

**TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEARING,
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING &
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
7:00 PM, January 12th, 2026**

The Public Hearing, organizational and regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, January 12, 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 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 Wyckoff, to approve the minutes from December 8th and December 29th, 2025 Year-end Meeting. Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Soyka and Aye-Guthrie, Abstain - Nottke.

ORGANIZATONAL

Nottke moved, seconded by Foster,

- 1) that for the year 2026 the Town Board sets 72 cents per mile reimbursement as mileage allowance for personal vehicles used by Town Officers while performing official duties other than attendance at Town Board Meetings or Town Court Proceedings..
- 2) to authorize that Community Bank, N.A., Ovid Branch, be designated the official bank of the Town of Covert and the Supervisor be authorized to invest town monies consistent with the requirements of New York State and with appropriate consideration given to elements of safety, liquidity and yield.
- 3) to authorize that Five Star Bank, Ovid Branch, be designated the official bank of Town Justice Schmidt.
- 4) To authorize Highway Superintendent MacCheyne to spend up to \$1000.00 per purchase to acquire equipment, tools, and implements and \$1,500.00 for repairs during 2026 without prior approval of the Town Board.
- 5) to designate the Interlaken Review as the official newspaper of the Town of Covert for the year 2026.
- 6) to appoint April Moore as Dog Control Officer at the budgeted Salary and 72 cents per mile to a shelter for the year 2026.
- 7) to appoint Roger Ward as Code Enforcement Officer at the budgeted Salary and 72 cents per mile for the year 2026.
- 8) to appoint Sandra Hagin as Town Assessor, at the wage of \$90.18 per hour for the year 2026.
- 9) to appoint Alfred Fiorille as Assistant to the Town Assessor, at the wage of 85.00 per hour for the year 2026.
- 10) to appoint John Hunt as cleaner to the Town of Covert Municipal Building, at the wage of \$19.68 per hour for the year 2026.

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- 11) to allow Supervisor Reynolds to file his 2025 annual report with the Town Clerk by the same date and in the same matter as Annual Report is required to be filed with the State Comptroller. Such authorization is allowed by Town Law Section 29 (10a).
- 12) that the salaries of all elected and appointed officers shall be the amount indicated by the currently effective resolution or the amount budgeted in the 2026 budget. The Highway Superintendent shall set wages of hourly highway employees with concurrence by the Town Board, within the limits of the Highway Budget. Payment of salaries and wages shall be at times and dates that are legally permissible and mutually acceptable to the Supervisor and the recipients.
- 13) That the Personnel Policy and Procedures Handbook be approved with no changes or additions.

Vote: Aye-Nottke, Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Soyka, Aye-Guthrie.

APPOINTMENTS BY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Highway Superintendent MacCheyne appoints Roger Ike as Deputy Highway Superintendent for 2026.

Town Clerk appoints Brian Quan as Deputy Town Clerk, Registrar of Vital Statistics, and Tax Collector. Wage shall be \$23.58 per hour.

Town Justice Eileen Schmidt appoints Lucille Smith as Clerk to the Town Justice. Wage shall be \$23.58 per hour.

Supervisor Reynolds makes the following appointments for 2026:

Bookkeeper and Secretary to the Supervisor – Nancy Swartwood

Budget Officer -- Michael Reynolds

Deputy Supervisor -- Deborah Nottke

Town Assessment Committee – Michael Reynolds and Todd Wyckoff

Historian for the Town – Chelsea Hastings

Highway Committee – Todd Wyckoff, Chairman and Barb Soyka

Courts, Ordinances & Law Enforcement –Barb Soyka, Chairwoman and Ben Guthrie

Utilities & Insurance – Ben Guthrie, Chairman and Deborah Nottke

Personnel – Deborah Nottke, Chairwoman and Barb Soyka

Buildings and Grounds—Ben Guthrie, Chairman and Todd Wyckoff

Fire and Ambulance –Deborah Nottke, Chairwoman, Todd Wyckoff and Michael G. Reynolds

Planning and Land Management Ordinance- Ben Guthrie, Chairman and Todd Wyckoff

Any appointments which may have been overlooked shall continue to be filled by the incumbent subject to review by the appropriate appointing authority.

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Public Hearing: Nottke moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to open the Public Hearing at 7:01 PM for a Variance Request under the Town of Covert's Land Management Ordinance (LMO) for Andrea Pisacano, 3075 Kellys Corners Rd, Interlaken, Tax Map #07-1-25.22, to install a new residential shed where set back from side boundary is deficient as required under the Town of Covert LMO. Reynolds said that the neighbors and the Planning Board are okay with it. The shed is on skids. Code Enforcement Officer Ward said that the County is requiring the permit. Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to close the public hearing at 7:03 PM.

RETURN TO THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Highway: MacCheyne reported on the activities for the month of December. They plowed and sanded all Town and Village roads, and cold-patched Town roads. They hauled 1B stone for winter mix and moved the salt mix into the new salt barn. The 2022 F-550 was serviced for issues with the dump; parts for it have taken 2 months to receive, but now with some nice weather they can have it fixed. They have two other working trucks. The 2022 Western Star had electrical issues, fixed lights on the 2010 International and did regular maintenance on all equipment. Faded stop signs were replaced and fire lane signs were straightened. New signs cost \$85 - \$200. The shop was cleaned as well.

Committees:

Nottke said Three Falls Development Corp is still working with Fisher on the opening of the Barton park. A new name should be announced next month. Nottke welcomed all to attend their monthly meeting on the first Thursday at 9 AM in the Trumansburg Village building, behind Town Hall. She reminded the Town that the Town is still short \$30,000 in membership fees.

Nottke also mentioned that Trumansburg wants a Covert water district down N. Frontenac Road for ≈22 properties receiving Trumansburg Village water. There's a petition signed by 23 people. Morrell mentioned that all that's needed is more than ½ of the owners of the assessed properties involved, but he said the Town Board can take action without petitions. The procedure would involve public hearings. Residents outside the Village have higher rates. Nottke will get more information on why the Village doesn't want to handle the billing. She said that the park needs new infrastructure for water too.

Nottke said she had reviewed the dog shelter contract with April Moore, and questioned some of the expense and capabilities of the shelter. Morrell confirmed that Romulus has the same contract.

Morrell said he had been working with the Bank of Greene for the financing of the salt barn. Reynolds said that the town should get the money within the week.

Morrell led the town through the State Environmental Quality Review process for the Variance Request for Andrea Pisacano and Harold Perry.

Reynolds reminded all that the Town Board will audit the Town Books on January 19 beginning at 9 AM.

Petitioners: Dick Westbrook questioned NYSEG's bills. Guthrie said there is an 800 number you can call for an explanation.

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Resolutions:

Guthrie 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 that Variance Request for Andrea Pisacano, 3075 Kellys Corners Rd, Interlaken, Tax Map #07-1-25.22, to install a new residential shed, and Pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(11) it is hereby determined that the action proposed in this application constitutes a Type II action as defined under said regulations for granting of an area variance for a single-family residence. Aye - Guthrie, Aye - Nottke, Aye - Soyka and Aye - Wyckoff.

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, that the benefit to the applicant outweighs the detriment to the community with no significant adverse effects and hereby grant the Variance Request for Andrea Pisacano, 3075 Kellys Corners Rd, Interlaken, Tax Map #07-1-25.22, to install a new residential shed where set back from side boundary is deficient as required under the Town of Covert LMO. Aye - Guthrie, Aye - Nottke, Aye - Soyka and Aye - Wyckoff.

Nottke moved, seconded by Wyckoff, that Deborah Nottke and Katherine Sender be designated as Authorized Representative for Three Falls Local Development Corporation. The "Authorized Representatives" are hereby authorized and empowered to vote in the name of and on behalf of the Town of Covert as a Voting Member of the Park Corporation. Aye-Nottke, Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Soyka and Aye-Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Wyckoff, to approve the Town Supervisor's Income and Expense report for the month of December 2025. 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 December 2025. Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Nottke, Aye-Bishop and Aye-Foster.

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to approve the Town Clerk/Tax Collector report for the month of December 2025 Town Clerk received total of \$579.00 and \$242.50 was remitted to the Supervisor for the month of December 2025. Tax Collector had remitted \$500,000 to the Supervisor to date. Aye-Nottke, Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Soyka and Aye-Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Wyckoff, that Highway Fund Vouchers #1-13 in the amount of \$37,297.26 and General Fund Vouchers # 1-28 in the amount \$156,707.48 be approved for payment. Aye-Nottke, Aye-Wyckoff, Aye-Soyka and Aye Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Adams-Compton, Town Clerk