TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
November 9, 2026

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, November 9th, 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
	Deputy Supervisor Deborah Nottke	Present
	Councilwoman Barbara Soyka	Present
	Councilman Ben Guthrie	Present

Others Present: Town Clerk Leslie Adams-Compton, 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 Soyka, to approve the minutes from October 12th Regular Town Board Meeting, October 19th and October 26th Budget, Public Hearings. Aye-Soyka, Aye-Guthrie, and Aye - Nottke.

Public Hearing: Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to open the Public Hearing at 7:01 PM to hear comments on Local Law 3-2026: Flood Damage Prevention. Morrell explained that FEMA changed its flood maps. The local law is consistent with the Flood Plain maps, allowing flood insurance, and designating the County as administrator. Reynolds said that the standards were lowered and there is now nothing within the Town of Covert in a flood zone. Morrell prepared SEQR forms for the law, designated as a Type 1 action. Interested/other involved agencies: FEMA, DEC, Seneca County Planning Dept, Covert Planning Board, etc., will have to be notified of the Town's desire to be the designated lead agency 30 days prior to passing the law.

Highway: MacCheyne submitted a report on the activities for the month of October in his absence. They worked with the Town of Ovid on their paving project on S Town Bldg Rd and Rock River Rd, worked with Seneca County with paving CR 132, and worked with the Village of Interlaken to mill Leroy St and the uppere part of Clinton St before paving. They paved Halls Corners Rd and built up driveways, replaced some faded road signs and straightened sign posts, mowed roadsides and backslopes and did cold patching on all town roads. Trees were cut by VanHorn's Tree Service on Congress St and Lowe Covert Rd. They cleaned floor drains in the Highway barns and regular maintenance on all equipment. One worker was on vacation for the last week of October.

A replacement MEO has not been found yet.

Town Clerk: Adams-Compton said the Town Clerk's office has continued to be busy with hunting licenses and 6-7 FOIL requests in the last couple months.

Committees: Nottke said that Three Falls LDC is in the process of hiring an events planner/operator. They are waiting for results from the Fisher plan, specifically, a traffic study and potable water study.

Soyka said she attended a round table with the DEC's Finger Lakes Action Agenda (FLAA). The FLAA was initiated and designed to meet the current and emerging challenges of the watershed, integrating existing state and federal plans, scientific findings, and recommending actions to achieve the collective goals for the Finger Lakes watershed. They work to secure funding for things like the hydrilla problem and providing snow plow wings for Highway departments. She encouraged public comment on the 2026-2033 Finger Lakes Action Agenda. Submit Comments: Email FLWP@dec.ny.gov with "FLAA Comment" in the subject line, or mail written comments to Gabriel Yerdon, DEC Division of Water, 5786 Widewaters Parkway, Syracuse, NY 13214. All comments must be received by November 23, 2026.

Guthrie said that Rick Glabach, a local realtor, lives on the lake, is interested in serving on the Board of Assessment Review.

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Guthrie said he met with Peter Cook, who climbed underneath the old Town Hall. Floor joists are solid, but were weighted down/damaged by the truck accident. Cook estimated ≈$12K to jack up the floor joists, over a couple weeks time.

Guthrie mentioned that the old Covert Church is for sale; it is on the historic registry, shares a well with the grange, but has its own septic.

Town Supervisor: Reynolds said that one Highway dept worker would like the Town to adopt an acquired sick time policy. Soyka had suggested that after 5 years continuous full time service, 50% of accumulated unused sick leave, with payout for no more than 30 days. They will get MacCheyne's opinion before adopting the change.

Reynolds said that April Moore/Charlie's Dog Haven needs a letter of support from the Town for the capital grant she is applying for.

Guthrie said that the volunteers for the non-profit spay/neuter program done at the Beverly Animal Shelter were not happy with the situation there. He would like to support April and send the letter.

Reynolds said that Randi Beckmann has requested a variance for a shed they would like to convert to a second dwelling on Frontenac Rd.

Attorney: Morrell said in the matter of Michael Johnson vs The Town of Covert, a court date is scheduled for the Spring.

Petitioners: Nathan Miller/South Seneca Ambulance, said that they could save the Town $50K. He said that next year they will have multi-county services (Seneca + Schuyler), they are working with the United Way to put a garage in Ovid. They have a fully-staffed, 24/7 truck and will be adding a 12 hr truck. They own 5 ambulances. And they have been 6 years "in the black". Miller will speak more at the December meeting.

Resolutions:
Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to schedule a Public Hearing for Trumansburg and Interlaken Fire Contracts for Monday, December 14th at 7 PM. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Guthrie, Aye – Soyka.

Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka, to refer the Variance Request for Randi Beckmann, 5043 Frontenac Road, to the Planning Board on November 19th at 7 PM. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Guthrie, Aye – Soyka.

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to schedule a Public Hearing for the Variance Request for Randi Beckmann, 5043 Frontenac Road, on December 14th at 7 PM. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Guthrie, Aye – Soyka.

Resolution #4 - 2026
SEQR LEAD AGENCY RESOLUTION
Flood Damage Prevention Local Law

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of Covert believes that it would be advantageous to the Town to amend the Town Code as it relates to the prevention of flood damage; and

WHEREAS the adoption of such a local law would be a Type I action as defined in the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) and regulations in 6 NYCRR 617.4; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent to the Town of Covert to act as Lead Agency for the purpose of conducting such environmental review; and

WHEREAS, Part 1 of a Full Environmental Assessment Form has been reviewed by the Covert Town Board and will be circulated to involved agencies for the purpose of establishing the Town Board as Lead Agency and conducting a coordinated review.

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Supervisor is authorized to sign Part 1 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form on behalf of the Town of Covert; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk will send 30-day notice of the Town's intent to act as Lead Agency to all interested and involved agencies.

Motion: Nottke, Second: Guthrie. Vote: Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, Aye – Guthrie, Aye – Reynolds

Resolution #5 - 2026
Adopting the 2027 Preliminary Budget as Final

Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka,

THAT the 2027 Preliminary Budget be adopted as the final budget for 2027 and,

WHEREAS, this Town Board met October 26, 2026 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, 2027 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.

* Change to 2027 Preliminary Budget:

Decrease line item: A7140.4 Culture and Recreation.....$64,000.00 (to 30K)

Decrease line item: DA9730.8 Debt Svc: BAN Principal.....$220,000.00 (to $0)

Decrease line item: DA9730.9 Debt Svc: BAN Interest.....$6,600.00 to $0)

Aye - Nottke, Aye - Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to approve the Supervisor's Income & Expense report for the month of October 2026. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

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

Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka, to approve the Town Clerk report for the month of October 2026. Town Clerk received total of $2,098.50 and $545.19 was remitted to the Supervisor for the month of October 2026. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to approve the Dog Control Officer Report for October 2026. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, that Highway Fund Vouchers #131 – 139 in the amount of $42,412.23 and General Fund Vouchers #216 - 232 in the amount $105,228.90 be approved for payment. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Nottke made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Adams-Compton, Town Clerk

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