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

October 7th, 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 – absent, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, 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, meeting notices and the draft agenda for this meeting.

Recognitions/Presentations/ Bid openings/Public Hearings:

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Gary Squires and seconded by Councilmember Andy Ellis**, to accept the minutes of the September 14th, 2026 Regular Town Board meeting as written.** Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – absent, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilman Andy Ellis - aye. **Carried 3–0**

Town Clerk's report for September 2026: Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for the Animal Population Control Program $42.00. Fees paid to New York D.E.C. for hunting and fishing licenses $2,518.97. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses $45.00. Friends of Saratoga County Animal Shelter Donation from residents $ 14.00. Dog license fees to Supervisor Ian Murray $198.00. Clerk fees to Supervisor Ian Murray $222.03. Total State and Local Revenues received were $3,040.00.

Zoning Officer's report for September 2026: 14 Building Permits, 19 Building Inspections, 3 Certificates of Occupancy, 0 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 $3,644.00 was given to Supervisor Ian Murray.

Dog Control officer's report for September 2026: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer answered 13 complaints, took 0 dogs to the shelter, 1 bite case, traveled 64 miles, issued 6 warnings and 2 summons' were issued.

Town Court report for September 2026: 30 Traffic tickets closed, 3 Criminal/penal law case closed, 5 Civil cases closed, 3 Encon/DEC closed, 0 DWI cases closed, 1 Town and Dog cases closed. Supervisor Ian Murray received a check from Justice John McCarron in the amount of $2,503.00 a check from Justice Charles Sherman in the amount of $160.00, for a total of $2,663.00.

Tax Collector's report September 2026: No report.

Assessor's report September 2026: Fall office hours for the office will be as follows: Assessor hours Thursday's 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Assessor Clerk hours Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

Historians Report — September 2026

September was a busy month as we worked on both our October 2026 events and our 2027 plans. I took part in the national park's anniversary events for the Battles of Saratoga and continued working with reenactors on our 2027 event. Across the Town, we continued to build momentum in digital outreach, public programming, and regional engagement, all aimed at strengthening awareness of Saratoga's place in the Revolutionary story.

I am proud to report that, with the help of Gil Albert, four wooden soldier signs are now up in the community. They recall the Bicentennial 50 years ago, when similar soldiers lined the streets of Schuylerville. Vinyl signs promoting events will supplement them. I also thank Ryan Campbell and the Highway Department for their help with the wooden soldiers and for refurbishing the blue and gold markers and placing them across the community. Their work has been fantastic, and they take great pride in our community.

There is an issue with wayfinding, I have talked to visitors to our community and locations like the surrender site has no wayfinding. The new SRE will have an issue. Even the location of the Schuyler House and Empire State Trail from Fort Hardy has limits. This will be an ongoing issue.

Digital Metrics and Growth

Digital storytelling remains a central part of our outreach, with strong, measurable engagement across platforms:

- Substack: 524 subscribers
- Substack articles: 25 original articles published, generating 12,023 views
- Town Historian WordPress site: 1,200 views, 25% growth over last month
- Social media: approximately 133,722 views, a 57.5% month-over-month increase
- Total: approximately 146,945 views across the Historian's digital platforms in September

Public Programs and Outreach

Public programming expands this time of year. Upcoming events include:

Saturday, October 10, 2026, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM, and Sunday, October 11, 2026, 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

Victory Season at Saratoga Siege Living History Weekend

Fort Hardy Park and Saratoga Revolutionary Experience Center, Red's Road and Route 29, Schuylerville, NY 12871

If you want to build a full history weekend around Saratoga's Revolutionary past, this is the place to begin. At Fort Hardy Park, living historians interpret the period between the Battles of Saratoga and Burgoyne's surrender. Visitors can explore military encampments, artillery demonstrations, muster drills, musket firing, 18th-century music, a traveling forge, horse-drawn wagon rides, and hands-on activities. The nearby Saratoga Revolutionary Experience Center helps visitors connect Stillwater, the Battles of Saratoga, the siege, and the surrender into one larger campaign.

Saturday, October 10, 2026, 11:00 AM

Dogs in the Revolution?

Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitor Center, 30 Ferry Street, Schuylerville, NY 12871

Saturday, October 10, 2026, 3:00 PM

Saratoga Trail Tales: The Evolution of an Old Trail

Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitor Center, 30 Ferry Street, Schuylerville, NY 12871

Saturday, October 10, 2026, 6:30 PM

Hamilton Outdoor Movie Night

Schuyler's Saratoga Estates, 4 Broad Street, Schuylerville, NY 12871

Sunday, October 11, 2026, 11:00 AM

The Convention Army

Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitor Center, 30 Ferry Street, Schuylerville, NY 12871

Sunday, October 11, 2026, 12:00 PM

Walking Tour of the Siege Lines

Meet outside the Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitor Center along the Empire State Trail

Sunday, October 11, 2026, 1:00 PM

"Hulled Between Wind and Water": Colonel John Brown Attacks Burgoyne's Supply Line

Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitor Center, 30 Ferry Street, Schuylerville, NY 12871

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 Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 7:00 PM
A Tale of Two Knox Commissions
 Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitor Center, 30 Ferry Street, Schuylerville, NY 12871
 Wednesday, October 14, 2026, 6:00 PM
Schuyler's Saratoga Estates Candlelight Tours
 Schuyler's Saratoga Estates, 4 Broad Street, Schuylerville, NY 12871
 Saturday, October 17, 2026, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM
Surrender Day Trolley
 Surrender Site, Saratoga Monument, Schuyler's Saratoga Estates, and Fort Hardy Park, Villages of Schuylerville and Victory
Saratoga National Historical Park is partnering with Saratoga250 and CDTA to offer this hop-on, hop-off service connecting several important sites in Schuylerville and Victory. Visitors can park at Schuyler's Saratoga Estates or Fort Hardy Park and ride the trolley between sites while park staff and volunteers interpret the history. Instead of choosing a single historic site, visitors can build an itinerary around the larger story, which makes a heritage trip much easier. The trolley runs from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
 Saturday, October 17, 2026, 7:00–8:30 PM
Victory Season at Saratoga: 249th Surrender Day Commemorative Concert
 Arts Center on the Hudson, 2 South Main Street, Mechanicville, NY 12118
Events and Community Engagement
Planning continues for the 2027 commemoration of the Battles of Saratoga.
Respectfully submitted,
Sean Kelleher
Town Historian, Town of Saratoga

Highway Superintendent's report for September 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
- Shoulders completed on Condon, Brown, Fitch & Caldwell Ext.
- Relocated mailboxes on newly resurfaced roads
- Prepped resurfaced roads for striping
- Completed Micro surfacing on Chelsea Drive
- Created new ditch line at Brown & Wright to improve drainage
- Cross culvert replaced on Town Dump Rd.
- Assisted with multiple 250th projects
- Completed refurbs of historical markers
- Installed trailhead sign on Rt 4 entrance to Siege trail
- Pressure washed and cleaned brick patio & benches at Town Hall
- New playground chips at Schuyler Park
- Repaired flag pole at Village of Victory Park
- Assisted in road construction with the Towns of Ballston, Stillwater, Halfmoon, Greenfield, Day & Village of Schuylerville

Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell wanted to let the Town Board know that over the weekend he was notified that several of the Town roads and some of the right-a-ways were littered with household trash.

Residents contacted the Sheriff's office and Superintendent Campbell notified the State Police. A complaint was entered and a police report is associated with the complaint. An address was found

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amongst the trash that was all associated with the same address. The person that was responsible was told to go back and pick up what was dumped on the Town roads, which was done by the person responsible.

Highway Superintended Ryan Campbell also advised that salt is up from previous years. Last year it was approximately $62.00 per ton. This year he is being quoted $100.00 - $105.00 per ton. Prices are up due to diesel prices from manufacturing to hauling. He stated he has a small amount left from last year, you can't keep a lot because the salt absorbs moisture.

Superintendent Campbell is looking into alternatives such as pretreating etc. This should help with the consumption of salt.

Mortgage Tax September 2026 Distribution - $15,509.50
Sales Tax September 2026 Distribution - $ 213,481.00

Public comments on agenda items: No one spoke.

Committee reports:
Landfill: No report.
Insurance: No report
Youth: No report
Park Committee: No report**.**
Office of Emergency Management (OEM): No report.

Old / Other Business:

New Business:
On a motion by Councilmember Andy Ellis and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires the following **Resolution #26-56 Fund Transfers** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – absent, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilman Andy Ellis – aye.
Carried 3 – 0

FROM	TO	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
A1990.4 Contingency	A1320.4 Independent Auditing Contractual	$20,000	To cover back expenses for AFR
A1990.4 Contingency	A1910.4 Unallocated Insurance	$7,200	To cover additional insurance
A1620.2 Buildings Equipment	A1620.1 Buildings Personal Services	$7,000	To cover payroll thru year end
A1620.2 Buildings Equipment	A5182.4 Street Lighting Contractual	$1,800	To cover expenses thru year end
A1620.2 Buildings Equipment	A7110.1 Parks Personal Services	$3,000	To cover payroll thru year end
A1420.4 Attorney Contractual	A6772.4 Programs for the Aging Contractual	$500	To cover 4th quarter Payment
A7150.4 Special Rec Facilities Contractual	A7320.4 Youth Rec Contractual	$5,000	To cover expenses thru year end
A3989.4	A7320.4	$500	To cover additional

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Other Public Safety	Youth Rec Contractual		expenses thru year end

FROM	TO	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
B1990.4 Contingency	B7997.2 Culture & Rec Outlay	$5,000	To cover expense for this year
FROM	**TO**	**AMOUNT**	**DESCRIPTION**
DB5130.2 Machinery Equipment	DB5112.2 Equipment	$25,000	To cover expense thru year end

Communications: Seasonal winter parking – In 2022 we were going to authorize no parking on Town roads between November 1st through April 1st for snow plowing but it was never completed. Supervisor Murray wanted to show the Town Board members the previous resolution which was postponed. Supervisor Murray would like the Town Board member to review the previous resolution so the Town Board members can talk about it and possibly bring it up for a vote at next month's meeting, if we want to enforce it.

Supervisor Ian Murray advised that a lot of Towns and Villages have winter parking restrictions. Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell stated both villages of Schuylerville and Victory have restrictions. Under the previous Superintendent it was implemented but it never got approved by the Town Board. To cover ourself from any liability we definitely have to have it approved by the Town Board. Supervisor Murray advised that we would offer a resolution next month for the Town Board members to vote on.

Supervisor Murray and Highway Superintendent Campbell received a complaint regarding parking on Coveville Road in between the County Road 69 and State Route 4. Highway Superintendent Campbell stated that he couldn't get in the middle of a neighbor hood issue. Superintendent Campbell advised that the residents got a petition together and sent it to him and the Supervisor so it can be presented to the Town Board and see if the Board would like to take action upon it. Both the Supervisor and Highway Superintendent received the petition with all the neighbors signing along with the school bus driver.

Supervisor Murray stated before we restrict the road he would like to visit with the residents. Have a conversation and try to remediate it. If that doesn't work, we'll have to take further action.

Privilege of the floor: No one addressed the Board.

Upcoming meetings:

- Budget Workshop – Monday October 26th, 2026 7:00 p.m.
- Regular Town Board meeting
  (Thursday, November 5th, 2026, 7:00 p.m. due to Election Day).

Audit the Bills: On a motion by Councilmember Gary Squires and seconded by Councilmember Andy Ellis the following **Resolution #26-57 Approving the Payment of Bills in Abstract 10G of 2026,** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – absent, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilman Andy Ellis - aye.
Carried 3 – 0

RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga to authorize payment of the bills listed in **Abstract 10G of 2026 in the following amounts:**

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General Fund DB	**No. 571, 588-595**	**$ 3,897.59**
General Fund A	**No. 565, 566, 568, 572-576, 596-607**	**$ 59,100.02**
General Fund B	**No. 608-609**	**$ 679.67**
General Fund H	**No. 567, 610-611**	**$ 2,443.79**
Grand Total		**$ 66,121.07**

A motion was made by Councilmember Andy Ellis and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m. Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – absent, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Andy Ellis - aye.
Carried 3 – 0

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Conover
Town Clerk

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