

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. *Meeting was postponed, office was opened @ 9AM.

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, to designate the Town of Covert Town Board as the lead agency for making SEQR determinations for the approval of the Variance for Intelligent Green Solutions/Jennifer Meyers, ~~9778 9797~~ 9791*New # created Savercool Rd, Trumansburg, Tax Map #21-1-30.21, to install a a solar ground array totaling 31.6 Kw, where all electricity production systems with a DC capacity greater than 25 kW are prohibited under the Town of Covert Land Management Ordinance.

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~~ 9791*New # created Savercool Rd, Trumansburg, Tax Map #21-1-30.21, to install a a solar ground array totaling 31.6 Kw, where all electricity production systems with a DC capacity greater than 25 kW are prohibited under the Town of Covert Land Management Ordinance; and

Whereas, the Seneca County Planning Board has reviewed the variance application for Intelligent Green Solutions/Jennifer Meyers, ~~9778 9797~~ 9791 Savercool Rd, to install a a solar ground array totaling 31.6 Kw; and

Whereas, the Town Board of the Town of Covert, has designated the Town of Covert Town Board as the lead agency for making SEQR determinations for the approval of the Variance for Intelligent Green Solutions/Jennifer Meyers, ~~9778 9797~~ 9791*New # created Savercool Rd, to install a a solar ground array totaling 31.6 Kw; 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)(l).**

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

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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 solar ground array totaling 31.6 Kw 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.

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

TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
BUDGET WORKSHOP

October 20TH, 2025

The budget workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, October 20th, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

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

Others Present: Town Clerk Leslie Adams-Compton, Highway Superintendent Jeff MacCheyne, and other interested citizen.

Call to order: Supervisor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 6:25 P.M.

Reynolds explained that the Assessor line was dropped a little bit, but the Valuation line was dropped \$40K as the Revaluation had been finished.

He said that Utilities has been adjusted due to the new heating system for the Town Hall using more electricity and less fuel oil.

Public Safety was increased by \$3K for the Interlaken Police. There was some discussion about the Town's court revenue vs. the cost for the justice. Net has been up \$5K for extra tickets written.

There was some discussion about the needs and costs to have a dog shelter. Dog Control Officer April Moore may have a place available at the former Seneca Army Depot. For heat, water, electricity, etc. about \$400,000 is needed to run the shelter. Barry Ford said his place has what would be needed and he would be willing to work out a deal.

Ambulance is up about 2%, and Highway garage maintenance line was raised for the aging building's increased needs.

There was some discussion about the Playground and Recreation line designating \$10K for former Barton NYS Park. The Town is currently short \$30K in dues to the Three Falls LDC.

Seneca County did not reach its goal for Sales Tax sharing with the towns.

It was mentioned that Dog Control and Cemetery upkeep are bound by law, but not a park.

There was some discussion about Lakeview Cemetery and its upcoming needs. \$10,000 has been added to the Cemeteries line for the potential need at Lakeview. The Town Board will firm up what the actual needs may be in the upcoming year and make adjustments, if need be, at the next meeting.

Retirement line is up, while Medical Insurance is down.

Total proposed General Fund appropriations is down \$7K.

DA/DB Highway sees an increase in revenue raised by taxes because there was no Sales Tax sharing.

Highway expects some revenue from selling a pickup, bridge beams and salt spreader.

Trumansburg Fire expense is up 17+% and Interlaken Fire up 5%.

Foster moved, seconded by Bishop, to remove \$10,000 from appropriations line A7140.4, Playground and Recreation. Aye – Bishop, Aye – Foster, and Aye – Wyckoff.

Wyckoff moved, seconded by Reynolds, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Adams-Compton, Town Clerk

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BUDGET WORKSHOP
PUBLIC HEARINGS

October 27TH, 2025

The budget workshop meeting and Public Hearings of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, October 27th, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

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

Others Present: Town Clerk Leslie Adams-Compton, and Barry Ford.

Call to order: Supervisor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

Reynolds said he spoke with both John Hubbard and Marcia Taylor of the Lakeview Cemetery. John believes they only have \$40k before needing the Town's support. Marcia thinks they have about 60K left and with a 18K mowing contract they will be okay this coming year.

Reynolds thinks that adding another 10K to the cemetery line will be sufficient.

Foster believes they should wait until they need it. The highway department has helped more this past year.

Reynolds said that Proctor will not be digging graves anymore. They dig 5 – 6 graves per year. There is much to upkeep, from hundreds of trees, a lot of weed-eating, mowing, and clerical work, and the members of the cemetery board are aging.

There was more discussion about the Interlaken Police, court expenses and revenue, and mention of the highway barn maintenance needed. Both Public Safety and Highway Garage Maintenance lines have been increased from 2025 budget.

Reynolds said he raised the Assessor line 3%, because all employees receive the 3% raise.

Reynolds said the Town will need immediate money to cover payroll etc. for the rest of the year. He is still working on the bonding for the Town's portion of Frontenac Bridge.

Public Hearing: Nottke moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to open the Public Hearing at 6:45 PM to hear comments on a Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-C.

Barry Ford said he would come up with the least amount to make the budget work, but he agreed there is no way to save \$100,000 in the current budget.

Ford also said that appropriations taken back from the Park's line should not be used for the cemetery.

Ford also shared opinions on the way the police and court operations were shared between the Village and Town.

Nottke moved, seconded by Foster, to close the Public Hearing at 6:59 PM.

Public Hearing: Nottke moved, seconded by Bishop, to open the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM to hear comments on the 2026 Town of Covert Preliminary Budget.

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There were no comments.

Nottke moved, seconded by Foster, to close the Public Hearing at 7:01 PM.

Resolutions:

Resolution #3-2025
Resolution Adopting Proposed Local Law

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of Covert believes that it would be advantageous to the Town to override the tax levy limit imposed by General Municipal Law section 3-c;

WHEREAS subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law section 3-c expressly authorizes the Town Board to override the tax cap by the adoption of a local law approved by vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Town Board;

WHEREAS the Town Board held a public hearing on said proposed Local Law at the Town of Covert Offices, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, NY on this 27th day of October, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that proposed Local Law entitled “*A Local Law To Override The Tax Levy Limit Established In General Municipal Law 3-C*” is hereby adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Covert, New York.

Local Law No. 1 of the year 2025
Town of Covert, County of Seneca

**A Local Law To Override The Tax Levy Limit Established
In General Municipal Law 3-C**

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Covert as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this local law to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Covert pursuant to General Municipal Law § 3-c, and to allow the Town of Covert to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2026 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c.

Section 2. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law § 3-c, which expressly authorizes the town board to override the tax cap by the adoption of a local law approved by vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Town Board.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override

The Town Board of the Town of Covert, County of Seneca is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2026 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise proscribed in General Municipal Law, §3-c.

Section 4. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this

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Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective date.

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Motion: Nottke, Second: Wyckoff. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Foster, Aye – Bishop, Aye –Wyckoff.

**Resolution #4-2025
Adopting the 2026 Preliminary Budget as Final**

Nottke moved, seconded by Foster,

THAT the 2026 Preliminary Budget be adopted as the final budget for 2026 and,

WHEREAS, this Town Board met October 27, 2025 at the time and place specified in the notice of the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget and heard all persons desiring to be heard thereon;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Town Board of the Town of Covert hereby adopts such Preliminary Budget, as originally compiled with modifications* and amendments, as the Annual Budget of the Town of Covert, as for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026 and that such budget, as adopted, be entered in detail into the minutes of the proceeding of the Town Board, and Be it

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Town Clerk of the Town of Covert shall prepare and certify in duplicate copies of said Annual Budget, as adopted pursuant to Section 202, Subd.2 of the Town Law, and deliver one copy thereof to Supervisor of this Town to be presented by him to the Board of Supervisors of this County.

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

***Changes to Preliminary Budget:**

Increase line item: A1355.1 Assessor	\$4,249.42
Increase line item: A8810.4 Cemeteries.....	\$10,000.00
Increase line item: A Appropriated Fund Balance.....	\$4,249.42

Resolution #5-2025

Resolution To Authorize A Revenue Anticipation Note Pursuant To Local Finance Law § 40.10

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 2025 revenues will not be sufficient to make payment to Hybrid Building Solutions required under the contract for Highway Salt Barn entered by the Town Board of the Town of Covert on May 20, 2025; and

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WHEREAS the Town Board has determined that there is no other source of financing available except for a Revenue Anticipation Note and the Town Board has received a proposal from Community Bank, N.A for a Revenue Anticipation Note not to exceed \$100,000.00; 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 budget deficiency note is less than 5% of the 2025 budget of the Town of Covert; and

WHEREAS Local Finance Law §§ 29.20 and 40.10 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 § 40.10; 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.

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

Nottke moved, seconded by Reynolds, to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Adams-Compton, Town Clerk