

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

**November 5, 2009
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, Councilwoman Betty Koval - present, and Councilman Michael McLoughlin – present Also present: Deputy Town Clerk Linda McCabe, Town Attorney William Reynolds, Highway Superintendent Dave Hall, Zoning Officer Gil Albert and many other interested members of the public.

Recognitions/Presentations/ Bid openings/ Public Hearings:

Supervisor Thomas Wood reviewed the proposed 2010 Budget. He noted that due to the financial turmoil in this country it may be the toughest times since the Great Depression. Property owners have told us no new taxes, reduce the current taxes. The board approached the budgeting process with the goal of no tax increase. To achieve this goal they proposed no salary increases with the only exception being highway employees that receive \$.05 per hour increase as per a legal contractual agreement that is in place. Spending has been cut from many departments, and we are budgeting closer to actual costs with less slack. Supervisor Thomas Wood stated that this is a lean, responsible budget. As a result of these measures, he provided the following bottom line summary:

- ❖ **Town Tax is down \$.10 per \$1,000 assessment which is a 5.7% decrease.**
- ❖ **Ambulance District is up \$.03 per \$1.000 assessment, which is a 4.1% increase.**
- ❖ **Quaker Springs Fire District is up \$.074 per \$1,000 assessment, which is a 4.7% increase.**
- ❖ **Fire Protection District is up by \$.016 per \$1,000 assessment, which is a 1.5% increase.**

The budget and budget summary information is on the town web page (townofsaratoga.com).

Proof of advertising having been provided, Supervisor Thomas Wood opened the Public Hearing on the 2010 Budget at 7:26 p.m.

Wendy Lucas asked the board for clarification on a number of budget lines. **Stephen Bodnar** commended the board for a great job.

All having spoken who wished to, a motion was made Councilwoman Betty Koval and seconded by Councilman Charles Hanehan to close the public hearing at 7:37

p.m. Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Fred Drumm – aye, Councilman Charles Hanehan – aye, Councilwoman Betty Koval – aye, and Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye. Carried 5– 0.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Charles Hanehan and seconded by Councilwoman Betty Koval to accept the minutes of the October 14th regular meeting as written. Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Fred Drumm – aye, Councilman Charles Hanehan – aye, Councilwoman Betty Koval – aye, and Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye. Carried 5– 0.

Town Clerk's report for October 2009: Town Clerk Ruth Drumm reported. Fees paid to the County Treasurer for Dog Licenses \$82.37. Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for the spay/neuter program \$21.00. Fees paid to New York D.E.C. for hunting and fishing licenses \$942.98. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses \$0.00. Dog license fees to Supervisor Thomas Wood \$213.63. Clerk fees to Supervisor Thomas Wood \$205.02. Total State, County, and Local Revenues received were \$1,465.00.

Zoning Officer's report for October 2009: Zoning Officer Gil Albert reported: 7 Building Permits, 2 Building Permit Renewals, 12 Building Inspections, 4 COs, 0 Junk Yard Permits, 1 Complaint, and 6 misc. A check for \$1,605.00 was given to Supervisor Thomas Wood.

Dog Control Officer's report for October 2009: Supervisor Thomas Wood read the report for DCO Ed Cross. He answered 18 complaints, traveled 98 miles, issued 11 warnings, took 0 dogs to the shelter, and 2 summonses were issued.

Town Court report for October 2009: The following were closed: 124 Vehicle & Traffic, 19 Criminal/Penal Law, 2 DEC/ENCON, 2 Dog cases, 2 DWIs, 0 Town & Village Ordinance, 2 Small Claims/Civil, 1 Eviction, 0 Bench trials, 14 attended the Science of Speed School, 0 Defendants sentenced to probation, 255 hours of community service issued, 0 days of jail time issued, 2 Divestiture Forms (case transfers) sent to County Court, 3 Orders of Protection issued, and \$8,008.00 in fees were paid to the NY State Comptroller.

Tax Collector's report: No report.

Historian's report: Historian Sean Kelleher submitted the following report: Last month, we had a successful Surrender Week on October 10 to 17 to commemorate the American Victory at Saratoga. Highlights include a successful Schuylerskiff Race with 100 participants thanks to the efforts of the Schuylerville Area Chamber of Commerce, another great surrender ceremony thanks to the efforts of the Fort Hardy Committee, and the Candlelight Tour of the Schuyler House attracted 432 visitors thanks to the efforts of the Old Saratoga Historical Association.

This month was also busy with our Deputy Historian Pat Peck who held a workshop "Tracing Your Revolutionary War Soldier" during Surrender Week.

Pat had an exhibit on Town of Saratoga resources at the annual Heritage Hunters, a county genealogical conference. Pat also attended a New York State Archives workshop, "Managing Your Historical Photographs," held in Schenectady.

The Old Saratoga Historical Association will hold a reunion of Town of Saratoga one-room school students on Sunday, November 8, at 2 p.m. in the Town Hall on Spring Street, Schuylerville. If you attended school in Grangerville, Cramers Corners, Quaker Springs, Coveville, Route 32, Myers Corners, Wagman's Ridge, or Deans Corners, please come and bring memories and photos to share. Invite your classmates who may not live in this area now. Everyone is welcome at this free event.

Assessor's report: Assessor Victoria Hayner submitted the following report for November 2009.

We continued entering sales as we received them from the County. In October we entered 12 sales, 10 were residential sales and 2 vacant land sales. I am available to meet with property owners to discuss their properties if necessary.

We are preparing for the Exemption renewal season. Renewal applications will be mailed in mid-December. Exemptions must be filed with our office by March 1, 2010. If you have questions regarding exemptions, please call our office.

The Assessor's Office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. We will continue to be closed on Fridays. I am in the office on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM.

Highway Superintendent's report: Highway Superintendent Dave Hall reported:

- ❖ Scraping of dirt roads has been completed.
- ❖ We are repairing culverts and ditching roads.
- ❖ We will be working on brush trimming when the weather permits.

Highway Superintendent Dave Hall reported that per our insurance companies' request for a Fire & Burglar Alarm System for the storage building he has obtained two quotes. One from Loss Prevention Experts for \$2,078 and one from NY Fire & Signal for \$3,990. The board agreed with Highway Superintendent Dave Hall's request to go with Loss Prevention Experts.

Supervisor's report: Supervisor Thomas Wood presented his financial report as follows:

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT OCTOBER 2009

GENERAL FUND – TOWNWIDE (A FUND)

Balance on hand OCT. 1	\$ 1,007,226.64
OCT. Revenues	+ 18,723.66
OCT. Disbursements	- 46,675.60
Balance OCT. 31	\$ 979,274.70

(Includes Schuyler Park Reserve Funds)

GENERAL FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (B FUND)

Balance on hand OCT. 1	\$ 283,428.32
OCT. Revenues	+101,781.00
OCT. Disbursements	- 4,845.68
Balance OCT. 31	\$ 380,363.64

HIGHWAY FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (DB FUND)

Balance on hand OCT. 1	\$ 911,386.99
OCT. Revenues	+ 0.00
OCT. Disbursements	-104,942.33
Balance OCT. 31	\$ 806,444.66

YOUTH RECREATION & SERVICE OCT. 31	\$ 1,909.26
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE OCT. 31	\$ 910.28
BUILDING RESERVE OCT. 31	\$ 149,072.57
SCENIC BY WAYS GRANT OCT. 31	\$ 308.70

- ❖ **Sales Tax Received for October - \$97,636**
- ❖ **Hazardous Waste Collection Day – 30 residents participated – Thank you to Councilwoman Betty Koval and Roger Sherman for volunteering.**
- ❖ **Wilbur Road Towpath Update- Progress has been slowed by the wet weather. The Trail has been cleaned up of debris, and they have finished clearing to the town line. They are ready to put down stone. The Open Space Institute owns the part of the trail between the town and the Saratoga National Park. They should complete their section of the trail within a couple of years. Then the trail will link to the Saratoga National Park. The long range plan is to have a trail from Waterford to Whitehall.**

Public comments on agenda items: Doug Niles and Jim Jennings addressed the board.

Committee reports:

Landfill: Highway Superintendent Dave Hall reported that they have flushed the test wells at the landfill and cleared and marked around them.

Insurance: No report.

Youth: No report.

Senior Citizens: Councilwoman Betty Koval reported that the **Quaker Springs Senior Citizens** met on Monday, October 12th. Approximately 25 members attended. During the buffet lunch a representative from the Saratoga County Office for the Aging

discussed Medicare benefits and provided handout materials to members. Recent group activities included a trip to the Erie Canal. Seniors took a boat ride and ate lunch at the launch site restaurant. They also visited a cheese factory in Palatine. November 9th Virginia Cornell will be the guest speaker. In December, John and Lillian Bodnar will play music for the group. Each member is asked to bring a can of food to donate to the local food pantry.

The Old Saratoga Seniors met on November 4th and honored veterans with a buffet luncheon, 67 members attending. The junior high school orchestra played music. Meetings will continue on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, first meeting is a casserole lunch and the second a sandwich lunch meeting.

Upcoming events:

11/18 A tea cup auction will be held.

To be scheduled: A trip to the Turning Stone Casino will be set up soon. There is money left in the treasury for 2009 which will be used to offset the cost of the outing.

12/1 Members will attend the Christmas Show at the Georgian Motel in Lake George. The cost is \$40. Reservations and money due to Marilyn Hanley by 11/4.

Christmas Party: Will be at the Wishing Well Restaurant, December 9th at 12 noon. The cost is \$20.

Parks: Laurie Griffen submitted the following report:

Schuyler Park Monthly Report to Town of Saratoga Town Board

We continue to make excellent progress at Schuyler Park and our goal of completing the playing fields by winter is right on track. The following summarizes our progress since our last report, as well as the remaining timeline:

- Additional organic material spread and incorporated by the local farming community
- Tommell Associates completed survey and set grade stakes.
- Morris Excavation completed final grade of the field.
- Irrigation system went out for bid; bid was awarded to Rainbow Lawn Sprinklers and work has begun with the system installation.
- Had a volunteer work day to hang fabric on the perimeter fencing
- *Friends of Schuyler Park*, our non-profit arm, continues to be active and involved. Raised nearly \$1,600 at the town wide garage sale (all items were donated and 100% profit went to the park fund).
- The electric service is scheduled to be complete by the 27th of October.
- The water pump is on order and will be ready for the irrigation system.
- We are working on an upgrade of our web site to improve the site in general, make it more interactive and informative and hopefully incorporate pay pal and scheduling into the site.
- Working with the school on a newsletter that should be out by the end of the month to keep everyone apprised of the progress.
- Working with Stewarts and their PR person Tom Malay; planning a press conference in the near future.
- Working with Anvil Fencing for the baseball and softball backstops and fencing that will be installed this fall.
- Working with the school and OSAA, receiving input from both regarding their field needs, suggestions, etc.

- Continuing to collaborate with Dennis Flynn and the BOCES program, as well as the county Soil and Water Program. They are working together to GPS and clear the hiking trails.

In addition to all of the above work that is currently taking place, the following things are lined up to be completed this fall. Our goal (and commitment to the school and OSAA) is to have the fields playable in the spring:

- Seed slopes and field surrounds
- Sod all playing fields
- Complete baseball and softball infields, baselines, etc with appropriate materials
- Complete initial phase of this project with stone in the driveways and parking lots.

Emergency Management Office (EMO): Emergency Operations Coordinator Sherry Doubleday submitted the following report:

I want to thank Tom and the Town Board for my appointment of Emergency Manager for the Emergency Management Office. Our first meeting was held Wednesday, October 28th. There are two meetings, one at 2 pm and one at 7pm. I want to make sure anyone who is interested can attend. We will be getting clean copies of the Town plan and distributing them to all members. We will also be working closely with the Neighborhood Watch people to help protect our village. It will also be made known that our shelters will not be exclusive to the town of Saratoga residents. We will not turn anyone away because of the town they live in. I also plan to meet with the Emergency Squad and Fire Departments to discuss our strategy on what each facility's duties will encompass.

Committee to Honor Volunteer Firefighters & Emergency Medical Service Workers: No report.

GSES, QSFD, SLPID/SLA, SCFB Reports:

Quaker Springs Fire Department (QSFD): Stephen Bodnar addressed the board reporting that they responded to 8 calls in October. They worked the Regattas. Two new members were approved, Bill Kyle and Jeff Medick. The District Election will be held on December 8th from 6-9 p.m. The Auxiliary is sponsoring a Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner on Saturday, November 14th from noon-5 p.m. to benefit Assistant Chief Don Ormsby's daughter, Dawn, who was seriously injured in an automobile accident.

SLPID/SLA: Doug Niles noted that the major shoreline property owners on Saratoga Lake are from the Town of Saratoga and own approximately 28% of the shoreline. He stated that the "Head of the Fish" Regatta held on October 24th and 25th is the largest Regatta in the Northeast. He reported that SLA is funded by homeowners and donations. They have hired C.T. Male to do a water level survey of the Lake and they have found that weather patterns are affecting the levels. He added that SLIPD, with Joe Finn as Commissioner, is made up of volunteers and they are responsible for using Sonar and the weed treatments that have been working so well.

Old business: None

New business:

On a motion by Councilman Fred Drumm and seconded by Councilman Michael McLoughlin the following **Resolution #09-98 – Adoption of 2010 Budget** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Fred Drumm – aye, Councilman Charles Hanahan – aye, Councilwoman Betty Koval – aye, and Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye. Carried 5 – 0.

WHEREAS, this Board having, on November 5, 2009 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, 2010, and having heard all persons desiring to be heard in the matter, and the matter of the budget for this Town for such fiscal year having been fully discussed and considered, it is

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, 2010, 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 that she shall present such copy to the Board of Legislators of the County as required by law.

On a motion by Councilman Fred Drumm and seconded by Councilman Michael McLoughlin the following **Resolution #09-99 – Rescind Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel Bid** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Fred Drumm – aye, Councilman Charles Hanahan – aye, Councilwoman Betty Koval – aye, and Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye. Carried 5 – 0.

WHEREAS, the Town Board at its regular meeting held on October 14, 2009 accepted a bid, Resolution #09-93, for a contract for low-sulfur diesel fuel, which acceptance was made contingent on review of the bid by the Highway Superintendent, and

WHEREAS, following such review it has been discovered that the bid specifications omitted a requirement for certain factory additives in the fuel product to ensure quality standards, it is now therefore

RESOLVED, that action of the Board in accepting the aforesaid bid is hereby rescinded, and it is further

RESOLVED, that all bids submitted on the original specifications be rejected.

Communications:

- ❖ **Flu Clinic Cancelled -Saratoga County Public Health Nursing Service has cancelled the Flu Clinic scheduled at town hall on Monday, November 16th No vaccine is available, they will reschedule if vaccine becomes available.**
- ❖ **The Old Saratoga Historical Association will hold a reunion of Town of Saratoga one-room school students on Sunday, November 8th at 2 p.m. at the Town Hall. If you attended school in Grangerville, Cramers Corners, Quaker Springs, Coveville, Route 32, Myers Corners, Wagman’s Ridge, or Deans Corners, please come and bring**

memories and photos to share. Everyone is welcome at this free event. Call 584-4129 with questions.

- ❖ **Saratoga County Planning Department and Saratoga PLAN are presenting “Unraveling the Mysteries of Purchase of Development Rights (PDR), Conservation Easements, Tax Implications” on Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 7:00-9:00 pm at Saratoga County Building #5 Auditorium, 50 West High Street, Ballston Spa, NY**

Privilege of the floor: Jim Jennings addressed the board.

Upcoming meetings:

- ❖ **Agenda meeting – Thursday, December 10, 2009**
- ❖ **Regular town board meeting – Monday, December 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.**
- ❖ **End-of-Year Meeting to audit bills – Wednesday, December 30, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.**

Audit the Bills: On a motion by Councilman Fred Drumm and seconded by Councilman Michael McLoughlin the following **Resolution #09-100- Approving the payment of bills in Abstract 11G** was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilman Fred Drumm – aye, Councilman Charles Hanehan – aye, Councilwoman Betty Koval – aye, and Councilman Michael McLoughlin – aye. Carried 5 – 0.

RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga to authorize payment of the bills listed in Abstract 11G (11/05/2009) in the following amounts: General A \$47,205.43, General B \$3,853.11, HUD \$26,395.00, Schuyler Park H \$3,344.59 and Highway Outside DB \$44,833.89 for a total of \$125,632.02.

A motion to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. was made by Councilwoman Betty Koval and seconded by Councilman Michael McLoughlin. Supervisor Thomas Wood – aye, Councilman Fred Drumm – aye, Councilman Charles Hanehan - aye, Councilwoman Betty Koval – aye, and Councilman Michael McLoughlin - aye. Carried 5 – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Drumm
Town Clerk