

**TOWN OF SARATOGA
TOWN BOARD DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
12 SPRING ST., SCHUYLERVILLE, NY
December 12, 2022
6:00 P.M.**

Supervisor Thomas Wood opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call: Town Clerk, Linda McCabe, called the roll: Supervisor Thomas Wood- present, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – present, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires – present, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenburg – absent.

Also present: Deputy Town Clerk Michelle Conover, Pat Temple, Highway Superintendent Don Ormsby, Ian Murray, Cindy Wian, Hubert Miller, Brianne Mulligon, Paul Murphy, Edith Rubinson and Thomas Yannios.

Recognitions/Presentations/ Bid openings/Public Hearings: None.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Gary Squires and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, **to accept the minutes of the November 3, 2022 agenda meeting and the November 10, 2022 regular Town Board meeting as written.** Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg – absent.

Carried 3 – 0

Town Clerk’s report for November 2022: Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for the Animal Population Control Program \$40.00. Fees paid to New York D.E.C. for hunting and fishing licenses \$174.80. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses \$0. Dog license fees to Supervisor Thomas Wood \$175.00. Clerk fees to Supervisor Thomas Wood \$357.58. Total State and Local Revenues received were \$747.38.

Zoning Officer’s report for November 2022: 8 Building Permits, 20 Building Inspections, 6 Certificates of Occupancy, 0 Junkyard Permit, 0 Complaint, 0 Fire Inspections, 0 Orders to Remedy, 5 misc., 13 Building Permit Renewals and 0 Property Maintenance Inspections. A check in the amount of \$2,700.50 was given to Supervisor Thomas Wood.

Dog Control officer’s report for November 2022: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer answered 6 complaints, took 0 dogs to the shelter, 0 bite cases, traveled 40 miles, issued 4 warnings and 0 summonses.

Town Court report for November 2022: 18 Traffic tickets closed, 2 Criminal/penal law case closed, 0 civil case closed, 0 DWI cases closed, 0 Encon/DEC closed, 0 Town and 0 Dog cases closed. Supervisor Thomas Wood received a check from Justice Sherman in the amount of \$2,190.00 for fines & fees and \$40.00 from Justice Waldron for fines & fees.

Tax Collector: Any & all questions you have concerning unpaid taxes & proper amount due, should be directed to the County Treasurer’s office at: #518-884-4724.

Historian's report for November 2022: No report.

Assessor's report November 2022: No report.

Highway Superintendent's report for November 2022:

- ❖ Brushing back & clean up of logs and limbs in ditch lines
- ❖ Repaired potholes and installed delineators on plow routes
- ❖ Ditching areas where water runs into our roads
- ❖ Replaced Children at Play signs to Drive Slow Like Your Child Plays Here, per our insurance company recommendation
- ❖ Changed large culvert on Swamp Rd. due to rot
- ❖ Maintenance on garage generator and Trucks 1,3,4,5 & 6: repaired exhaust leak, spreader chain, air leak and rear hub on Truck 3, replaced serpentine belt, air dryer, drive tires, head gasket and cylinders on Truck 2, replaced 2 hydraulic lines, brake cam & rear drive tires for Truck 1, hydraulic line replaced on Truck 6 and repaired sander on Truck 2.
- ❖ Plow frames have been installed on trucks
- ❖ Boom tractor is at Capital Tractor for joystick issue
- ❖ Stabilizing washout at the back of garage storage building
- ❖ Helped Schuylerville remove service banners and put up Christmas lights
- ❖ Plowed & sanded for the recent snowstorm
- ❖ Changing uniform service due to price increase
- ❖ 2 trucks broke down during snow removal, 1 is repaired and the other is still out

Supervisor's report for November 2022:

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2022

GENERAL FUND – TOWNWIDE (A FUND)

Balance on hand 11/1/2022	\$ 866,510.19
Revenues	+ 166,733.00
Disbursements	- <u>165,398.45</u>
Balance 11/30/2022	\$ 867,844.74

GENERAL FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (B FUND)

Balance on hand 11/1/2022	\$2,386,654.33
Revenues	+ 16,879.86
Disbursements	- <u>11,452.26</u>
Balance 11/30/2022	\$2,392,081.93

HIGHWAY FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (DB FUND)

Balance on hand 11/1/2022	\$1,156,888.70
Revenues	+ 485.62
Disbursements	- <u>49,796.30</u>
Balance 11/30/2022	\$1,007,578.02

SCHUYLER PARK CAPITAL PROJECT 11/30/2022	\$ 147,019.60
YOUTH RECREATION & SERVICE 11/30/2022	\$ 8,673.85
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE 11/30/2022	\$ 145,686.17
BUILDING RESERVE 11/30/2022	\$ 483,215.92
TRUST & AGENCY 11/30/2022	\$ 54,958.01
HOME IMPROVEMENT GRANT 2 11/30/2022 (holding checks until funds are deposited)	\$ -
CDBG PROJECT 11/30/2022	\$ -
SCENIC BY WAYS QRTRLY 11/30/2022	\$ 312.01
PARKS RESERVE 11/30/2022	\$ 376,956.55
PROPERTY TAX CAP RESERVE 11/30/2022	\$ -
GFNB Certificate of Deposit 11/30/2022	\$ 754,057.09
NYCLASS 11/30/2022	\$ 710,205.70

Sales Tax Received November 2022- \$16,074.50
Mortgage Tax Received for September 2022 - \$16,647.00
Mortgage Tax Received for October 2022 – 189,900.15
Mortgage Tax Received for 4/1/22 – 9/30/22 - \$112,198.25
Total Mortgage for 2022 to date - \$229,190.44

Public comments on agenda items only: Cindy Wian and Brianne Mulligan addressed the Board.

Committee reports:

Landfill: No report.

Insurance: No report.

Youth: SAFER is working with Schuylerville Central School with the backpack program for those in need; there has been a 20% increase this year, due to the economy.

Senior Citizens: Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg submitted the following: Quaker Springs Sunshiners met on November 14th with 23 in attendance for a Thanksgiving luncheon meeting. Diane Whitten, Cornell Cooperative Extension nutrition educator gave a presentation on air fryers. They will meet again on December 12th for a luncheon, provided by the QSFD Auxiliary and Debi Craig, a retired music teacher, will be leading them in playing hand chimes and holiday

songs. They will meet again in March, 2023.

Pat Temple submitted the following: The Old Saratoga Seniors met for a sandwich luncheon meeting with 49 in attendance. This year it had been decided to take up a collection instead of doing gifts and donate the money to the Schuylerville Central School for the kids; total amount collected was \$545.00.

December 16, 2022 – Holiday luncheon at Wishing Well restaurant. Next meeting will be held in January 2023.

Park Committee: No report

Office of Emergency Management (OEM): No report.

QSFD September 2022 Reports: They've had 112 calls to date.

WEMS September 2022: No report

Old Business: None.

New business:

Supervisor Thomas Wood spoke with the Board concerning the rental leases for the Town Hall tenants. He questioned if they thought about if they wanted to increase them this year, due to the economy and possible upcoming recession. Typically, there is a 3% annual increase but he'd like to just keep it as is for the coming year. Board members Gary Squires and Michael McLoughlin stated this and favored an increase of 2 – 3% as this is Town revenue, as well as all expenses are increasing. After a brief discussion it was agreed to increase 2%.

A motion was made by Councilmember Gary Squires, seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, **to increase the tenant rental leases by 2%**. Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - absent.

Carried 3– 0

Supervisor Thomas Wood spoke with the Board on the need of the Old Saratoga Seniors group needing insurance in order to continue line-dancing at the Village of Schuylerville Village Hall. Our insurance agent recommends a \$2,000,000 policy, naming the Town of Saratoga and Village of Schuylerville as additional insurers on the policy. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the Town Board will consider, once the insurance agent comes back with the cost, whether to take the amount from the \$2500 they gift the group annually or if they'll pay it as an increase for the group.

The Board also discussed the \$10,000 ARPA fund request from the Wilton Emergency Medical Squad for needed cardiac equipment brackets for the ambulances. They decided they needed a bit more information prior to making that decision. The Board then discussed the ARPA fund request for \$2,500 to inspect and help repair the dry sprinkler system of the American Legion Post 278, in Schuylerville. The Board would like them to also ask both the Village of Schuylerville and Victory to see if they will help as well. The Board also said if they do this, it needs to be made clear to the American Legion that there is no promise of help in the future. A motion was made by Councilmember Gary Squires, seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, **to cover the cost of the dry sprinkler system and minor repairs for the**

American Legion Post 278, for a total of ARPA funds in the amount of \$2,500. Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - absent.
Carried 3– 0

On a motion by Councilmember Gary Squires and seconded by Councilmember Ruth Drumm, the following **Resolution #22-91- Authorization to Renew Health Insurance Plan MVP Gold HMO-POS 2023 – HG170022/RHG0242X**, was adopted by the following vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - absent.
Carried 3– 0

WHEREAS, on an annual basis, the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga, authorizes the Town Supervisor to enter into an insurance contract to provide health insurance coverage for eligible retired employees; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed proposals for a contract to commence January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023 for Retirees over 65 years of age; now, therefore, be it **RESOLVED**, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to sign a contract for health insurance benefits with MVP Preferred Gold HMO-POS 2023 - HG170022/RHG0242X, policy #208032, at a monthly premium of \$258.74 per person, per month. This is an increase of \$2.10 per person, per monthly premium, from last year.

On a motion by Councilmember Gary Squires and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, the following **Resolution #22-92 – Establishing the Joint 250th Anniversary of the American Revolutionary War Committee between the Towns of Saratoga and Stillwater**, was adopted by the following vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - absent.

Carried 3– 0

WHEREAS, milestone anniversaries commemorating significant historical events give our citizens the opportunity to reflect on our past and gain a better understanding of the way these people, events and ideas shaped our county, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution will be observed from 2025 through 2033, and throughout that period the geographical area that would become towns of Saratoga and Stillwater, played a significant role in several events, conflicts, meetings, raids and transportation routes; and

WHEREAS, in the year 1777, one of the most important events of the entire Revolution, the surrender of the Army of British General John Burgoyne to American General Horatio Gates following the success of the Americans at the Battles of Saratoga, known as the Turning Point of the American Revolution, happened within our borders and changed the course of the war; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this uniquely important role, it is appropriate for Towns of Saratoga and Stillwater work with Saratoga County to commemorate this anniversary by planning events and activities that engage its citizens and provide an opportunity to learn about our common heritage, develop pride of place and celebrate our shared history; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the town boards of the towns of Saratoga and Stillwater authorize a Towns of Saratoga and Stillwater 250th American Revolution Committee consisting of 10 official members, tasked with assisting in the planning and organizing all ceremonies, events, activities and celebrations recognizing the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution in the Towns of Saratoga and Stillwater; and be it further

RESOLVED, that members of the committee will be appointed by the two Town Supervisors to include Town of Saratoga Supervisor appointments and shall include himself, the Town of Saratoga Historian, a representative from the Old Saratoga Historical Association, and in consultation with the Mayors representative from the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory and include Town of Stillwater Supervisor appointments and shall include himself, the Town of Stillwater Historian, a representative from the Stillwater Historical Society, and in consultation with the Mayor representative from the Villages of Stillwater and a Stillwater citizens at-large; and, ex officio representatives (non-voting) of the Superintendent of Saratoga National Historical Park and the Saratoga County Historian, and be it further

RESOLVED, that individuals serving as members of the commission not representing an elected or appointed office shall serve a term of three years, eligible for reappointment; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the functions, scope and activity of the Towns of Saratoga and Stillwater 250th American Revolution Committee shall be solely and strictly of an advisory nature and the acts or statements of the Towns of Saratoga and Stillwater 250th American Revolution Committee or any of its members individually or collectively shall in no way bind or be deemed to bind the Towns of Saratoga or Stillwater, its agents, or employees; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the members of the Towns of Saratoga and Stillwater 250th American Revolution Committee shall receive no salary or compensation for their services; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the committee will submit a report to the Town Supervisors bi-annually to inform the board of its meetings, plans, activities and events; and, be it yet further

RESOLVED, that the Towns of Saratoga and Stillwater 250th American Revolution Committee will be active from the date this resolution is passed until December 31, 2033.

On a motion by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, the following **Resolution #22-93 – Adopting Climate Smart Pledge**, was adopted by the following vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - absent.

Carried 3– 0

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Town of Saratoga, County of Saratoga, believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments and is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy and livelihoods, harm our farms, orchards and ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations, spread invasive species and exotic diseases, reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities and pose health threats to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, build livable, energy-independent and secure communities, vibrant innovation economies, healthy and safe schools and resilient infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts; and

WHEREAS, we believe that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate, adopts the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge, which comprises the following ten elements:

1. Build a climate-smart community
2. Inventory emissions, set goals and plan for climate action
3. Decrease energy use
4. Shift to clean, renewable energy
5. Use climate smart materials management
6. Implement climate smart land use
7. Enhance community resilience to climate change
8. Support a green innovation economy
9. Inform and inspire the public
10. Engage in an evolving process of climate action.

Communications: None.

Privilege of the floor: The following addressed the Board: Hubert Miller, Edith Rubinson, Thomas Yannios and Paul Murphy.

Upcoming meetings:

- ❖ End of Year Audit – Thursday, December 29, 2022

On a motion by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, the following **Resolution #22-94 – Audit the Bills – Abstract 12G**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - absent.

Carried 3– 0

RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga to authorize payment of the bills listed in **Abstract 12G of 2022 in the following amounts:**

General Fund DB	No. 835 – 859	\$ 64,313.77
General Fund A	No. 791, 793, 794, 797 – 799, 801, 815, 860 - 889	\$ 32,757.91
General Fund B	No. 795, 800, 816, 818 - 831	\$ 13,434.52
H Schuyler Park	No. 817, 832 - 834	<u>\$ 24,021.30</u>
	Grand Total	\$ 135,107.78

A motion was made by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, **to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.** Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilwoman Ruth Drumm – absent, Councilman Gary Squires - aye, Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg - absent.

Carried 3 - 0

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda A. McCabe
Town Clerk