

**TOWN OF SCHUYLER FALLS**  
**TOWN BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 26, 2025**

Supervisor Smith called the Regular Meeting of the Town of Schuyler Falls Town Board to order at 6:00 p.m.

| <b>Member</b>          | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b>                   |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Jason Bruno</b>     |                | <b>X (arrived at 6:13 p.m.)</b> |
| <b>Martin Perrotte</b> | <b>X</b>       |                                 |
| <b>Vernon Bruno</b>    | <b>X</b>       |                                 |
| <b>Timmy Aubin</b>     | <b>X</b>       |                                 |
| <b>Vic McCasland</b>   | <b>X</b>       |                                 |
| <b>Kelsi Russell</b>   | <b>X</b>       |                                 |
| <b>Darren Seymour</b>  | <b>X</b>       |                                 |
| <b>Nick Bracy</b>      | <b>X</b>       |                                 |

**PUBLIC RECOGNITION:** Jason Rock, Don Lee, Bob Guynup, Lisa Garrow, Barb Benkwitt, Theresa Hayden, Sam Campbell

All Board Members were provided with a copy of the Minutes of the Special Meeting Jul 7, 2025 and the Town Board Regular Meeting July 22, 2025

Mr. Aubin made a motion to approve and accept the Minutes as presented; Seconded by Mr. Vernon Bruno.

AYES: Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT, Mr. Jason Bruno

**ADDRESSES:**

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

Town Clerk, Supervisor, Codes Enforcement, Woods Mills Water, Morrisonville Water, Macey Lane, Historian, Recreation, Dog Control

Mr. Perrotte made a motion to approve and accept the reports as presented; Seconded by Mr. Vernon Bruno

AYES: Mr. Perrotte, Mr. Aubin, Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Jason Bruno

**RECEIPTS**

Tax Collector/\$0

Town Clerk/\$1,197.75

Macey Lane Water/\$498.35

Morrisonville Water/\$4,132.77

Woods Mills Water/\$2,442.47

Judge VanNortwick/\$2,419.00

Judge Smith/\$403.00

Mr. Vernon Bruno made a motion to approve and accept the receipts as presented; Seconded by Mr. Aubin

AYES: Mr. Perrotte Mr. Aubin, Mr. Vernon Bruno, Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Jason Bruno

**PLANNING BOARD/** Mr. Perrotte made a motion to accept the minutes of the Planning Board dated July 1, 2025; seconded by Mr. Aubin

AYES: Mr. Perrotte Mr. Aubin, Mr. Vernon Bruno Mrs. Smith

ABSENT: Mr. Jason Bruno

**ZONING BOARD/**No minutes submitted due to no meeting scheduled.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**COUNCILMAN/** Mr. Jason Bruno inquired about the basketball court. He expressed concern about the water that sits in the middle. Discussion took place on the matter. Supervisor Smith expressed that she will reach back out to Northern Blacktopping for assistance. Mr. Jason Bruno also expressed concern with driveway repairs and a warranty. He expressed that he has had constituents reach out to him regarding these matters. Discussion took place on the matter. Mr. Jacob Kubricky expressed that the warranty on this project will be one year. Further discussion took place on the matter.

**HIGHWAY/** A large tree on Staley Road will be removed, sooner rather than later Mr. Seymour will be contacting the Town of Plattsburgh for assistance on this matter. Mr. Seymour has contacted the Town of Plattsburgh and his calls have not been returned. He will reach out again to see what can be done for shared services. Road striping will be taken care of by the county on the three roads previously discussed. The mowing of roadsides is ongoing. The Highway Department put the parking lot in at the rec park this week. General maintenance and care as well as answering phone calls is ongoing. Mr. Vernon Bruno complimented Mr. Seymour on the job he is doing since he was appointed.

**WATER/** A representative from Kubricky is in attendance tonight to answer questions should the need arise regarding Morrisonville Water. One individual is hooked up on Rickson Avenue. Sand Road is in the works. It is a county project. They are confident they have enough signatures but the petitions must be looked over by

the attorney to move forward. Once this takes place it will then be decided by the Town Board how to proceed. Further discussion took place.

SAFETY/CODES/Mr. Guynup expressed he did not have a lot to report. He has been working on sending out property maintenance requests. Mr. Guynup expressed that he would not have office hours on 8/27/25 due to a doctor's appointment out of town. He expressed that he appreciates the cooperation of the board. His computer in the office is slated for replacement in October. Discussion took place on the matter.

TOWN CLERK/ The Town Clerk has been working on getting files ready to go to the vault that do not need to be stored in the office. Handicap Permits come through every couple of days, if not every day. Since hunting season is approaching there have been a few hunting and fishing licenses done.

ASSESSOR/ The assessor will attend another meeting.

PLANNING BOARD/The planning board has been busy with quite a few things going on. The Planning Board will be receiving some necessary training.

DOG CONTROL/Supervisor Smith explained that Mr. Christon is in the process of catching a puppy. He is receiving assistance from the public because it is fast.

ATTORNEY/ Discussion took place regarding the Pine Tree Drive Subdivision. Mr. Bracy expressed that there was an action filed by the county supreme court in 2001. The court expressed that there was no evidence that the town accepted the road. He explained that the town never accepted the road so the town has no duty to the road. Discussion took place on the matter. Mr. Bracy expressed that Supervisor Smith requested that he look over the dumping fee shares from Cassella. Brief discussion ensued.

SUPERVISOR/ Supervisor Smith expressed that they are waiting on the DEC grant. The Tether Law needs to be given a final look and the appropriate process will be followed. Constituents expressed concern regarding feral cats on Maple Street. Discussion ensued.

HISTORIAN/ Ms. Benkwitt expressed that she had several visitors inquiring and chatting about history. She also expressed that she has submitted a request for conference attendance.

RECREATION/ Recreation has done very well with cleaning up and maintaining the grounds. Painting has taken place as well as replacing the decorative stone in the front of the building. Winter preparation has begun as well in terms of moving equipment needed for winter. Ms. Christon has been covering Soccer while Mr. Campbell is away on vacation. Discussion took place regarding fencing and backboards. Further discussion and information will be forthcoming.

NEW BUSINESS/ Discussion took place on the placement of electronic speed limit signs. Mr. Seymour will look into the matter.

## RESOLUTIONS

### RESOLUTION# 25-74

Mr. Perrotte introduced Local Law #1 of 2025, A local law to exceed the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law 3-C if needed.

MOTION: Mr. Perrotte

SECOND: Mr. Aubin

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls is anticipating that the budget for the fiscal year of 2025 will require a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c, and

WHEREAS, a local law is required pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law § 3-c to authorize the Town Board to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a local law approved by vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Town Board, so be it therefore

RESOLVED, that Local Law #1 for the year 2025, entitled "A Local Law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law § 3-c is duly introduced, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that a Public Hearing on said proposed Local Law #1 of 2025 will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday September 23, 2025 at 6:00PM. where the public will be allowed an opportunity to voice comments for or against said law.

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

| Roll Call: |                 | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
|            | Martin Perrotte | x          |           |
|            | Vernon Bruno    | x          |           |
|            | Timmy Aubin     | x          |           |
|            | Jason Bruno     | x          |           |
|            | Mindy Smith     | x          |           |

Carried: 5 Ayes 0 Noes

### RESOLUTION # 25-75

MOTION BY: Mrs. Smith

WHEREAS, the Association of Public Historians of New York State has an annual conference, scheduled for October 6-8, 2025 in Cazenovia New York, and

WHEREAS, Barb Benkwitt, Historian, has submitted her budget and it has been approved in her budget to attend this conference and

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the attendance of said conference and expenses will be chargeable to the General Fund as provided for in the 2025 budget. Allocation of funds for attendance of this conference will come under the Historian Contractual Budget line.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

DISCUSSION: Cost to the Town would include workshops, meals, mileage, and accommodations. This is the only conference designed specifically for municipal Historians. There is no online option for the workshops or presentations.

**RESOLUTION#25-76**

MOTION BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls authorizes the purchase of 5' high galvanized chainlink fence for the Salmon River Road Park (Jefferson Duquette Park) from C&E Fence Co. LLC in the amount of \$9,260.00.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno

DISCUSSION: 50% deposit required in the amount of \$4,360 and \$4,360.00 due upon completion.

| ROLL CALL       | AYE | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Martin Perrotte | X   |     |         |        |
| Vernon Bruno    | X   |     |         |        |
| Timmy Aubin     | X   |     |         |        |
| Jason Bruno     | X   |     |         |        |
| Mindy Smith     | X   |     |         |        |

**RESOLUTION 25-77**

MOTION BY: Mr. Aubin

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls authorizes the repairs on walking beams and frame of the 2005 International Dump Truck. The cost of this repair is \$2,400.00 to be paid in full upon completion.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno

DISCUSSION:

| ROLL CALL       | AYE | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Martin Perrotte | X   |     |         |        |
| Vernon Bruno    | X   |     |         |        |
| Timmy Aubin     | X   |     |         |        |
| Jason Bruno     | X   |     |         |        |
| Mindy Smith     | X   |     |         |        |

**RESOLUTION 25-78**

MOTION BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls authorizes the repairs of box removal, new sub frame and headboard as well as remounting the sander on the 2005 International dump truck in the amount of \$9,300.00. The repair work will be done by Loya's Welding and Machining

SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin

DISCUSSION: 2/3 of the cost will be paid up front as a deposit.

| ROLL CALL       | AYE | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Martin Perrotte | X   |     |         |        |
| Vernon Bruno    | X   |     |         |        |
| Timmy Aubin     | X   |     |         |        |
| Jason Bruno     | X   |     |         |        |
| Mindy Smith     | X   |     |         |        |

**RESOLUTION#25-79**

MOTION BY: Mr. Aubin

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls authorizes the purchase of a 2024 Ford F-600 with a 9 foot dump box in the amount of \$86,261.53 from Van Bartel Ford for the Highway Department.

SECONDED BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

DISCUSSION: This is a state contract purchase.

| ROLL CALL       | AYE | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Martin Perrotte | X   |     |         |        |
| Vernon Bruno    | X   |     |         |        |
| Timmy Aubin     | X   |     |         |        |
| Jason Bruno     | X   |     |         |        |
| Mindy Smith     | X   |     |         |        |

**RESOLUTION# 25-80**

MOTION BY: Mr. Jason Bruno

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls authorizes the purchase of a 2025 8.5-11XLS stainless steel snowplow from Huttig CDJR in the amount of \$11,900.00

SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin

DISCUSSION:

| ROLL CALL       | AYE | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Martin Perrotte | X   |     |         |        |
| Vernon Bruno    | X   |     |         |        |
| Timmy Aubin     | X   |     |         |        |
| Jason Bruno     | X   |     |         |        |
| Mindy Smith     | X   |     |         |        |

**RESOLUTION#25-81**

To support the efforts of the Lake Champlain Chapter of Trout Unlimited to petition New York State to remove Imperial Dam.

**MOTION BY: Mr. Perrotte**

**WHEREAS**, the Imperial Dam, located on the Saranac River in Plattsburgh NY, is a Class “C” or “High Hazard” dam; its failure may result in serious damage to residences and infrastructure such that the loss of human life or widespread substantial economic loss is likely; and

**WHEREAS**, the masonry portion of Imperial Dam is owned by Main Mill Investments and the earthen embankment is owned by the NYSDEC; and

**WHEREAS**, Imperial Dam has a long history of serious uncorrected safety and habitat deficiencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the impounded water behind Imperial Dam allows for thick ice to develop, which exacerbates ice jams downstream—most recently and notably, the ice jams which impacted City infrastructure and the Underwood Mobile Home Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the impounded water behind Imperial Dam is not used for any hydropower electrical generation or industrial use; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to these safety deficiencies, Imperial Dam presents an absolute impediment to fish spawning and fish passage on the Saranac River; and

**WHEREAS**, improved fish passage and improved health of the landlocked salmon fishery in the Saranac would likely increase tourism and recreational opportunities within Plattsburgh; and

**WHEREAS**, New York State has entered into a Consent Order with the owners of Imperial Dam to correct these safety deficiencies and improve fish passage and included in these corrective actions was a proposal to lower and/or breach Imperial Dam; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Schuyler Falls Town Board received a presentation by the Lake Champlain Chapter of Trout Unlimited in November of 2019 regarding these issues.

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Town of Schuyler Falls Town Board supports the removal of Imperial Dam so that these safety deficiencies with the high-hazard dam will be resolved, salmon will re-gain their historic spawning grounds and ice-jams in the future will be mitigated.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Schuyler Falls Town Board joins and supports the efforts of the Lake Champlain Chapter of Trout Unlimited to petition New York State to remove Imperial Dam.

**SECONDED BY: Mr. Aubin**

**DISCUSSION: Town has no monetary involvement.**

| ROLL CALL       | AYE | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Martin Perrotte | X   |     |         |        |
| Vernon Bruno    | X   |     |         |        |
| Timmy Aubin     | X   |     |         |        |
| Jason Bruno     | X   |     |         |        |
| Mindy Smith     | X   |     |         |        |

**RESOLUTION#25-82**

**MOTION BY: Mr. Aubin**

**WHEREAS**, Trevor Finley was appointed Sole Assessor in 2025 for a term of seven months, and

**WHEREAS**, his term will expire on September 30, 2025 be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Schuyler Falls re-appoints Trevor Finley to the position of Sole Assessor, effective October 1, 2025 to expire September 30, 2031.

**SECONDED BY: Mr. Vernon Bruno**

**DISCUSSION**

| ROLL CALL       | AYE | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Martin Perrotte | X   |     |         |        |
| Vernon Bruno    | X   |     |         |        |
| Timmy Aubin     | X   |     |         |        |
| Jason Bruno     | X   |     |         |        |
| Mindy Smith     | X   |     |         |        |

**CLAIMS**

General Abstract for July: \$25,009.64

Highway Abstract for July: \$129,017.33

Audit Only for July: \$4,671.70

Capital Projects Abstract for July:

Woods Mills Water for July: \$3,030.38

Morrisonville Water for July \$9,093.76

Macey Lane Water for July: \$1,046.67

Lighting District Abstract for June \$0

Fire District Abstract for July: \$0

Ambulance District 1 for July: \$0

Claims: (#202501126-202501233)

Payroll Claims: (#202501056-202501089)

Audit Only: (202501106-202501125)  
                  (#202501090-202501105)

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Amy Davies expressed that the Casella Hazardous Waste Day is September 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Guynup expressed that he will be retiring on September 30, 2025. He will need to resign and be rehired. Discussion took place on Sand Road Water District. Discussion took place regarding the salt shed project.

**NEXT MEETING**

|                 |                      |      |
|-----------------|----------------------|------|
| Regular Meeting | Tuesday 09/23/2025   | 6 PM |
| Work Session    | Wednesday 09/03/2025 | 6 PM |
| Work Session    | Wednesday 09/17/2025 | 6 PM |

**ADJOURNMENT** Mr. Perrotte made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Aubin, and was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. ADJOURNMENT.

Kelsi Russell, Town Clerk

DRAFT