

TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
October 13th, 2025

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, October 13th, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

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

Others Present: Town Clerk Leslie Adams-Compton, Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne, Code Enforcement Officer Roger Ward, Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Jen Meyers, Frank Becker/Good Neighbors, Ben Guthrie, Barb Soyka and other interested citizens.

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

Nottke called for a moment of silence at the passing of former Town of Covert employee, Eddie Turk.

Approval of Minutes: Wyckoff moved, seconded by Foster, to approve the September 8th, 2025 Regular Town Board meeting and Public Hearings minutes. Aye – Bishop, Aye – Wyckoff, Aye – Foster and Aye – Nottke.

Presenter: Joel Fey from Trumansburg Ambulance spoke about an analysis report he did of ambulance services across the country and their service. He said that Trumansburg EMS is a small municipal ambulance service that covers the Village of Trumansburg and contracts with neighboring municipalities that makes them a large service altogether. A challenge is the significant increase in cost with lower reimbursement rates. He said it costs around \$1 million for a fully equipped ambulance. Paramedics require a degree program. They are ever facing challenges for financial sustainability, especially as a rural EMS department. He has been looking at new revenue streams that do not increase taxes. Highlights from his in depth study are that 60% of calls are ALS (advanced life support), 38% BLS (basic life support), 16% commercial insurance, 22% the local burden (ie. taxes), 57% medicare/Medicaid. Treatment places (no transport) make up almost 40% of calls. He said our rates are pretty much the national average. Fey presented an adjustment in rates with the goal as not to increase the burden on the taxbase/patients but to increase the profit margins by collecting more of the insurance companies allowable costs. He said a key is to continue with good charity care practices allowing for reductions/adjustments for those that cannot afford it.

Fey said that they have seen significant increases in capture rates since switching to a new billing company, from 8-9% to about 30% of what was billed out.

Fey said that nationally, EMS service is not categorized as Public Service or Healthcare, but under the Department of Transportation. Ambulance service is considered transportation.

He said that the Town of Covert has its own billing practices at the sole discretion of the Town Board. Bills do not go to collections for most of the participating municipalities. The Town had adopted the same rates as the Village of Trumansburg in 2023 and now they are proposing an increase to approve at the Town Board's discretion.

Presenter: Frank Becker of the newly-formed Good Neighbors Interlaken shared about their service to the Interlaken community. He said they began about a year ago offering free assistance to people in need of rides, light carpentry/painting, yard work, computer assistance, etc. He said they are made up of

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about 17 volunteers and are operating under the Interlaken Community Action Group umbrella. Volunteers sign waivers and offer service at no cost to anyone. Boundary lines have not been established but their hope is that the group can be extended into other communities eventually. A single dispatching phone number will be used using Google voice.

Becker invited all to come to the kick-off for Good Neighbors Interlaken at the Interlaken Public Library on Saturday, October 18th at 6 PM for an info meeting and pizza party.

Highway: The Highway Department oil and stoned previously paved roads: Burdick, Townline Rd, and Halls Corners and oil and stoned with the Towns of Lodi and Ovid. They chip sealed Oak Harbor Road, did ditching on Townline and E Bates Rd, installed two new culvert pipes on Townline, and did cold patching on all Town roads. They installed a new driveway for the new salt barn, dug out, filled with crusher and put a new pad in, and installed concrete blocks on the ends of the driveway for the salt barn. They worked with Heavenly Tree Care to take down and clean up a large tree on S Frontenac, did more shoulder work and installed speed limit signs and other warning signs on S Frontenac Rd. They replaced lift cylinder on 2010 International and worked on hydronic issues on 550 dump truck, and did regular maintenance on all equipment.

MacCheyne said that the new salt barn has been delivered. Construction date has not been decided yet.

Guthrie asked if the replaced culverts will be capped after settling. MacCheyne said yes. He said Congress St would be paved in November, but 4 or 5 need to be addressed.

Town Clerk: Adams-Compton shared a letter that the Village of Interlaken received stating that after December 31, 2025, the Beverly Animal Shelter will no longer provide housing for its dogs. The Town had not received this letter yet.

The Town Clerk's office will be closed until about 1:00 PM on October 21st due to Seneca County Town Clerks Assoc meeting.

Committees: Nottke reported that Three Falls LDC had a master plan project info meeting with Fisher Associates about the 'Barton' NYS Park.

Nottke said that after an accident with a motorcycle and vehicle on Rte 89 off of Frontenac, she will contact the Sheriff's Dept to devise a plan to make the intersection safer due to the increased traffic of the park.

All are welcome to Three Falls LDC meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 9:00 AM in Trumansburg.

Attorney: Morrell said that a Public Hearing will be needed for the alteration of fire district lines and that each fire district has to hold a Public Hearing to adopt this change.

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Morrell explained that the Variance Request for Intelligent Green Solutions/Jennifer Meyers is an unlisted action under SEQR and proceeded to guide the Town Board through Part 2 – Impact Assessment.

Petitioners: Bill Overbaugh said that in April he had addressed the Board about the Town's Lakeview St property line being 6'8" **over/into?** his garage. He had TG Miller draw up a new survey which shows this is still the case. He would like the Town to consider a boundary line adjustment. Morrell will review the survey and draft a resolution for the Town Board to consider.

Barry Ford said he had his well tested as he is preparing to sell and move. He said it was mostly normal except for nitrate that was double the national average. He is concerned that this is caused from industry farming' fertilizing practices. He said it can be fixed with reverse osmosis, but the cost is prohibitive and it removes other vital minerals. His neighbors drink bottled water.

Town of Covert Budget Workshops are scheduled for Mondays, October 20th and October 27th, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

Resolutions:

Foster moved, seconded by Nottke, that

Whereas, the Town Board of the Town of Covert has reviewed the variance application for Intelligent Green Solutions/Jennifer Meyers, ~~9778~~ 9797 Savercool Rd, Trumansburg, Tax Map #21-1-30.21, to install a a solar ground array totaling 31.6 Kw; and

Whereas, the Seneca County Planning Board has reviewed the variance application for Intelligent Green Solutions/Jennifer Meyers, ~~9778~~ 9797 Savercool Rd, Trumansburg, Tax Map #21-1-30.21, to install a a solar ground array totaling 31.6 Kw; and

Whereas, the SEQR regulations under 6 NYCRR 617.7(c)(1) designates **"the construction or expansion of a single-family, a two-family or a three-family residence on an approved lot including provision of necessary utility connections as provided in paragraph (13) of this subdivision and the installation, maintenance or upgrade of a drinking water well or a septic system, or both, and conveyances of land in connection therewith"** as an Unlisted Action **not** being subject to SEQR review; and

Whereas, the Town Board has determined, based on information and analysis, and any supporting documentation,

that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Covert Town Board finds the variance application of Intelligent Green Solutions/Jennifer Meyers, ~~9778~~ 9797 Savercool Rd, Trumansburg, Tax Map #21-1-30.21, to install a a solar ground array totaling 31.6 Kw, Tax Map 15-1-16.1 to be an Unlisted Action under **6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(1)**.

Aye – Wyckoff, Aye - Foster, Aye - Nottke and Aye - Bishop.

Foster moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve the Variance Request for Jennifer Meyers, ~~9778~~ 9797 Savercool Rd, Trumansburg, Tax Map #21-1-30.21, to install a a solar ground array totaling 31.6 Kw

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where electricity production systems with a DC capacity greater than 25 kW are prohibited under the Land Management Ordinance. Aye-Foster, Aye-Bishop, Aye-Wyckoff, and Aye-Nottke.

Foster moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to schedule a Public Hearing for the adoption of a proposed local law to authorize the Town Board to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2026 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise specified in General Municipal Law 3-c for October 27th, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Aye – Wyckoff, Aye - Foster, Aye - Nottke and Aye - Bishop.

Foster moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to schedule a Public Hearing for the Town of Covert 2026 Budget on October 27th, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Aye – Wyckoff, Aye - Foster, Aye - Nottke and Aye - Bishop.

Foster moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to schedule a Public Hearing for the altering of Fire District lines on November 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM. Aye – Wyckoff, Aye - Foster, Aye - Nottke and Aye - Bishop.

Foster moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to authorize the Highway Superintendent to order and purchase a 2026 F2520 truck with Western plow from Maguire through OGS State Contract #PC68973SSB for \$69,477.43. Aye – Wyckoff, Aye - Foster, Aye - Nottke and Aye - Bishop.

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

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

Wyckoff moved, seconded by Bishop, to approve Town Clerk report for the month of September 2025. Town Clerk received a total of \$2648.00; \$610.82 was remitted to the Supervisor. Aye - Bishop, Aye – Wyckoff, Aye - Nottke and Aye-Foster.

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

Bishop moved, seconded by Wyckoff, that Highway Fund Vouchers #115 - 130 in the amount of \$169,122.57 and General Fund Vouchers #185 – 205 in the amount of \$11,650.60 be approved for payment. Aye-Bishop, Aye – Nottke, Aye - Wyckoff and Aye-Foster.

Bishop moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Adams-Compton, Town Clerk