

TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
& PUBLIC HEARING
November 10, 2025

The regular meeting and Public Hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, November 10th, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

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| Roll Call: | Supervisor Michael Reynolds | Present |
| | Deputy Supervisor Deborah Nottke | Present |
| | Councilman Bill Bishop | Present |
| | Councilman Brayton Foster | Present |
| | Councilman Todd Wyckoff | Absent |

Others Present: Town Clerk Leslie Adams-Compton, Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne, Code Enforcement Officer Roger Ward, Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Deputy Clerk Brian Quan, Ben Guthrie, Barb Soyka and other interested citizens.

Call to order: Supervisor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Nottke moved, seconded by Foster, to approve the October 13th, October 20th, October 27th, 2025 Regular Town Board meeting and Public Hearings minutes. Aye – Bishop, Aye – Foster and Aye – Nottke.

Public Hearing: Nottke moved, seconded by Foster, to open the Public Hearing at 7:01 PM to hear comments on altering the boundary between the two Fire Districts within the Town of Covert. The new boundary line between the two districts would be the center line of West and East Covert Roads to the centerline of Hatch Road to the lake. Reynolds said it would take a little (territory) from Trumansburg Fire District and add a little to Interlaken.

Interlaken Fire Chief Jim Borden said that the way the lines are now messes up the dispatchers.

There was discussion on when the change would take place. The Town Assessor would have to make the change on the tax roll by taxable status date of 3/1/2026. It would not be made before the 2026 Town/County taxes. Borden said it would not make a difference in service...They all come (for a fire). Borden said he would be the one to notify 911.

Highway: Highway Superintendent MacCheyne reported that they installed the pad for the new salt barn and dug footers for the walls. They mortared the headwall on the Booth Road culvert, cleaned culvert pipes and did ditching on East Bates Rd, and did cold patching on all Town roads. They cleaned up fallen trees on South Frontenac Rd, mowed roadsides and backslopes on Town roads. They took the 2022 F-550 to Tenco for sander repairs. A new part's been ordered but it could be a couple months. They can use the F-550 with a temporary fix. They installed plow frames on the 10-wheelers (wings not on yet) and did regular maintenance on all equipment.

MacCheyne said he had asked SC Soil and Water what can be done about the flooding on E Bates Rd. They said bigger pipes but they can't do that. He spoke with residents about slowing the water down.

Town Clerk: Clerk Adams-Compton said she had applied to NY Genealogical and Biographical Society for their "Digitize New York" program where they loan out scanning equipment for digitizing historical records and provide a platform for public access. They approved use for scanning ≈16 minute books and vital records. Only those records that are allowed to be in public domain would be accessible on their platform. A contract will be forthcoming, projected start date would be April of 2026.

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Committees: Nottke gave an update on Three Falls Development Corp: The hired engineering company, Fisher Associates, presented a tentative master plan for the “Barton” park; schematics include a parking area, nothing definite yet. A meeting will be planned to present to Fred Bonn, NY Parks.

Reynolds reported that the county is working on their budget. They've got the tax rate down to \$4.54/1000 but the new manager, Melissa Taylor, thinks they can get it lower. He says that other counties that are paying more are taking their employees. They have ≈200 vacancies. He said the Sheriffs Dept has gone to arbitration.

Reynolds presented the Resolution to support Nick Langworthy's Energy Choice Act. The Town had received a request from the office of Nick Langworthy and a letter in support from local resident Fred Bassette. Guthrie presented Reynolds with a 25-signature petition against the Energy Choice Act. (letters and petition on file with Town Clerk)

Attorney: Morrell presented the Town Board with a revised resolution to authorize a revenue anticipation note. He said the note must be paid within the same fiscal year.

Morrell also spoke on the logistics of changing fire district lines. He said a memorandum of request from the Fire Commissioners, presumably the Trumansburg Village Board and the Interlaken Village Board, notarized, with a resolution from the Covert Town Board would be needed.

Morrell said they are still working on getting additional funding from Greene County Bank for the Salt Barn and Frontenac Bridge.

It is unknown when DEC grant money will come for the Salt Barn. The Town will get paid for digging the footers. The Town owes their 5% portion (≈\$100,000) to the county for the Frontenac Bridge.

Barry Ford asked Morrell if an individual can lend money to the Town. Morrell did not know but he is skeptical.

Foster spoke on the Resolution in support of the Energy Choice Act and saw it as a resolution to preserve choice, rather than having a government mandate. He said electricity is fine but there are areas where the present infrastructure cannot support additional electricity, so it would be preventing new construction in that area.

Nottke said that Langworthy wants to get rid of the ban on fossil fuels. Reynolds said the new law says new houses have to use electric beginning January 1st. Nottke said we have a real climate change going on on our planet and that if we don't do something now, it will never get done. She said there has been progress and she doesn't want to see us moving backwards. She said that it also gives creative people license to go ahead and start creating something better.

Ford asked how this affects the old constructions. Will they be able to replace the old systems? He said it would probably trickle down to not having accessibility to these other fuels and almost be forced to go to electric because of lack of availability.

Bishop said that everybody has noticed the price of electricity going up and it would be nice to have a choice on that. And, in the interest in being independent of the grid or self-sustainability, when the powers out it's easier to run a propane or fuel oil furnace on a generator than electric heat.

Resolutions:

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**Resolution #6-2025
RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A REVENUE ANTICIPATION
NOTE PURSUANT TO LOCAL FINANCE LAW § 39.00**

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of Covert has determined that there will be a deficiency in the Town's highway fund by the end of the fiscal year 2025; and

WHEREAS the Town of Covert has submitted its reimbursement request to the New York State Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and anticipates receiving \$274,118.47 on December 16, 2025; and

WHEREAS the Town Board has received a proposal from Community Bank, N.A for a Revenue Anticipation Note up to \$100,000.00 at an annual interest rate of 6.2% based on a 30/360 day year with a maturity date of December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS the Town of Covert has total indebtedness during the current fiscal year that will not exceed \$5,000,000.00 and the amount of the revenue anticipation note is less than 5% of the 2025 budget of the Town of Covert; and

WHEREAS Local Finance Law §§ 25.00 and 39.00 allow for this type of municipal finance and the Town Board of the Town of Covert intends for this resolution to satisfy the requirements of these sections of the Local Finance Law.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Covert hereby adopts this Revenue Anticipation Note Resolution pursuant to Local Finance Law § 39.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Covert hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute any and all documents necessary to arrange for this financing on behalf of the Town of Covert.

Date: November 10, 2025

Motion: Foster, Seconded by Bishop. Vote: Aye-Nottke, Aye-Foster, and Aye-Bishop. Motion carried.

Resolution #7-2025

Resolution of Town Board Approving Alteration of Boundaries of Adjoining Fire Districts

Whereas, a memorandum dated _____, has been duly adopted by a majority of the members of the board of fire commissioners of both the Trumansburg Fire District No. 1 and the Interlaken Fire District No. 2 of the Town of Covert, New York (the "Town"), according to law, proposing that the boundaries of said Fire Districts be altered as follows:

Current Boundary Line:

1. Beginning at the centerline of Lodi Covert Townline Rd. at its intersection with West Covert Road;
2. South along the centerline of West Covert Road to its intersection with the centerline of County Road 143;
3. East along County Road 143 to its intersection with the centerline of County Road 142;
4. North along the center of County Road 142 to the intersection with the centerline of

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West Covert Road;

5. East on the centerline of West Covert Road to the intersection with the centerline of NYS Route 96;
6. Northwest along the centerline of NYS Route 96 to its intersection with the centerline of Little Point Road;
7. East along the centerline of Center Point Road to its easternmost and continuing further along the same course to Cayuga Lake;
8. Trumansburg Fire District No. 1 covers the land south of this line and Interlaken Fire District No. 2 covers the land north of this line.

Altered Boundary Line:

1. Beginning at the centerline of West Covert Road at its intersection with Lodi Covert Townline Road;
2. East along the centerline of West Covert Road East to its intersection with NYS Route 96;
3. Continuing East along the centerline of East Covert Road to its intersection with NYS Route 89;
4. Continuing East along the centerline of Hatch Road to its easternmost point and continuing along the same course to Cayuga Lake;
5. Trumansburg Fire District No. 1 covers the land south of this line and Interlaken Fire District No. 2 covers the land north of this line.

Whereas a Public Hearing was held at the Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York, on the 10th day of November 2025, at 7:00 p.m. to consider said memorandum and hear all persons interested in the manner of the alteration of boundaries of such Fire Districts, and notice of such hearing was duly published and posted as prescribed by law, and said boards of fire commissioners have, at the time and place specified in said notice, duly met and considered the matter of such alteration of boundaries, and heard all persons interested in the subject thereof who appeared at such time and place, concerning the same; and

Whereas, the said boards of fire commissioners have considered said memorandum and all the evidence submitted at such hearing; and

Whereas, the boards of fire commissioners of said Fire Districts, in a joint resolution dated _____, determined as follows:

- (1) That all of the property and property owners within said Fire Districts are benefited by the proposed boundary change.
- (2) That all the property and property owners within the area of the proposed boundary change are benefited thereby.

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(3) That it is in the public interest to grant the boundary changes as set forth in said memorandum, and

Whereas, in said resolution dated _____, the boards of fire commissioners of said Fire Districts did jointly approve the boundary line changes hereinabove set forth, and

Whereas, the aforesaid memorandum of proposed change of boundaries dated _____, and the joint resolution dated _____, were duly filed with the Town Clerk and Town Assessor on _____.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Town Board hereby approves the proposed change of boundaries of said Fire Districts as hereinabove set forth.

Motion: Nottke, Second: Foster. Aye - Foster, Aye - Nottke and Aye - Bishop.

Resolution #8-2025

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSMAN NICK LANGWORTHY'S ENERGY CHOICE ACT (H.R. 3699, S. 1945) AND IN OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT-MANDATED NATURAL GAS BANS

WHEREAS, affordable and reliable energy is essential to the health, safety, and economic prosperity of New York families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, natural gas remains a dependable, cost-effective, and clean-burning energy source used by millions of New Yorkers to heat their homes, cook their food, and power their businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, New York State enacted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which mandates aggressive emissions reductions and serves as the foundation for sweeping energy restrictions, including efforts to phase out natural gas; and

WHEREAS, building on the CLCPA, Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature in 2023 enacted provisions in the state budget banning natural gas and other fossil fuel hookups in most new residential and commercial buildings, effective 2026 for smaller buildings, and 2029 for larger buildings, thereby eliminating consumer choice and limiting access to affordable energy; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul has publicly supported these bans and related measures as part of her administration's climate and energy agenda, despite widespread concerns that such mandates will increase costs, strain grid reliability, and restrict energy diversity; and

WHEREAS, these top-down policies undermine affordability, threaten reliability during peak demand, and strip away the freedom of consumers and businesses to choose the energy sources that best meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Nick Langworthy of New York and Senator Jim Justice of West Virginia introduced the Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945), federal legislation that ensures state and

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local governments cannot restrict consumer access to natural gas and other affordable energy sources, thereby protecting freedom of choice for New Yorkers and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Choice Act would safeguard households, small businesses, hospitals, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and preserve access to an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy that strengthens reliability and affordability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Covert strongly supports the Energy Choice Act as introduced by Congressman Langworthy (H.R. 3699) and Senator Justice (S. 1945) and stands firmly opposed to New York State's natural gas bans, the CLCPA-driven restrictions, and other state energy mandates that eliminate consumer choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Covert urges Congress to pass the Energy Choice Act to defend consumer choice, protect energy affordability, and preserve reliable access to natural gas for New Yorkers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Nick Langworthy, Senator Jim Justice, the New York Congressional delegation, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, and leadership of the New York State Legislature.

Date: November 10, 2025

Motion: Foster, Seconded by Bishop. Vote: Aye - Foster, and Aye - Bishop. Nay - Nottke, Motion carried.

Nottke moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Supervisor's Income and Expenditure Report for the month of October 2025. Aye - Foster, Aye - Nottke and Aye - Bishop.

Nottke moved, seconded by Foster, to approve the Highway Superintendent's report for the month of October 2025. Aye – Nottke, Aye - Foster, and Aye - Bishop.

Nottke moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve Town Clerk report for the month of October 2025. Town Clerk received a total of \$2140.50; \$511.26 was remitted to the Supervisor. Aye - Bishop, Aye - Nottke and Aye-Foster.

Nottke moved, seconded by Foster, to approve the Code Enforcement Officer Report for October. Aye - Bishop, Aye – Nottke and Aye-Foster.

Nottke moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Dog Control Officer Reports for September and October. Aye - Bishop, Aye – Nottke and Aye-Foster.

Nottke moved, seconded by Foster, that Highway Fund Vouchers #131-137 in the amount of \$9,211.07 and General Fund Vouchers #206 – 224 in the amount of \$8,243.79 be approved for payment. Aye- Bishop, Aye – Nottke, Aye - Nottke and Aye-Foster.

Nottke moved, seconded by Foster, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Adams-Compton, Town Clerk