been an increase in care and maintenance costs over the past year, especially in regard to the aging irrigation system. This is not unusual when you consider the park has been open to the public since 2010.
- ❖ Updated website has been working well.
- ❖ Field Readiness for large uptick in activity for the Fall Season. No significant concerns were noted.
- ❖ Maintenance with Collins Turf Service – continuing to provide excellent care of the fields
- ❖ Handyman type tasks – the Committee will reach out to the Town of Saratoga Highway Superintendent as needed.
- ❖ Trash pickup to continue weekly with the help of the Town of Northumberland Highway Department
- ❖ Ethan Lavendar Eagle Scout Project – Replacing the Girls Softball Dugout – Committee will reach out to Ethan to determine best path forward since completion has been delayed due to Park Field activity.

The Committee is looking forward to another busy Fall Sports season.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM): No report.

Old / Other Business:

New Business:

On a motion by Councilmember Ruth Drumm and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin the following **Resolution #26-53 Authorizing Renewal of Blanket Official Undertaking for Town Officers Required by law to Execute and File Official Undertakings** 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

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga, County of Saratoga, State of New York, held on September 14th, 2026, the following resolution was made as indicated above,

WHEREAS, certain Town Officers are required to execute and file undertakings by reason of certain provisions of the Town Law, and

WHEREAS, Public Officers Law §11 allows for the substitution of a blanket undertaking for such individual undertakings; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Saratoga has in effect a blanket undertaking for all Town Officers required by law to execute and file undertakings, and

WHEREAS, said blanket undertaking provides coverage for the failure of said officers to faithfully perform their duties or to account for all moneys or property received by them by virtue of their positions, and for their fraudulent or dishonest acts; and

WHEREAS, Public Officers Law §11 requires this Board to approve blanket undertaking as to form and sufficiency of coverage, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves **Crime Policy and Public Officials Liability Policy MPKTSARA000000125 with NYMIR** to the Town of Saratoga as a blanket undertaking for all Town Officers required to execute and file undertakings including, but not limited to, the Supervisor, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Justices, and Superintendent of Highways, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the blanket undertaking shall have \$320,000.00 (Three Hundred Twenty Thousand) coverage per employee, with excess indemnity on the Tax Collector in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 (one million), the Supervisor in the amount of \$320,000.00 (Three Hundred Twenty Thousand) and shall provide employee dishonesty coverage and faithful performance of duty coverage for said officers as required by Public Officers Law §11, with a \$1,000.00 deductible established at the time of the purchase of the policy in accordance with the usual practice of the Town, and be it yet further

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be attached to said blanket undertaking and a copy thereof be filed in the Office of the Town Clerk.

On a motion by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires the following **Resolution #26-54 Mass Gathering Permit #2 of 2026 Saratoga Rowing Association, Rowing Regatta** 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

At a Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga, County of Saratoga, State of New York, held on September 14th, 2026, the following resolution was made as indicated above,

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: Sarah Gehreke, Regatta Director

Rowing Regatta to be held Saturday, October 24th and Sunday, October 25th 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 14th, 2026 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.

Communications: Vertical Bridge – Supervisor Murray passed out a letter he received from the Vertical Bridge who bought out the company that has the cell tower lease on the Town landfill property.

Vertical Bridge is trying to negotiate a new offer on the lease and these are the options they are offering the Town:

Option 1

- ❖ Reduce the rent from \$1,520.88 per month to \$1,000.00 per month.
- ❖ Rent escalates 10% term per term.
- ❖ Add 6 additional 5-year terms, through December 31st, 2083.

Option 2

- ❖ One time \$146,000.00 lump sum payment in lieu of monthly rent.

Councilmember Gary Squires questioned Supervisor Murray stating he thought the original lease should transfer to the new owner. Supervisor Murray believed it should have transferred as well.

Supervisor Murray advised that he would like our Attorneys to review the letter and our current lease and let our Attorneys advise us, all Town Board members agreed to send it to the Town Attorneys.

Supervisor Ian Murray received a letter informing the Town that the Department of Agriculture and Markets awarded SARATOGA PLAN the sum of \$782,031.00 through round 20 of the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program. The funding awarded is to assist the land-trust in the purchase of agriculture conservation easement project, to permanently protect viable agricultural lands associated with the Hanehan Farm in Saratoga County, Town of Saratoga. This award was funded by the New York Environmental Protection Fund.

Privilege of the floor: David Johanson addressed the Board.

Upcoming meetings:

- ❖ Regular Town Board meeting
(Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 7:00 p.m. due to the Columbus Day Holiday)

Audit the Bills: On a motion by Councilmember Andy Ellis and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin the following **Resolution #26-55 Approving the Payment of Bills in Abstract 9G 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 9G of 2026 in the following amounts:**

General Fund DB	No. 529-540	\$493,006.62
General Fund A	No. 508-512, 514, 526-528, 541-560	\$103,054.13
General Fund B	No. 561-563	\$ 612.28
General Fund H	No. 513	\$ <u>1,127.70</u>
Grand Total		\$597,800.73

A motion was made by Councilmember Ruth Drumm and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 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