

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

**March 10, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

Supervisor Thomas Wood opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call: Ruth Drumm, Town Clerk, called the roll. Supervisor Thomas Wood- present, Councilman Fred Drumm - present, Councilman Charles Hanehan- present, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – absent (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), and Councilman James Jennings - present

Also present: Deputy Town Clerk Linda McCabe, Highway Superintendent Don Ormsby Jr., Zoning Officer Gil Albert, Town Attorney Bill Reynolds, Chris Benn, Thomas R. Drew, James Gorham, Britny Nadeau, Verla White, Wendy Lukas, Brie Waldron, and Laurie Griffen

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

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Fred Drumm and seconded by Councilman Charles Hanehan to accept the minutes of the February 10th regular meeting as written.

Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Fred Drumm – aye, Councilman Charles Hanehan – aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – absent, and Councilman James Jennings – aye Carried 4 – 0.

Town Clerk's report for February 2014: Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for the Animal Population Control Program \$89.00. Fees paid to New York D.E.C. for hunting and fishing licenses \$70.86. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses \$0. Dog license fees to Supervisor Thomas Wood \$380.00. Clerk fees to Supervisor Thomas Wood \$14.14. Total State and Local Revenues received were \$554.00.

Councilman Michael McLoughlin arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Zoning Officer's report for February 2014: 1 Building Permit, 15 Building Inspections, 3 Certificates of Occupancy, 1 Order to Remedy, 0 Fire inspections, 1 Complaint, 3 Building Permit Renewals, 4 Property Maintenance Inspections, and 3 misc. appointments. A check for \$390.50 was given to Supervisor Thomas Wood.

Dog Control officer's report for February 2014: Answered 17 complaints, took 1 dog to the shelter, 0 bite cases, traveled 79 miles, issued 11 warnings and 0 summons were issued.

Town Court report for February 2014: The following were closed: 33 Vehicle & Traffic, 13 Criminal/Penal Law, 0 DEC/ENCON, 0 Dog cases, 1 DWI, 0 Town & Village

Ordinance, 0 Small Claims/Civil, 2 Evictions, 0 Bench trials, 1 (case transfer) Divestiture Form sent to County Court, 0 Defendants sentenced to probation, 0 hours of community service issued, 0 days of jail time issued, 4 Orders of Protection issued, and \$6,640.00 in fees were paid to the NY State Comptroller.

Tax Collector's report: Tax Collector Jim Gorham reported that he has collected \$2,678,857.18 plus \$22 in fees and \$2,049.38 in penalties for a total of \$2,680,928.56 on 2,641 bills as of March 7th.

Historian's report: No report.

Assessor's report: Victoria Hayner submitted the following February 2014 report: February was busy with the acceptance and processing of exemption applications, both renewal and new. Letters were sent to 9 property owners that indicated we did not receive their renewals.

We also continued adding sales to our assessment roll. During the last couple of months we had 23 sales of which 5 were valid sales and 18 were non-valid sales. These sales consisted of 2 vacant properties, 1 commercial property and 20 residential sales.

This month we will update our file with building permit completion values and continue to review properties brought to our attention for a look at its value.

We begin again our 3 day a week schedule. I will be here on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Dorothy will be in on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Highway Superintendent's report: Highway Superintendent Don Ormsby Jr. reported for February 2014:

- ❖ Working on sign and mailbox repairs.
- ❖ Pushing back snow banks at intersections and narrow roads.
- ❖ Addressing frozen culverts, drifting snow and icing across roads with our loader and backhoe.
- ❖ Removed the snow banks from the Town Hall.
- ❖ Had electrical issues with truck 5, engine light on truck 4, broken wing cable on truck 1 and a plowing accident with truck 6.
- ❖ We are replacing bushings, had one cylinder rebuilt and rear tires replaced on our boom mower.
- ❖ The garage is down to one furnace in operation and hoping it lasts the month.
- ❖ We've plowed 7 storms and sanded only for 6 storms.

Supervisor's report:

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT FEBRUARY 2014

GENERAL FUND – TOWNWIDE (A FUND)	
Balance on hand FEB. 1	\$ 700,001.14
FEB. Revenues	+ 1,324,860.68
FEB. Disbursements	- 850,264.42
Balance FEB. 28	\$ 1,174,597.40

GENERAL FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (B FUND)

Balance on hand FEB. 1	\$ 1,012,955.25
FEB. Revenues	+ 1,633.85
FEB. Disbursements	- <u>4,277.14</u>
Balance FEB. 28	\$ 1,010,311.96

HIGHWAY FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (DB FUND)

Balance on hand FEB. 1	\$ 939,202.23
FEB. Revenues	+ 85,528.94
FEB. Disbursements	<u>71,850.72</u>
Balance FEB. 28	\$ 952,880.45

SCHUYLER PARK CAPITAL PROJECT FEB. 28	\$ 168,328.11
YOUTH RECREATION & SERVICE FEB. 28	\$ 1,708.56
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE FEB. 28	\$ 12,893.27
BUILDING RESERVE FEB. 28	\$ 39,505.89
SCENIC BY WAYS GRANT FEB. 28	\$ 310.65
PARK RESERVE FEB. 28	\$ 51,956.55

- ❖ **Sales Tax Received – February - \$85,423**
- ❖ **January Mortgage Tax - \$6,366.50**

Public comments on agenda items: Wendy Lukas addressed the board.

Committee reports:

Landfill: No report.

Insurance: No report.

Youth: Councilman Michael McLoughlin reported that the Youth Center had a family event, “I Love You & Chocolate Too” on Friday, February 14th from 6 to 9 p.m. They also had an International Women’s Day last Saturday at the Youth Center. They are busy cleaning up the Youth Center. Baseball starts at Ft. Hardy on April 26, 2014.

Senior Citizens: Councilman James Jennings reported for the Old Saratoga Seniors. They met for a sandwich luncheon on February 19, 2014 with 65 attending. Anne Murray gave a program on the haunted house in N. Granville. Cookies were furnished by a committee. A trip is planned to Gavin’s Irish Country Inn on Monday, March 17, 2014. They will be stopping at the Our Lady of Knock Shrine. There will be a defensive driving course, Fifty Five Alive, on April 25th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Parks/Schuyler Park Committee: Laurie Griffen gave the following report:

**Schuyler Park Committee
2013 Annual Report**

The residents of Northumberland and Saratoga should be very proud of Schuyler Park – an idea that has become a shining example of cooperative spirit, enterprise, hard work, creativity and success!

The Schuyler Park Committee is pleased to report that 2013 was another successful year, building on the progress of the previous years. We continue to work closely with FRIENDS OF SCHUYLER PARK, The Towns of Saratoga and Northumberland, the Schuylerville Central School, the OSAA and Schuylerville Youth Lacrosse, for the benefit of all.

The FRIENDS OF SCHUYLER PARK is our 501-c3 not-for-profit arm for fundraising and capital projects. They have an excellent Board of Directors that is forward thinking and excited about their fundraising efforts. 2013 fundraising included a very successful “Blue Jean Ball” in March at Longfellows with over 150 people in attendance that raised over \$10,000 for the park. FRIENDS also spent a summer night parking cars in Saratoga and held a community outdoor movie night at the park in the fall, raising a few more thousand dollars.

We continue our strong working relationship with the school in terms of field usage and maintenance for both spring and fall sports. In 2013 we entered into another five year agreement with the school district.

Both OSAA and Youth Lacrosse continue to expand their programs and use of Schuyler Park with hundreds of kids participating in spring and fall soccer, spring and fall softball and baseball and spring lacrosse. Practices, games and tournaments are held daily and most weekends throughout the spring and fall, with more limited use during the summer months with soccer camps.

We continue to outsource the vast majority of our field maintenance, including weekly/bi-weekly mowing, trimming, fertilization, weed applications if needed, aerating, over seeding, etc. For 2013, Collins Turf Services was awarded the contract and did a great job. The fields are in excellent condition. Another important contributing component to the condition of the fields is the irrigation system. We did have trouble with the pump during the summer and had to have repairs done to that. Otherwise, the irrigation system is working well and we are generally able to maintain healthy turf throughout the hot weather.

The Pavilion and playground areas continue to be enjoyed by families during sibling practices, as well as for general play and stand-alone events. We had several scheduled pavilion uses during the year, primarily for birthday parties and reunions. These scheduled events are posted on line on our web site use schedule. We added additional picnic tables for the pavilion and park benches at the playground. The benches were purchased with Memorial Funds in memory of Carol Cummings and Linwood Thomas. Plaques have been made and will be added to the benches.

We are excited by the progress we have made, the recreational opportunities we are providing for our residents and opportunities that lie ahead. 2014 is looking to be another

busy and productive year, with more use and some additional projects and activities planned. The Committee looks forward to continuing our vigilant work regarding short term and ongoing operations, as well as long term planning.

Thank you all for your continued support of our efforts.

Supervisor Thomas Wood praised the wonderful progress that Laurie, the Schuyler Park Committee and the Friends of Schuyler Park have made at the park.

Office of Emergency Management: No report.

GSES, QSFD:

GENERAL SCHUYLER EMERGENCY SQUAD: **Chris Benn** reported:

Town of Saratoga and Town of Northumberland:

Total number of calls for February 2014	37
Town of Saratoga	12
Town of Northumberland	7
Village of Schuylerville	10
Village of Victory Mills	4
Mutual Aid – Easton/Greenwich	3
Mutual Aid –Wilton	1
Stand by - Stillwater	1

The squad held its 3rd Annual Rose Sale and they sold 31 dozen roses which was a 20% increase over 2013. The positive was the increased publicity generated and the negative was the snow storm which contributed to slow sales on Thursday, February 13th and Friday morning, February 14th. Pre orders were successful and all were picked up as scheduled. Plans for next year include a 2 day sale instead of 3, and increased publicity.

Quaker Springs Fire District: **Don Ormsby Jr.** reported that they have had 19 calls year to date.

Old business: None.

New business:

On a motion by Supervisor Thomas Wood and seconded by Councilman Michael McLoughlin the following **Resolution #14-39 Rescind Resolution #13-92**

Sale of old Town Hall to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Fred Drumm – aye, Councilman Charles Hanehan – aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilman James Jennings – aye Carried 5 – 0.

WHEREAS, the Town is the owner of certain real property located at 30 Ferry Street (Route 29) in the Village of Schuylerville, NY; and

WHEREAS, due to the purchase of a new town hall building, it is determined that the Town no longer has any need for this parcel for any Town purpose whatsoever; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Saratoga had agreed to sell the property at 30 Ferry Street, in the Village of Schuylerville to the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) and now the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) no longer wishes to purchase the property; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Hudson Hoosic Rivers Partnership has expressed an interest in developing this parcel for a regional visitor center, a suitable public purpose; it is now, therefore

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga rescinds Resolution #13-92 Sale of the Old Town Hall to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP).

On a motion by Councilman James Jennings and seconded by Councilman Michael McLoughlin the following **Resolution #14-40 Cooperative Agreement and License with Historic Hudson Hoosic Rivers Partnership** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Fred Drumm – aye, Councilman Charles Hanehan – aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilman James Jennings – aye Carried 5 – 0.

WHEREAS, the Town is the owner of certain real property located at 30 Ferry Street (Route 29) in the Village of Schuylerville, NY, and

WHEREAS, due to the purchase of a new town hall building, it is determined that the Town no longer has any need for this parcel for any Town purpose whatsoever, and

WHEREAS, the Historic Hudson Hoosic Rivers Partnership has expressed an interest in developing this parcel for a regional visitor center, a suitable public purpose, it is now, therefore

RESOLVED, that the Town of Saratoga, by its Supervisor, Thomas N. Wood III, be authorized to enter into a Cooperative Agreement and License for Long Term Use with the Historic Hudson Hoosic Rivers Partnership for the sum of \$115,000.00, subject to review as to form by the attorney for the Town.

On a motion by Councilman Charles Hanehan and seconded by Councilman Fred Drumm the following **Resolution #14-41 Appointment of Town Justice** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Fred Drumm – aye, Councilman Charles Hanehan – aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilman James Jennings – abstained Carried 4 – 0, 1 abstained

WHEREAS, Justice Jack Ditch resigned as of 12/31/2013; and

WHEREAS, the town has advertised the vacancy in the official newspaper, the *Saratogian*; and

WHEREAS, the town board has reviewed resumes and conducted interviews of all interested candidates; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga appoints Kurt Mausert, Esq. as Justice from March 11, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

Supervisor Thomas Wood reported that the NYS Senior Citizen's Day Recognition Event Nomination Form has been received and is due by March 21st. Anyone wishing to submit a name should contact Supervisor Thomas Wood or any board member.

Three Saratoga Rowing Association Mass Gathering Permit Applications for regattas on April 25- 27, May 9 - 11, and June 6 – 8 have been received. Their operational plans have been sent to various agencies for review.

Communications:

- ❖ **Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District has made available their 2014 Spring Bare Root Seedling Order Form. Forms are available at the town clerk's office. Call 885-6900 with questions or e-mail: TreeandShrub@gmail.com. The order deadline is April 1st.**
- ❖ **Turning Point Parade- Sunday, August 3rd at 1:00 p.m.**

Privilege of the floor: Chris Benn, Thomas R. Drew and Wendy Lukas addressed the board.

Upcoming meetings:

- ❖ **Agenda meeting – Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**
- ❖ **Regular town board meeting – Monday, April 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**

Audit the Bills: On a motion by Councilman Fred Drumm and seconded by Councilman Charles Hanehan the following **Resolution #14-42 Approving the payment of bills in Abstract 3G** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Fred Drumm – aye, Councilman Charles Hanehan – aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilman James Jennings – aye Carried 5 – 0.

RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga to authorize payment of the bills listed in Abstract 3G (03/10/2014) in the following amounts:

General Fund A	Voucher No. 65 through 99	\$ 14,953.84
General Fund B	Voucher No. 16 through 19	\$ 465.51
Schuyler Park H	Voucher No. 4	23.94
Highway DB	Voucher No. 31 through 44	<u>\$ 39,397.34</u>
	Grand Total	\$ 54,840.63

A motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. was made by Councilman James Jennings and seconded by Councilman Charles Hanehan. Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Fred Drumm – aye, Councilman Charles Hanehan – aye, Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilman James Jennings – aye Carried 5 – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Drumm
Town Clerk