

**TOWN OF SARATOGA TOWN BOARD
MEETING DRAFT MINUTES
12 SPRING ST., SCHUYLERVILLE, NY
June 12, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

Supervisor Thomas Wood opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance at 6:03 p.m.

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

Also present: Deputy Supervisor Ian Murray, Deputy Town Clerk Michelle Conover, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Gil Albert, Pat Temple and other interested persons. Sign-in sheet is on file in the Town Clerk’s office)

Recognitions/Presentations/ Bid openings/Public Hearings - None

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Ruth Drumm, **to accept the minutes of the May 8, 2023 Regular Town Board.** Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg - absent.

Carried 4 – 0

Town Clerk’s report for May 2023: Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for the Animal Population Control Program \$44.00. Fees paid to New York D.E.C. for hunting and fishing licenses \$37.79. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses \$67.50. Dog license fees to Supervisor Thomas Wood \$185.00. Clerk fees to Supervisor Thomas Wood \$69.33. Total State and Local Revenues received were \$403.62.

Zoning Officer’s report for May 2023: 12 Building Permits, 10 Building Inspections, 5 Certificates of Occupancy, 1 Junkyard Permits, 0 Complaints, 0 Fire Inspections, 0 Order to Remedy, 2 misc., 2 Building Permit Renewals and 0 Property Maintenance Inspections. A check for \$2,165.00 was given to Supervisor Thomas Wood.

Dog Control officer’s report for May 2023: The following report was read by Supervisor Thomas Wood: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer answered 26 complaints, took 0 dogs to the shelter, 3 bite case, traveled 68 miles, issued 17 warning and 4 summons’ were issued.

Town Court report for April 2023: Closed Traffic Tickets - 21, Closed Criminal/Penal Law cases – 2, Closed Civil Cases – 3, Closed Encon/DEC – 2, Closed DWI’s – 2, Closed Town & Dog cases – 1. The following checks were submitted to Supervisor Thomas Wood for fines & fees: \$615.00 from Justice Charles Sherman - and \$1,785.00 from Justice John McCarron.

Historian's report for May 2023: I am pleased to provide an update on the progress made in May 2023 and share some exciting developments in our historical endeavors. Here are the highlights:

- One of the significant achievements was the successful Women at War Conference, which saw participation from New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. We had an impressive turnout of 75 participants who engaged in meaningful discussions and shared their insights on the topic.
- The Old Saratoga Historical Association has generously donated a beautiful digital copy of a portrait of General Schuyler. Currently, efforts are underway to frame the image, and the intention is to have it displayed in the Schuyler Room of Town Hall. This addition will further enhance the historical ambiance of the Town Hall and pay tribute to General Schuyler's significant contributions.
- The 250th Commission has been diligently working on the Along the Hudson Summer series. We have an upcoming event scheduled in early August at Hudson Crossing Park. This series aims to celebrate and explore the rich history of the region along the Hudson River, providing engaging experiences for attendees.
- Our managed social media accounts continue to be an effective platform for sharing historical information and engaging with the community. In the past 28 days, we have made over 108 postings, reaching approximately 732 people. The online presence allows us to connect with a broader audience and disseminate historical knowledge.
- The Historical Association organized a highly popular program on American Indians, which took place on Thursday, May 30, in the Schuyler Room of Town Hall. It attracted more than 40 participants who gained insights into the rich heritage and contributions of American Indians.

As we move forward, I am confident that our efforts will continue to foster a deeper appreciation for our local history and engage the community in meaningful ways. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to reach out to me.

Highway Superintendent's report for May 2023

- ❖ Road cleanup after storms with sweeper and chipper
- ❖ Mowing at ditches and grading dirt roads
- ❖ Lawn and sign repairs
- ❖ Addressing beaver dam on Neilson Rd.
- ❖ Placing detour signs on Fitch Rd. and hauling scalplings for shoulders
- ❖ Truck 1 - brake maintenance and Truck 2 - muffler system repair
- ❖ JD mower and grader filters and oil changed
- ❖ Universal joints on gradall and rear cam on Truck 5
- ❖ Starter on Cat roller and water pump on small roller
- ❖ Ditching and culvert changes on Fitch Rd.
- ❖ Black top shim on Beaver St. and south end of Hanehan Rd.
- ❖ Blacktop Lohnes Rd. with Stillwater paving
- ❖ Hauled blacktop for Northumberland and Stillwater
- ❖ Helped Schuylerville move skateboard equipment from Saratoga
- ❖ Mount veteran banners for Schuylerville and Victory
- ❖ Hauled crusher run to Town launch for trail

- ❖ Painted parking lines at Town Hall lot and speed bumps at Park

Supervisor’s report:

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT MAY 2023

GENERAL FUND – TOWNWIDE (A FUND)

Balance on hand 5/1/2023	\$1,673,319.20
Revenues	+ 291,624.20
Disbursements	- (542,275.17)
Balance 5/31/2023	\$ 1,422,668.23

GENERAL FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (B FUND)

Balance on hand 5/1/2023	\$2,620,835.89
Revenues	+ 2,147.35
Disbursements	- (42,331.58)
Balance 5/31/2023	\$2,580,651.66

HIGHWAY FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (DB FUND)

Balance on hand 5/1/2023	\$ 990,059.70
Revenues	+ 380,074.62
Disbursements	- (66,128.66)
Balance 5/31/2023	\$1,304,005.66

SCHUYLER PARK CAPITAL 5/31/2023	\$ 121,380.14
YOUTH RECREATION & SERVICE 5/31/2023	\$ 8,673.85
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE 5/31/2023	\$ 704.48
BUILDING RESERVE 5/31/2023	\$ 483,322.39
SCENIC BY WAYS QRTRLY 5/31/2023	\$ 312.09
PARKS RESERVE 5/31/2023	\$ 376,956.55
TRUST & AGENCY 5/31/2023	\$ -----
CDBG Project 5/31/2023	\$-----
GFNB Certificate of Deposit 5/31/2023	\$ 754,057.09
NYCLASS 5/31/2023	\$ 725,917.29
CDPHP & HRA 5/31/2023	\$ 5,765.65

May 2023 Sales Tax Received - \$158,994.00

May Mortgage Tax Received – \$19,275.00

Public comments on agenda items: No comments.

Committee reports:

Landfill: Councilmember Gary Squires stated he met with Phoenix Lab last Monday at the dump site; testing was completed and results due shortly.

Insurance: Supervisor Thomas Wood stated the CDPHP policy renews in August. Premiums will be going up and he was informed it will go up by 13% this year. The Board's choice will be to keep what coverage we currently have or lower the benefits. Representative will meet with Board in August.

Youth: No update on the swim program to date.

Senior Citizens: Councilwoman Maxine Lautenberg submitted the following reports: The Quaker Springs Sunshiners met on May 9, 2023 with 19 in attendance. They had a 53rd Anniversary luncheon celebration with lunch prepared by Faye Bratge. Guest speaker was Sherry Doubleday, who spoke about the duties of EMTs. Next meeting: June 12, 2023.

The Old Saratoga Seniors met on May 17, 2023 with 67 in attendance, for the 'bring your own sandwich' and ice cream social. They had officer elections and voted for Senior of the Year and a second secretary. The June Birthday Dinner will be held June 15th at the Airway Meadows Gold Club in Gansevoort at noon. Senior of the Year will be announced. Cost is \$30. Please contact Pat Temple for reservations.

Future Trips: October 4 – 6 - Castles of NY, Alexandria Bay-\$469. Reservations and payment due by September 6th.

Another trip: November 29 – December 1 – Sight & Sound Theatre - 'Miracle of Christmas' show, Lancaster, PA. Details to be announced in September.

Park Committee: Councilmember Gary Squires stated he has no report but he received a call at 10 p.m. concerning a noise complaint at Schuyler Park. He asked the caller if she had contacted the Sheriff's department and she said no. He suggested she do so in future, as he's unsure what can be done.

Highway Superintendent Don Ormsby added the signs at the park were put back up and they will check now and then to be sure they're still in place.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM): Supervisor Thomas Wood stated he and Deputy Supervisor Ian Murray interviewed candidate, Matthew Fueston, but prior to possibly appointing him to that position, he wants the Board to meet with him. He was to attend the agenda meeting to meet with the Board, but failed to show. He has reached out to him, as has Deputy Supervisor Ian Murray, but he hasn't gotten back to them to date. He anticipates Matt will meet with Board members prior to the July meeting.

WEMS, QSFD Reports: Don Ormsby stated Quaker Springs Fire Department had 18 calls to date.

Old business: None

New business:

On a motion by Councilmember Ruth Drumm and seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, the following **Resolution #23-49 – Accepting Resignation of Ian C. Murray from the Schuyler Park Committee**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine

Lautenberg – absent. **Carried 4– 0.**

RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga, to accept with sincere regret, the resignation of Ian C. Murray from the Schuyler Park Committee.

On a motion by Councilmember Gary Squires and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, the following **Resolution #23-50 – Accepting Resignation of Ian C. Murray from the Town of Saratoga Planning Board**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg – absent. **Carried 4– 0.**

RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga, to accept with sincere regret and deepest gratitude for all his dedicated hard work, the resignation of Ian C. Murray from the Planning Board.

Communications:

Privilege of the floor: No one spoke.

Councilmember Michael McLoughlin mentioned the exemption for firefighters and asked if the Town was doing a resolution for that. Supervisor Thomas Wood said he had waited until he heard what surrounding Towns were doing and as they’re going forward, we will go forward as well. He added the firefighters will have a choice to go with the new exemption or remain with the old. This is for active members only and the members have to keep track of their active hours. Also, the new exemption is based upon the value of one’s property, so 50% will see benefit of the new exemption and 50% the old. This will not be effective until next years’ tax roll.

Upcoming meetings taking place at the Town Hall:

- ❖ Agenda Meeting – Thursday, July 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
- ❖ Regular Town Board meeting – Monday, July 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Audit the Bills: On a motion by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Ruth Drumm, the following **Resolution #23-51 - Approving the Payment of Bills in Abstract 6G of 2023**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg – absent. **Carried 4– 0.**

RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga to authorize payment of the bills listed in **Abstract 6G of 2023 in the following amounts:**

General Fund DB	No. 276, 282 - 304	\$ 56,608.35
General Fund A	No. 259, 260, 273, 274, 279 281, 309 - 326	\$ 27,263.12
General Fund B	No. 305 – 308	\$ 4,398.87
Schuyler Park H	No. 237, 328	<u>\$ 1,493.96</u>
	Grand Total	\$ 89,635.64

Supervisor Thomas Wood stated the Board needed to go into Executive Session to discuss matters relating to proposed, pending or current litigation and to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

A motion was made by Councilmember Gary Squires, seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, at 6:31 p.m., **to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters relating to proposed, pending or current litigation and to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg – absent.
Carried 4– 0.

A motion was made by Councilmember Gary Squires, seconded by Councilmember Ruth Drumm, **to exit Executive Session at 6:54 p.m.**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg – absent.
Carried 4– 0.

A motion was made by Councilmember Gary Squires and seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, **to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.** Supervisor Thomas Wood - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg - absent.
Carried 4 – 0
Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda A. McCabe
Town Clerk