TOWN OF SARATOGA TOWN BOARD
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
12 SPRING ST., SCHUYLERVILLE, NY
NOVEMBER 5TH, 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 Town Clerk Emilee Shevlin, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Gil Albert and other interested parties. (Sign in sheet on file in the Town Clerk's office).

Recognitions/Presentations/ Bid openings/Public Hearings:

Supervisor Murray stated the Town Board has worked on and submitted the proposed 2027 budget. The Town conducted a budget workshop on October 30, 2026 and took a disciplined approach knowing we have to provide great services to our residents. Revenues have been increasing, however slowly and everyone knows that costs are up. Our 2026 budget is under the 2% tax cap, the tax levy for 2026 was $1.0975596 and the tax levy for the proposed 2027 budget is $1.1277. The Board did a great job at this proposed 2027 budget.

Supervisor Ian Murray opened the public hearing for Adoption of the Annual 2027 Town Budget at 7:02 p.m., asking anyone wishing to speak, to please stand at the podium, state their name, address and direct their comments to the Board. **Seeing as no one wished to speak, Supervisor Ian Murray closed the public hearing at 7:03 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 October 7th, 2026 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 October 2026: Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for the Animal Population Control Program $35.00. Fees paid to New York D.E.C. for hunting and fishing licenses $180.47. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses $22.50. Saratoga County Animal Shelter Donations $30.00. Dog license fees to Supervisor Ian Murray $150.00. Misc. Clerk fees to Supervisor Ian Murray $78.03. Total State and Local Revenues received were $496.00.

Zoning Officer's report for October 2026: 13 Building Permits, 19 Building Inspections, 8 Certificates of Occupancy, 0 Junkyard Permits, 2 Complaints, 0 Fire Inspections, 1 Orders to Remedy, 5 misc., 1 Building Permit Renewals and 1 Property Maintenance Inspections. A check for $2,641.00 was given to Supervisor Ian Murray.

Dog Control officer's report for October 2026: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer answered 7 complaints, took 0 dog to the shelter, 1 bite case, traveled 20 miles, issued 1 warning and 0 summons' were issued.

Town Court report for October 2026: 29 Traffic tickets closed, 1 Criminal/penal law cases closed, 1 Civil case closed, 1 Encon/DEC closed, 2 DWI case closed, 1 Town and Dog cases closed. Supervisor Ian Murray received a check from Justice John McCarron in the amount of $3,245.00 a check from Justice Charles Sherman in the amount of $80.00 for a total of $3,325.00.

Tax Collector's report for October 2026: No Report.

Historians Report October 2026:

October was a significant month for Saratoga 250 as the county began its final year of preparation for the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga in 2027.

Victory Season at Saratoga brought together more than 23 events with regional partners, including Saratoga National Historical Park. Programs included battlefield interpretation, living history, historic-house tours, lectures, music, and Surrender Day commemorations across Saratoga County.

Siege Weekend attracted more than 4,000 visitors and generated 244 Siege Passport registrations, demonstrating continued growth in public interest.

Public Engagement and Siege Weekend

Victory Season connected visitors with Revolutionary history at Saratoga National Historical Park, Schuylerville, Fort Hardy Park, Schuyler's Saratoga Estates, and throughout the Champlain Canal region.

Promotion extended across county events and social media, the Saratoga 250 e-newsletter, content creators' channels, podcasts, earned media, direct outreach, and Discover Saratoga's newsletter, which reaches approximately 54,000 recipients. The Saratoga 250 e-newsletter averaged 1,500–2,000 opens per week, while content creators' combined channels generated hundreds of thousands of impressions.

I LOVE NY's preview of 2027 also prominently featured the Battles of Saratoga commemoration and the Turning Point Passport, providing valuable statewide visibility for Saratoga's upcoming anniversary.

The Countdown to 2027 Has Started

On October 2, Saratoga County officials gathered at the County Building in Ballston Spa for a press conference and flag-raising ceremony marking the one-year countdown to the 250th anniversary. Accompanied by a procession of eighteenth-century living historians, officials raised the Saratoga 250 flag and announced the signature 2027 schedule:

- Battle of Freeman's Farm 250th Anniversary: September 18–19, 2027, at Saratoga National Historical Park.
- Battles of Saratoga 250th Commemoration: October 9–10, 2027, featuring living history and battle reenactments of Freeman's Farm on Saturday and Bemus Heights on Sunday.
- Turning Point Parade and Surrender Day Ceremony: October 17, 2027, marking the 250th anniversary of British General John Burgoyne's surrender to American General Horatio Gates.

Saratoga County Historian and Saratoga 250 Commission Chair Lauren Roberts emphasized that while many semiquincentennial programs elsewhere will conclude in 2026, Saratoga County's major anniversary events are still ahead. The published schedule gives cultural institutions, tourism partners, and local businesses a framework for planning and promotion.

Digital Metrics and Growth

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

- Substack: 531 subscribers
- Substack articles: 23 original articles published, generating 9,081 views
- Town Historian WordPress site: 1,300 views.
- Social media: approximately 63,800 views, a 57.5% month-over-month increase
- Total: approximately 71k views across the Historian's digital platforms in October

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Assessor's Report October 2026: No Report.

Highway Superintendent's report for October 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
- Completed center line road striping
- Assisted with multiple 250th projects
- Completed refurbs of historical markers
- Fall services completed on Tandems & Chipper
- Started winterizing equipment for off season
- Hauled in material to start Sawmill Park Trail
- All Highway Employees Completed NYS DOT Flagger Training Class
- Completed crack sealing on Burgoyne, Hayes, Burke, Caldwell, Walsh & Wegmans Ridge
- Assisted in road construction with the Towns of Halfmoon, Wilton & Day

Mortgage Tax October 2026 Distribution $44,240.00
Sales Tax October 2026 Distribution - $ 221,597.00

Public comments on agenda items: No one spoke.

Committee reports:

Landfill: No report
Insurance: No report
Youth: No report
Park Committee: Councilmember Gary Squires submitted the following Schuyler Park notes:

- The Schuyler Park Committee did not meet during the last month

Updates since the last Town Council meeting:

- Sports activity at the Park concluded this past weekend
- Jim Collins turf service requested that goals and benches be put away in preparation for field aeration and seeding
- Rainbow Irrigation will be shutting down the irrigation system on 11/13/26
- Stone Septic has been contacted regarding porta-pots removal for the season
- Graffiti was discovered on the playground tube and basketball court. This is the second incident this year after no such behavior for the last 15 years that the park has been in operation. The Town of Saratoga Highway Superintendent was asked to assess the situation, as had been done for the initial incident. As a result of this behavior the Schuyler Park Committee may consider the installation of surveillance cameras or some other measure that may minimize future events of his sort.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM): No report.

Old Business: Supervisor Ian Murray and the Town Board members had a brief discussion regarding no parking on Town Roads. A complaint was received a from a resident who supplied Supervisor Ian Murray and Highway Superintend Ryan Campbell with a petition for a no parking restriction on Coveville Road extension. We currently have the signs stating there is no parking on Town Roads from November1st - April 1st but we never adopted a formal resolution. Supervisor Murray stated that we can't enforce it without the resolution. Supervisor Murray stated with we will take this up at the December meeting.

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Zoning Officer Gil Albert also received a complaint regarding unregistered vehicles on a resident's property.

7:10 p.m. Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell arrived at the Town Board meeting.

New Business:
Supervisor Murray stated that before we get to the next resolution, he would like to go over the changes that were made from the tentative budget to the preliminary budget. In the General Fund A 7550.4 Celebrations was increased from $10,000.00 to $30,000.00. We will be using this additional money for signage for the entrances into the Town of Saratoga.

During the workshop meeting we didn't have Quaker Springs Fire Departments budget on the dashboard. The QSFD budget was $532,730.00 last year and this upcoming year is $598,384.00. Quaker Springs Fire Department is its own tax district and therefore completes its own budget, budget workshop, public hearing and adoption.

Resolution : On a motion by Councilmember Ruth Drumm and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, the following **Resolution #26-58 Adoption of Annual Town Budget for 2027,** 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, this Town of Saratoga Town Board having on November 5th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., duly held a public hearing on the preliminary budget, approved by this Board and filed with the Town Clerk, for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2027. Having heard all persons desiring to be heard in the matter of the budget for this Town for said fiscal year and having been fully discussed and considered, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that said preliminary budget approved and filed as aforesaid, is hereby adopted and established as the annual budget for this Town, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2027, and that such annual budget as so adopted is detailed in the minutes of the proceedings of this Town Board and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk of this Town shall prepare and certify as provided by law, duplicate copies of said annual budget hereby adopted, and deliver one of such copies to the Supervisor of the Town and he shall present such copy to the Board of Legislators of the County, as required by law.

Resolution : On a motion by Councilmember Andy Ellis and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, the following **Resolution #26-59 Authorization to Purchase a New Holland Powerstar 75 Cab Tractor 4x4 Power Shuttle & Package for $118,592.87 from Highway Equipment DB5130.2,** 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, that the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga, authorizes Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell to go forward with purchasing the New Holland Powerstar 75 Cab Tractor 4 x4 Power Shuttle for $65,398.57, CHN material surcharge $2,950.00, CHN factory Freight and sundries $3,650.00, Alamo IS74R right hand interstater flail mower w/4oz knives $43,758.85, Alamo SHD88 rear 3 point hitch flail mower w/4oz knives $12,535.80, Alamo 500# LH counter weight $2,033.20, Alamo factory installation, mount kits and labor $8,038.45, Alamo factory freight, sundries, equipment freight to dealer $6,478.00, Dealer PHI $1,250.00, Subtotal $146,092.87 less John Deere trade value ($25,000.00) Broom trade value($2,500.00) TRADE ($27,500.00) TOTAL COST: $118,592.87. Payment will be made from Highway Equipment-DB5130.2 to Capital Tractor from their Sourcewell Quote 082923, CHN-2, 032525-AGI dated 11/3/2026.
Sourcewell has competitively solicited contracts that support compliant purchasing for local Governments. This equipment was purchased under Sourcewell contract.

Communications: Supervisor Murray stated that we received a note from SAFER thanking us for the donation from Town employees.

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Privilege of the floor: No one spoke**.**

Upcoming meetings:

- Regular Town Board meeting – MONDAY, December 14th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
- Special Year End Audit of Bills Meeting – to be determined at the next board meeting.

Audit the Bills: On a motion by Councilmember Gary Squires and seconded by Councilmember Ruth Drumm, the following **Resolution #26-60 Approving the Payment of Bills in Abstract 11G 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 11G of 2026 in the following amounts:**

General Fund DB	**No. 636-649**	**$ 24,706.07**
General Fund A	**No. 612-614, 616-620, 623-624, 650-671**	**$ 49,245.29**
General Fund B	**No. 625, 672**	**$ 664.13**
General Fund H	**No. 615, 626, 673-674**	**$ 1,562.14**
Grand Total		**$ 76,177.63**

A motion was made by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 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

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