

**TOWN OF SARATOGA TOWN BOARD
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
12 SPRING ST., SCHUYLERVILLE, NY
October 11, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

Supervisor Ian Murray opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Ian Murray then asked for a Moment of Silence to honor and remember the victims of the appalling attacks on Israel.

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

Also present: Deputy Town Clerk Michelle Conover, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Gil Albert, Highway Superintendent Don Ormsby, Bookkeeper Pat Temple and other interested persons. (Sign-in sheet is on file in the Town Clerk’s office)

Recognitions/Presentations/ Bid openings/Public Hearings – Supervisor Ian Murray stated a public hearing will be held on proposed Local Law #3, 2023 this evening, but he wanted to first read it for all those present prior to taking comments. Public Hearing on **proposed Local Law #3, 2023, Enacting a Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers pursuant to Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law** - Proof of notice in the *Saratogian* on October 1, 2023 having been provided, **Supervisor Ian Murray opened the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.**, and proceeded to read the following:

Local Law Filing

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
41 STATE STREET, ALBANY, NY 12231

(Use this form to file a local law with the Secretary of State.)

Text of law should be given as amended. Do not include matter being eliminated and do not use italics or underlining to indicate new matter.

“Town of _____ Saratoga _____

Local Law No. _____ 3 _____ of the year 2023

A local law Enacting a Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers pursuant to Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law

Be it enacted by the _____ Town Board _____

of the

Town of _____ Saratoga _____ as follows:

Section 1: A local law entitled “Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption,” is hereby enacted pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a, to read as follows:

Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption Workers Exemption

Grant of Exemption:

An exemption not to exceed 10% of assessed value of property owned by an enrolled member as set forth below, or such enrolled member and their spouse, is hereby granted from taxation with respect to the real property taxes of the Town of Saratoga as long as eligibility requirements are met.

Eligibility Requirements:

Such exemption shall be granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service provided that:

- A. The property is owned by the volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker;
- B. The property is the primary residence of the volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker;
- C. The property is used exclusively for residential purposes;
- D. The volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker resides in the Town of Saratoga and the Town of Saratoga is served by such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service;
- E. The volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker is certified by the authority having jurisdiction as an enrolled member of such an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service and
- F. The volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker meets the minimum service requirement established by the Town of Saratoga, which is hereby established as two (2) years.

Application:

A volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker must annually, on or before the applicable taxable status date, file an application for such property tax exemption with the assessor responsible for preparing the assessment roll for the Town of Saratoga, on a form as prescribed by the New York State Commissioner of Taxation and Finance. The Town of Saratoga must maintain written guidelines, available upon request, as to the requirements of an enrolled volunteer member relating to this exemption.

Certification:

The Town Assessor will obtain certification status on an annual basis.

No Diminution of Benefits:

An applicant who is receiving any benefit pursuant to Article 4 of the Real Property Tax Law as of the effective date of this article shall not have any of those benefits diminished because of this article.

Grant of Lifetime Exemption:

Any eligible enrolled member who accrues more than twenty (20) years of active volunteer service (as certified by the authority having jurisdiction) shall be granted the exemption as authorized by this article for the remainder of his or her life, as long as his or her primary residence is located within the Town of Saratoga.

Un-remarried Spouse of Enrolled Member Killed in the Line of Duty:

The un-remarried surviving spouse of a deceased enrolled member killed in the line of

duty, as certified by the authority having jurisdiction, is qualified to continue to receive an exemption, as long as the deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five (5) years and had been receiving the exemption at the time of his or her death.

Un-remarried Spouse of Deceased Enrolled Member:

The un-remarried surviving spouse of a deceased enrolled member, as certified by the authority having jurisdiction, is qualified to continue to receive an exemption, as long as the deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least twenty (20) years and the deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption at the time of his or her death.

Section 2:

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law is declared by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgement shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to said clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law.

Section 3:

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State in accordance with Municipal Home Rule Law Section 27.”

Supervisor Ian Murray stated all those wishing to speak to please stand, state their name and address and address the Board:

A woman, who did not identify herself, said it sounds great and questioned if the percentage was derived at because it was typically done in other towns.

Supervisor Ian Murray responded yes and he believes its 10% for property tax and 2% if you use it on your income tax. He asked Don Ormsby, Fire Chief, to speak to this.

Fire Chief Don Ormsby stated \$200 exemption on your income tax already, this is above and beyond that; he thinks a home has to be assessed between \$400,000 – \$500,000 before it gets pass that \$200 exemption mark. So, those whose home value is less than that, will just take the \$200.

Seeing as no one further wished to speak, Supervisor Ian Murray closed the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin and seconded by Councilmember Ruth Drumm, **to accept the minutes of the September 11, 2023 Regular Meeting.** Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

Carried 5 – 0

Town Clerk’s report for September 2023: Fees paid to the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for the Animal Population Control Program \$52.00. Fees paid to New York D.E.C. for hunting and fishing licenses \$1,786.70. Fees paid to the New York State Health Department for Marriage licenses \$112.50. Dog license fees to Supervisor Ian Murray were \$235.00. Clerk fees to Supervisor Ian Murray were \$291.80. Total State and Local Revenues received were \$2,478.00.

Zoning Officer's report for September 2023: 9 Building Permits, 10 Building Inspections, 7 Certificates of Occupancy, 0 Junkyard Permits, 0 Complaints, 0 Fire Inspections, 1 Order to Remedy, 3 misc., 13 Building Permit Renewals and 0 Property Maintenance Inspections. A check for \$2,67.25 was given to Supervisor Ian Murray.

Dog Control officer's report for September 2023: The following report was read by Supervisor Ian Murray: Ed Cross, Dog Control Officer answered 6 complaints, took 0 dogs to the shelter, 0 bite case, traveled 24 miles, issued 1 warning and 0 summons' were issued.

Town Court report for September 2023: Closed Traffic Tickets - 34, Closed Criminal/Penal Law cases – 1, Closed Civil Cases – 1, Closed Encon/DEC – 5, Closed DWI's – 3, Closed Town & Dog cases – 1. The following checks were submitted to Supervisor Ian Murray for fines & fees:
\$340.00 from Justice Charles Sherman
\$3,670.00 from Justice John McCarron.

Historian's report for September 2023: No report

Highway Superintendent's report for September 2023

- ❖ Mowing ditches, fixed signs and addressing hanging trees
- ❖ Graded Cahill Rd. but need to complete ditching
- ❖ Sealed cracks on Hathaway, Loudon and Casey Rds.
- ❖ Gorman Co. placed fiber mat on Casey Rd. from Co. Rd. 69 to Rt. 32
- ❖ Replaced tarp frame and engine sensor on Truck 3
- ❖ Installed new radiator and leaking hydraulic hose on backhoe
- ❖ Swept loose stones off Casey Rd.
- ❖ Blacktopped on Chestnut St. and Wooley Rd.
- ❖ Used trucks from Wilton, Providence and Northumberland
- ❖ Blended driveways with shoulder material
- ❖ Hauled blacktop for Schuylerville, Wilton and Moreau

Highway Superintendent Don Ormsby said he's hired D & W Diesel to work on the sensor of the Gradall, as it's in need of service.

Supervisor's report for September 2023:

GENERAL FUND – TOWNWIDE (A FUND)

Balance on hand 9/1/2023	\$1,097,357.32
Revenues	+ 74,770.30
Disbursements	- (152,713.43)
Balance 9/30/2023	\$ 1,019,414.19

GENERAL FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (B FUND)

Balance on hand 9/1/2023	\$2,505,719.33
Revenues	+ 3,715.83
Disbursements	- (10,481.31)
Balance 9/30/2023	\$2,498,953.85

HIGHWAY FUND – OUTSIDE VILLAGE (DB FUND)

Balance on hand 9/1/2023	\$1,247,251.66
Revenues	+ 195,779.70

Disbursements	<u>- (108,884.69)</u>	
Balance 9/30/2023	\$1,334,146.67	
SCHUYLER PARK CAPITAL 9/30/2023		\$ 135,311.30
YOUTH RECREATION & SERVICE 9/30/2023		\$ 8,673.85
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE 9/30/2023		\$ 704.48
BUILDING RESERVE 9/30/2023		\$ 483,394.56
SCENIC BY WAYS QRTLRY 9/30/2023		\$ 312.21
PARKS RESERVE 9/30/2023		\$ 376,956.55
TRUST & AGENCY 9/30/2023		\$ -----
CDBG Project 9/30/2023		\$ -----
GFNB Certificate of Deposit 9/30/2023		\$ 775,925.35
NYCLASS 9/30/2023		\$ 738,315.82
CDPHP & HRA 9/30/2023		\$ 3,179.73

Public comments on agenda items: No one spoke.

Committee reports:

Landfill: No report.

Insurance: No report.

Youth: No report.

Senior Citizens:

Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg submitted the following: Old Saratoga Seniors met on the following dates: A picnic was held on September 6th at Fish Creek Rod & Gun Club with entertainment by Al & Cathy Bains.

On September 27th the group attended a Restaurant Critics lunch at the Auction Barn in Argyle, NY. On October 4th they had an Italian potluck meeting.

Next scheduled trip: Holiday Sights & Sounds. Registration & payment deadline is November 1, 2023. Contact Pat Temple or Peg Jennings for further information and registration.

Park Committee: No report.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM): No report.

WEMS, QSFD Reports: Don Ormsby stated Quaker Springs Fire Department had 100 calls to date.

Old business: None.

New business: Supervisor Ian Murray stated the Board now has the proposed 2024 Budget and he offered two dates, October 24th or 26th for a Budget Workshop; the Board chose to have the Workshop on October 26th at 9:00 a.m.

On a motion by Councilmember Ruth Drumm, seconded by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, the following **Resolution #23-64 – Adoption of Local Law #3 of 2023, Property Tax Exemption for Firefighters and Ambulance Workers**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg – aye.

Carried 5 – 0.

WHEREAS, the Town Board has recognized the need to enact a property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga has held a public hearing and received input from the townspeople; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Saratoga to adopt **Local Law #3 of 2023, Property Tax Exemption for Firefighters and Ambulance Workers**. (Local Law #3 of 2023 is on file in the Clerk’s office.)

Privilege of the floor: Jim Sullivan addressed the Board.

Communications:

The 2024 Budget Workshop – Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

The next Regular Town Board meeting – Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Audit the Bills: On a motion by Councilmember Gary Squires, seconded by Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg, the following **Resolution #23-65 - Approving the Payment of Bills in Abstract 10G of 2023**, was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember 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 10G of 2023 in the following amounts:**

General Fund DB	No. 645, 660 - 673	\$175,078.33
General Fund A	No. 637-639, 641, 642, 646, 681 - 705	\$ 18,879.04
General Fund B	No. 575, 607 - 613	\$ 4,565.64
Schuyler Park H	No. 659, 674-675	<u>\$ 1,400.85</u>
	Grand Total	\$ 199,923.86

A motion was made by Councilmember Gary Squires, seconded by Councilmember Ruth Drumm, **to enter into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m., 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.** Motion was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg - aye.

Carried 5 – 0

A motion was made by Councilmember Michael McLoughlin, seconded by Councilmember Gary Squires, **to exit Executive Session at 8:35 p.m., with no Board action taken.** Motion was adopted by vote: Supervisor Ian Murray - aye, Councilmember Michael McLoughlin – aye, Councilmember Ruth Drumm – aye, Councilmember Gary Squires - aye, Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg – aye.

Carried 5 – 0

A motion was made by Councilmember Ruth Drumm, seconded by Councilmember Maxine Lautenberg, **to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.** Motion was adopted by vote: 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,

Linda A. McCabe
Town Clerk