

TOWN OF SARATOGA TOWN BOARD
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
12 SPRING ST., SCHUYLerville, NY
NOVEMBER 6TH, 2025
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 M. Jones, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Gil Albert, Highway Superintendent Ryan Campbell, and other interested parties. (Sign in sheet on file in the Town Clerk’s office).

Recognitions/Presentations/ Bid openings/Public Hearings:

Supervisor Ian Murray presented the family of Michael J. Booth Sr. with Resolution #25-55, Recognizing the Service of Michael J. Booth Sr. “ In Recognition of a Life to Community and Country” He than read the following: On a motion by Supervisor Ian Murray and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin the following **Resolution #25-55, Recognizing the Service of Michael J. Booth Sr. “ In Recognition of a Life to Community and Country”** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

Carried 5 – 0

WHEREAS, Michael J. Booth Sr. was a lifelong resident of the Town of Saratoga; and
WHEREAS, he was born on March 3,1962, in Cambridge, New York, the son of Charles “Pete” Booth and Joan Lesson Booth; and
WHEREAS, he was a member of Saint Joseph’s Catholic Church; and
WHEREAS, he graduated from Schuylerville High School in 1981; and
WHEREAS, he served in the United States Air Force from 1981-1985 as a law enforcement specialist, stationed at Ramstein Air Base in Germany and Goodfellow Air Base in Texas; and
WHEREAS, following his honorable discharge, he worked at Agway and AmeriGas before establishing Booth Oil Company in the Town of Saratoga, contributing to the local economy and serving the community for many years; and
WHEREAS, he was an active member of the Greenwich Elks BPOE No. 2223 and served two terms as Exalted Ruler; and
WHEREAS, he was a member of American Legion Post No. 515 in Greenwich and the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Saratoga Springs; and
WHEREAS, he was elected in 2001 to the Schuylerville Central School Board of Education and served eighteen years, including six years as Board President, where he demonstrated unwavering dedication to students and deep pride in the district, always advocating for their success and well-being; and
WHEREAS, he served as a member of the Quaker Springs Fire Department and as Commissioner for the Quaker Springs Fire District No. 1, answering calls as one of the Town of Saratoga’s bravest with compassion and commitment to protecting his neighbors; and
WHEREAS, he died on September 19, 2019, and interred at the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery; now therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga extends heartfelt condolences to the Booth family; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby honors and recognizes Michael J. Booth Sr. for his patriotism, public service and steadfast commitment to the Town of Saratoga; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town of Saratoga will ensure that his dedication and contributions to his hometown are remembered with enduring gratitude and respect, and that a certified copy of this Resolution be presented to his family and spread upon the official minutes of the Town of Saratoga.

Supervisor Murray stated the Town Board has worked on and submitted the proposed 2026 budget. The Town conducted a budget workshop on October 23, 2025 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 2025 was \$1.09 and the tax levy for the proposed 2026 budget is \$1.10. The Board did a great job at this proposed 2026 budget.

Supervisor Ian Murray opened the public hearing for Adoption of the Annual 2026 Town Budget at 7:09 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 7:10 p.m.**

Supervisor Ian Murray opened the public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project 103HR318-23 Closeout Monitoring at 7:13 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 advised the public hearing will stay open until November 11th, 2025.** Written comments may also be submitted to Ian Murray, Supervisor, at imurray@albany.twcbc.com or in person at 12 Spring Street, Ste 201, Schuylerville, NY 12871.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin **to accept the minutes of the October 08th, 2025 Town Board meeting as written.** Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – aye Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

Carried 5-0

Town Clerk's report for October 2025: Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for the Animal Population Control Program \$32.00. Fees paid to New York D.E.C. for hunting and fishing licenses \$681.25. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses \$112.50 Dog license fees to Supervisor Ian Murray \$138.00 Clerk fees to Supervisor Ian Murray \$159.75. Total State and Local Revenues received were \$1,123.50.

Zoning Officer's report for October 2025: 7 Building Permits, 16 Building Inspections, 3 Certificates of Occupancy, 0 Junkyard Permits, 1 Complaint, 0 Fire Inspections, 1 Orders to Remedy, 13 misc., 4 Building Permit Renewals and 0 Property Maintenance Inspections. A check for \$2,955.85 was given to Supervisor Ian Murray.

Dog Control officer's report for October 2025: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer answered 8 complaints, took 1 dog to the shelter, 2 bite case, traveled 93 miles, issued 4 warning and 6 summons' were issued.

Town Court report for October 2025: 17 Traffic tickets closed, 1 Criminal/penal law cases closed, 0 Civil case closed, 3 Encon/DEC closed, 1 DWI case closed, 0 Town and Dog cases closed. Supervisor Ian Murray received a check from Justice John McCarron in the amount of \$3,480.00 a check from Justice Charles Sherman in the amount of \$325.00 for a total of \$3,805.00.

Tax Collector's report for October 2025: No Report.

Historians Report October 2025: October was a month that tested our flexibility and celebrated our community's spirit. Even amid the National Park Service shutdown, our partners, volunteers, and living historians came together to ensure that the story of the Battles of Saratoga continued to inspire.

Siege Weekend Recap

Thanks to the generosity and coordination of many, Siege Weekend successfully moved to **Fort Hardy Park**—

and what a success it was. Nearly **2,000 visitors** joined us to experience the roar of cannon fire, the dedication of reenactors, and the energy of families and students eager to connect with the past. It was an unforgettable celebration of living history, community pride, and resilience.

Our gratitude goes to all the community partners who made this possible. During the weekend, we hosted **seven travel writers** arranged by **I LOVE NY** and **Discover Saratoga**, including a journalist from Smithsonian Magazine. Their upcoming stories will help amplify Saratoga's national significance as America's Turning Point—driving heritage tourism that sustains local businesses and deepens our shared identity.

Heritage tourism remains a powerful economic driver for our region. Visitors drawn to our Revolutionary history stay longer, explore more, and spend more—benefiting local restaurants, lodging, and shops. Every new visitor is both an economic opportunity and a chance to share Saratoga's story with the wider world.

Surrender Day Commemorations

On **Friday, October 17**, students from **Schuylerville, Salem, and Mechanicville's Augustine School** joined us at **Fort Hardy** for the Surrender Ceremony—always a moving reminder of the human cost and triumph of the American victory at Saratoga.

That same day, with the Campaign for Saratoga 250 and Discover Saratoga, we hosted a Surrender Day Bus Tour featuring four additional travel journalists. The tour explored what was open across the battlefields and surrounding sites, offering context for the pivotal 1777 campaign. It was my first time leading a full-scale bus tour—and a rewarding one. Each journalist represents another way our story reaches new audiences and encourages future visits.

Community Programs and Talks

The following week, the **Old Saratoga Historical Association** hosted a program on the **Henry Knox Trail** at Town Hall, followed by a talk from Saratoga 250/Historians office on **Battlefield Archaeology** at the Gateway Visitors Center. Combined, the two programs drew **over 80 participants**, reflecting growing local interest in the deeper layers of our Revolutionary history.

Revolutionary Run 5K — Honoring Service and Sacrifice

This past Saturday marked our largest participation yet in the **13th Annual Revolutionary Run 5K** in Schuylerville. It was a day filled with camaraderie, remembrance, and purpose—celebrating our veterans while raising funds for a meaningful cause.

As the year closes, we look ahead to the winter season of commemoration focused on Knox Fest on the afternoon of December 13 at Fort Hardy Park. We are receiving great support from the county historian's office and 250th Commission. We have over 40 living historians joining us from New York and New England. Some will be eating and finding lodging at town hall. This is our first big 250 event and the continued build toward the **2027**. Each event, story, and visitor strengthens the legacy of Saratoga as a living classroom of courage, perseverance, and unity.

Our work continues—connecting people, place, and purpose through history.

Sean Kelleher

Historian, Town of Saratoga

Assessor's Report October 2025: No Report.

Highway Superintendent's report for October 2025:

- ❖ Cleared large branches, trees & brush from Highways & right of way
- ❖ Mowed & trimmed Town properties & right of ways
- ❖ Patched pot holes throughout Town
- ❖ Repaired/replaced damaged or missing road signs throughout Town
- ❖ Reposed 35 MPH signs on Fitch Road per MUTCD & DOT regulations
- ❖ Hauled in material for upcoming projects
- ❖ Ditched & hydro seeded Fitch & Sweet Road
- ❖ Replaced O-rings on loader tires In-House
- ❖ Creak sealed River, Wilbur, Hayes, Anothony & Ironwood In-House
- ❖ Assisted with paving projects in the Towns of Providence, Halfmoon
- ❖ Painted parking lines at SAFER building

- ❖ Assisted Village of Victory in catch basin replacement
- ❖ Crew assisted in moving display of USS Saratoga to visitor center
- ❖ Crew attended and completed Grad all operator training

Supervisor's report:

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT OCTOBER 2025

GENERAL FUND – TOWNWIDE (A FUND)

Balance on hand 10/1/2025	\$ 593,770.46
Revenues	+ 72,507.98
Disbursements	- (146,479.70)
Balance 10/31/2025	\$ 519,798.74

GENERAL FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (B FUND)

Balance on hand 10/1/2025	\$ 2,262,579.41
Revenues	+ 8,452.00
Disbursements	- (601.80)
Balance 10/31/2025	\$ 2,270,429.61

HIGHWAY FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (DB FUND)

Balance on hand 10/1/2025	\$ 447,215.02
Revenues	+ 56.40
Disbursements	- (178,402.74)
Balance 10/31/2025	\$ 268,868.68

SCHUYLER PARK 10/31/2025	\$ 71,293.074
YOUTH RECREATION & SERVICE 10/31/2025	\$ 8,673.85
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE 10/31/2025	\$ 244,910.41
BUILDING RESERVE 10/31/2025	\$ 484,315.60
CDPHP & HRA 10/31/2025	\$ 5,524.13
AHC HOME IMPROVEMENT 10/31/2025	\$ 13,515.00
CDBG PROJECT 10/31/25	\$ 16,533.20
SCENIC BY WAYS QRTLRY 10/31/2025	\$ 312.49
PARKS RESERVE 10/31/2025	\$ 376,956.55
GFNB Certificate of Deposit 10/31/2025	\$ 848,314.69
NYCLASS 10/31/2025	\$ 814,426.20

September 2025 Distribution - Sales Tax Received - \$ 206,783.00

October 2025 Distribution- Mortgage Tax Received - \$ 23,115.50

Public comments on agenda items: Priscilla Del Grosso addressed the board.

Committee reports:

Landfill: Councilmember Gary Squires advised that we had the well point testing done this past Monday, which gets done twice a year at the landfill.

Insurance: No report

Youth: Councilmember Michael McLoughlin stated that he is involved with the food pantry and backpack program at the school, the needs are increasing both at the school and the food pantry. There has been an uptick over the past few weeks. This is something to be aware of, so please look out for your neighbors who may be in need.

Supervisor Murray advised that the Saratoga County office of the aging and youth services department has advised that the American Red Cross will pay for lifeguard training. There is a shortage of lifeguards all throughout the County and the American Red Cross has stepped up to pay for lifeguard training and certification. We are not sure when the training will take place but if anyone know of a 15-17 who would like to get certification for a lifeguard summer job this will be available for free.

Park Committee: No report

Office of Emergency Management (OEM): No report.

WEMS: No report.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Resolution : On a motion by Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, the following **Resolution #25-56 Adoption of Annual Town Budget for 2026**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

Carried 5 – 0

WHEREAS, this Town of Saratoga Town Board having on November 6, 2025, 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, 2026. 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, 2026, 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.

Communications: Resident John Cashing submitted a letter that is on file in the Town Clerks office and spoke to the Town Board members with his request for reduction of speed limit on Cedar Bluff Road and the Curtailment of operations at 142 Cedar Bluff Road (Old Tavern Farm Village and Distillery).

Supervisor Ian Murray advised that the Town will have to submit a T-9 report form to the County and then the County sends it to the State for review. The Town requested this back in 2019 and received a response in 2020 from the state indicating the speed limit was appropriate for the conditions experienced through this corridor.

Supervisor Ian Murray stated it is up to the Board if they would like to go forward with T-9 request.

Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg expressed that amount of traffic has increased a lot and conditions have changed in that area. Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg feels it would be appropriate to request the speed limit reduction request again. Councilmember Gary Squires stated the State could come back either way and he doesn't see the harm in going forward with the T-9 request.

Supervisor Ian Murray asked the Board who would like to make the motion for submitting the T-9 request for speed reduction on Cedar Bluff Road, on a motion by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, the request was adopted by vote Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

Carried 5 – 0

Supervisor Murray then stated regarding part two of your question curtailment of operations at 142 Cedar Bluff Road (Old Tavern Farm Village and Distillery), he is going to let the Code Enforcement officer Gil Albert to

respond. Code Enforcement officer Gil Albert responded and stated he would check into it and find out what is going on. As a farming entity they can hold events related to farming on a regular basis with no issue, the Department of Ag and Markets supersede the Town.

Code Enforcement officer Gil Albert stated he will have to look into the car show and the wedding event. Mr. Cashin asked if he would get a response and Code Enforcement officer Gil Albert advised once he got an answer, he would let Mr. Cashin know.

Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg gave a report on the lighting upgrade in the tenant wing of the building. She advised that the upgrade should be finished next week. She also advised that the Town has received aerators for our faucets and we have also received new thermostats that will be put in when the contractors have some available time in order to do that install.

Between NYSERDA and National Grid the Town will have received \$39,691.00 worth of fixtures and labor.

Privilege of the floor: Lauren St. Pierre, Rick Burke and Myra Boyar.

Upcoming meetings:

- ❖ Regular Town Board meeting – MONDAY, December 8th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ Special Year End Audit of Bills Meeting – MONDAY, December 29th, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Audit the Bills: On a motion by Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, the following **Resolution #25-57 Approving the Payment of Bills in Abstract 11G of 2025**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray- aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman 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 11G of 2025 in the following amounts:**

General Fund DB	No. 686-701	\$ 16,196.99
General Fund A	No. 655-663, 665-667, 702-717	\$ 24,328.15
General Fund B	No. 668, 718-719	\$ 372.60
General Fund H	No. 664, 720	\$ 1,597.12
General Fund HPO	No. 721	\$ 13,295.00
Grand Total		\$ 55,789.86

A motion was made by Councilmember Ruth Drumm and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 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