

TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
April 13, 2026

The regular meeting and public hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, April 13th, 2026 at 7:00 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 Todd Wyckoff	Present
	Councilwoman Barbara Soyka	Present
	Councilman Ben Guthrie	Present

Others Present: Town Clerk Leslie Adams-Compton, Highway Superintendent Jeffrey MacCheyne, Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Deputy Clerk Brian Quan, Interlaken Library Director/Town Historian Chelsea Hastings, Dog Control Officer April Moore, Code Enforcement Officer Roger Ward and other interested citizens.

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

Approval of Minutes: Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to approve the minutes from March 9th Public Hearing + Regular Town Board Meeting. Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Soyka and Aye-Guthrie, Aye - Nottke.

Public Hearing: Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to open the Public Hearing at 7:01 PM to hear comments on the proposed Local Law to repeal and replace Local Law 2-2021 granting partial exemption to certain seniors and persons with disabilities, and setting new income limits. Reynolds said the income levels will be raised \$5,000 in each exemption range. The assessors determine eligibility based on income tax filings, etc. Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka, to close the Public Hearing at 7:02 PM.

Presenter: Chelsea Hastings shared about the Interlaken Public Library happenings. She said that the library hosted 462 programs last year. In 2025 the library celebrated 100 years since the donation of their building (since 1925) with a Gatsby Themed event. The Village of Interlaken, and Fire Dept offered a lot of support for the event. She said that there are 170,000 pages of early newspapers available on their website. She no longer has to use the microfiche. She said that they are looking to get a grant (≈45,000) to digitize from 1984 to 2020, as they are stored in the basement archive of the newspaper and are very at risk. As Town Historian, she has been scanning tax rolls from 1851 – 1945. She would like permission to put them on the NY Genealogical and Biographical Society and on familysearch.org website. She said records after 1929 would require a release from copyright from the Board.

Highway: MacCheyne reported on the activities for the month of March. They plowed and sanded all Town and Village roads, and cold-patched Town roads. They hauled stone for summer road work. They started repairs on shoulders and lawns damaged from plow wings. They replaced rusted metal and painted trailer. They cleaned up tree limbs and cleaned ditches after heavy rainfall, Bates Rd had recyclables + cornstalks strewn around, and they swept intersections. Regular maintenance was done on all equipment.

There was discussion of flooding issues in Covert (Booth Rd?). MacCheyne said that if a larger pipe was used, it would be required all the way down to the lake. Causes of flooding issues are probably related to hedgerows taken out and drain tiles installed in farmers' fields. Guthrie asked what are the farmer's plans for this year and if engineering studies had been done. Seneca County Soil and Water have done some analysis of various situations in the Town. They have been working on ideas, SCSWD suggested upsizing pipes on E Covert and Bates Roads but Congress is always full.

**TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

April 13, 2026

MacCheyne also reported that they had met with the Lake View Cemetery Association. The Town is able to dig graves now, but he said they have no means to pull material away from the graves. He spoke with the Supervisor about putting off the ten wheeler replacement as outlined in the budget's Capital Plan, and instead purchasing a skid-steer loader this year. He said they have an older truck that should work as a back-up. He said of the bids he received for a loader, the Caterpillar 255 is better.

Town Clerk: Adams-Compton said that there is a new Ag and Markets law requiring an option for Dog licensees to give to their local municipality's contracted shelter. It is to be included on the application and funds are to be kept separate and only used for the shelter. The Town of Covert currently does not have a shelter, as the Town has contracted with April Moore but her operating license is waiting for approval from NY Ag + Markets.

Committees:

Nottke said that Camp Barton is now a NY State Park, Three Falls State Park. She welcomed all to attend the Three Falls Development meeting every first Thursday of the month at 9:30 AM at the Trumansburg Village meeting hall. She said they are working on grants for refurbishing the buildings. Covert Highway department will be working on the shoulders on Frontenac. She also mentioned there are baby beavers in the creek. Updates to the new park can be found on the LDC website:
<https://threefalls.org/>

Nottke reminded the Board that Covert's member representatives, herself and Katherine Sender, have a voice but do not have a vote with the LDC until the Town pays the ≈\$33,000 membership fees.

Reynolds opened it up for discussion of the current situation where there is a lack of Animal Shelters in ours and neighboring counties. Tompkins County Peace Officer/ACO, Joe Hoffer, recently called and emailed the Town regarding an uptick in calls for assistance with out of jurisdiction dogs, possibly taken over the town line into Tompkins County. Moore said that at least one of the recent found dogs was lost at Taughannock by Elmira residents. Moore has had to explain to the captors of stray dogs that she cannot legally take the dogs because she has no place to legally house them. She is finding it very difficult to do her job when there is no place to take dogs.

Moore said that someone from NY Ag and Markets was supposed to inspect her 2-kennel holding facility today, but were unable to come, thus leaving her still unable to shelter any dogs. Beverly Animal Shelter is officially closed, they stopped taking animals in December. She said that although the Army Depot in Romulus have given her a building to use as a holding facility, it is not up to NY Ag + Mkt standards and utilities would have to be paid for as well. She is waiting to receive a 501c3 status after she was finally able to find free help with Cornell law in filing the paperwork. Once she received the 501c3, she can apply for grants and take donations.

Moore said with Springs arrival, dogs are coming up everywhere. There was much discussion about how to reach a solution. Moore said that when her home "shelter" is approved, she can only take 2 dogs, a total of 5 days, then they have to be relocated, but no one will take our dogs.

Reynolds will bring the dog shelter problem up at the County meeting. Nottke will see if Tompkins County SPCA would contract with us.

Reynolds said that the County approved a resolution against TeraWulf occupying the old Miliken Station. He said they were told half-truths according to Assessor Fiorille. He said water use will be less than before and it will only draw electricity that NYSEG says they can handle. Wyckoff said that just after he left 21 years working there, they changed a new intake system with 2 mm wire screen for filtering the water, the DEC monitored the rate and they could not go over 5° discharged into the lake.

TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
April 13, 2026

He said the Town lost 1 million in school tax when it shut down. Guthrie said that Lansing residents are pretty upset about it. Guthrie motioned to table the resolution until next month.

Reynolds said that Paula Maguire has applied for a Variance from the Land Management Ordinance for a new garage too close to the property line on S Frontenac Rd Ext. Ward said that she owns the “whole” parcel. Guthrie said that he visited the property and what has been done looks nice.

Attorney: Morrell said that the Village has requested to be the lead agency in the SEQR determination for the annexation of West Ave/96A property into the Village of Interlaken, owned by Michael Johnson. He said the Town could either do nothing and after 30 days, the Village will be the designated lead agency, or the Town could accept their proposal, or the Town could contest their proposal. Morrell said that the Town and the Village could do their own review. Morrell recommended that the Town let the Village do the SEQR.

Discussions and concerns ensued. Wyckoff had questions regarding the potential project as there have been no plans presented. He said, once it is out of our control, we have no say.

Morrell said that if you have questions about it, he suggests the Board put it in the SEQR form order: Impacts to the environment, water, air quality, land use, traffic, community impact, etc.

There was discussion about the plans for townhouses where the trailer park in the Village is. There are no plans for that yet either.

Morrell said the Town Board has 90 days from March 9th's Public Hearing to make a decision on annexation.

Reynolds asked Morrell of the progress on getting a bond from the Bank of Greene. Morrell will check this week.

Petitioners: Guthrie mentioned that Bates Road/Congress St Ext residents were uniformly complimentary of how the Town/MacCheyne's kept the roads.

Don Kenyon asked the question, “Where are you coming from? And where do you want to go?” based on their campaign ad “wish list”, to the new members of the Town Board, Ben Guthrie and Barb Soyka. Soyka said they had met with Kenyon for 2 ½ hours and touched on a lot of issues. She said that Kenyon had a lot of experience. Soyka said she did not come on the Board with an agenda, just wants to listen to the constituents and make our community a great place to live. She thanked all for her allowing to be there to serve. Guthrie said he didn't have a particular agenda and that he wanted to contribute and be more a part of local decisions. He said he had some more experience from working on the IDA, and his goal and role was to make Jeff and Mike's jobs easier. Guthrie said he would like to hear more from Wyckoff on the development.

Ward mentioned that they sold a little over 150 Chicken/biscuit dinners at the Sportsman's Club to benefit the Lakeview Cemetery (54 deliveries). He said Masonic volunteers were a lot of help.

Resolutions:

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to accept Amy Quan as a new member to the Interlaken Public Library Board of Trustees; Aye – Nottke, Aye – Wyckoff, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Guthrie moved, seconded by Nottke, to refer the Variance Request for Paula Maguire, 9690 S Frontenac Rd Ext, Trumansburg, to the Planning Board on April 30th at 7 PM. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Wyckoff, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka, to schedule a Public Hearing for Paula Maguire, 9690 S Frontenac Rd Ext, Trumansburg, Tax Map #21-2-04, to construct a new garage where set back from side

**TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
April 13, 2026**

boundary is deficient as required under the Town of Covert Land Management Ordinance, for May 11th, 2026 at 7 PM. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Wyckoff, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

**Local Law No. 1 of the year 2026
Town of Covert, County of Seneca**

A Local Law Granting Partial Property Tax Exemption To Certain Seniors And Persons With Disabilities; Setting Income Limits For The Same; And Repealing Local Law No. 2 Of 2021

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

SECTION 1. The intent of this local law is to provide a real property tax exemption to certain senior citizens in accordance with Section 467 of Real Property Tax Law, and certain disabled persons, in accordance with Section 459-c of Real Property Tax Law, and to increase the income limits to allow the exemptions to be distributed in a more fair and equitable manner.

SECTION 1.a: Effective January 1, 2027, the Town of Covert shall grant a real property tax exemption to certain individuals sixty-five (65) years of age and over, in accordance with Section 467(1)(b) of the Real Property Tax Law.

SECTION 1.b: Effective January 1, 2027, the Town of Covert shall grant a real property tax exemption to certain persons with disabilities and limited incomes, in accordance with Section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law.

SECTION 2: Effective January 1, 2027, the maximum income eligibility level for the 467 and 459-c exemptions shall be as follows:

ANNUAL INCOME	PERCENTAGE EXEMPT FROM TAXATION
UP TO 28,500	50%
EQ/More \$28,500.01 but less than \$29,500	45%
\$29,500 or more but less than \$30,500	40%
\$30,500 or more but less than \$31,500	35%
\$31,500 or more but less than \$32,400	30%
\$32,400 or more but less than \$33,300	25%
\$33,300 or more but less than \$34,200	20%
\$34,200 or more but less than \$35,100	15%
\$35,100 or more but less than \$36,000	10%
\$36,000 or more but less than \$36,900	5%

SECTION 3. All other provisions of Section 467 and 459-c of Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York

shall be in effect for the purpose of Town real property taxation in the Town of Covert.

TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
April 13, 2026

SECTION 4. This exemption shall be extended to a legal residence owned as a cooperative apartment as provided in such

Section 459-C.

SECTION 5. This local law is specifically intended to be in effect for the March 1, 2027, taxable status date for

applications received for preparation of the 2028 assessment rolls.

SECTION 6. This local law shall take effect immediately upon its filing in the Office of the Secretary of State.

SECTION 7. In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between this Local Law and any previous Local Law or Resolution,

the terms of this local law shall govern.

Effective Date. This Local Law shall take effect immediately.

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to approve Local Law #1-2026 Senior/Disabilities Exemption. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Wyckoff, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to table a resolution for designating SEQR lead agency for West Ave Annexation. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Wyckoff, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Guthrie moved, seconded by Nottke, to approve adjustment to Capital Plan and purchase of the state contract proposal for \$76,011.00 from Milton Cat for a new Caterpillar Model: 255 Compact Track Loader. Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Nottke, Aye-Soyka and Aye-Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka, to approve the Town Supervisor's Income and Expense report for the month of March 2026. Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Nottke, Aye-Soyka and Aye-Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to approve the Highway Superintendent's report for the month of March 2026. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Wyckoff, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to approve the Town Clerk/Tax Collector report for the month of March 2026. Town Clerk received total of \$1337.00 and \$198.11 was remitted to the Supervisor for the month of March 2026. Tax Collector collections were \$3,061,829.41 through April 1, 2026. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Wyckoff, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, that Highway Fund Vouchers #50 - 64 in the amount of \$109,787.57 and General Fund Vouchers # 70 - 93 in the amount \$22,623.26 be approved for payment. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Wyckoff, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Adams-Compton, Town Clerk

TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
April 13, 2026

Proposal



PREPARED FOR:

Town of Covert Highway Dept
3703 Clinton St
Interlaken, New York 14847
607-275-7615
jmacworkingman@yahoo.com
CATERPILLAR 255

Apr 13, 2026

Town of Covert Highway Dept
3703 Clinton St
Interlaken, New York 14847

Dear Jeff Maccheyne,

We are pleased to offer you the following proposal for your consideration under NYSOGS PC70886

CATERPILLAR 255 with all standard equipment in addition to the specifications listed below:

STOCK NUMBER:
SERIAL NUMBER:
YEAR:
SMU:

Thank you for your interest in Milton CAT and Caterpillar products. Please know that we sincerely appreciate your consideration and look forward to answering any questions you may have moving forward. Feel free to contact me directly at any time.

Sincerely,
Mike Fox
Machine Sales Representative
Milton CAT
Mike_Fox@miltoncat.com

This quotation is valid for 30 days, after which time we reserve the right to re-quote.

Pricing Information

EQUIPMENT SUMMARY	SELLING PRICE	TOTAL
New Caterpillar Model: 255 COMPACT TRACK LOADERS	\$76,011.00	\$76,011.00
255-60 MO/1000 HR POWERTRAIN + HYDRAULICS + TECH	Included	
CTL Convenience - 1500HR	Included	
Equipment Total		\$76,011.00

Quote Summary	
SELL PRICE	\$76,011.00
EXT WARRANTY	Included
CVA	Included
NET BALANCE DUE	\$76,011.00
AFTER TAX BALANCE	\$76,011.00

Accepted By:

DATE: Apr 13, 2026 | QUOTE NUMBER: 10914-01
OFFER EXPIRES: TODAY + 30 DAYS (Apr 13, 2026)

