TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
October 12, 2026

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, October 12th, 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, Highway Superintendent Jeff MacCheyne, Code Enforcement Officer Roger Ward, Trumansburg EMS Administrator Joel Fey, 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 September 14th Regular Town Board Meeting. Aye-Soyka, Aye-Guthrie, and Aye - Nottke.

Presenter: Joel Fey, Trumansburg EMS, spoke about changing practices based on an understanding of EMS as a whole, changing their model, increasing the revenue stream. He said that EMS is classified as Transportation with the Federal Government. He said that they can never break even or cover costs; they would need to be a Public Service that has subsidies. He said that although their ability to collect insurance has not improved, there's been an increase in the use of medications and procedures. Fey said that they are looking to increase revenue, but would like state and federal subsidies, which are currently less that 1% of the state budget. There is a bill to make EMS an essential service, but he thinks it won't change the law or improve services. It is required for the ambulance service to file a certificate of need proving we have need, with NYS DOH. He said that the Town has control in decisions as part-owners.

He said that they are at the tipping point for call volume and will need a new ambulance soon; they currently have one running and one back-up.

Fey mentioned that the new station will be just for EMS.

Fey said that there is $15,000 overdue (90 days) to Covert in the past 9 months. It was noted that 10% of their budget is collections.

To increase revenue, he would like the option to send debtors to collection agencies. Another possibility is to increase the amount billed to insurance. He said the options for collections would be that #1 everyone is sent to collections, #2 everyone owing over a certain amount are sent to collections, or #3 only people living outside of the Town are sent to collections. Collection agencies would make 40%, paying the Town 60% for the debt. He said that the Charity Care policy should be made public as an option for those who need it.

Lastly, he would like to see amendments made to the 'Treat and Release' ALS (home visits), proposing that it be raised to the same as the transport charge of $1250, BLS T&R: $850(stays the same), MBA(traffic) surcharge: $1150.

Highway: MacCheyne reported on the activities for the month of September. They did cold patching on all town roads including patching recently replaced culvert pipes, cut trees and brush back on the corner of Burdick Road and County Road 143, helped Seneca County Highway with their paving project on CR 138, started mowing roadsides and back slopes, helped the Town of Lodi spread crusher run on Fox Road, worked on eves troughs and downspouts at Town Hall, hauled more crusher run for shoulder and driveway work, replaced some faded signs around the town, and did regular maintenance on all equipment.

MacCheyne said that they worked on finding Lakeview St property markers on the town's lower lot so that it can be cleaned up. MacCheyne said the residents were given an ultimatum to move in 30 days time. Mike Karlson did not want to deal with creating a new survey since the old markers were found on the Town property. MacCheyne said that they can move the shed that is slightly over the line, but everything behind it has to go. A fence for the Town property was suggested.

MacCheyne said that Romulus' roller was valued at $28,000 to 35,000. They are asking the Town for $28,000. He said it is a good machine, clean, and can be stored for winter in the old salt storage area.

Town Clerk: Adams-Compton said the Town is due for a dog enumeration. She would like to just send a mailing to residents who have no licensed dogs on file.

Committees: Nottke said that Three Falls LDC has a draft of their 2027 budget. It will include money for hiring an events planner/manager.

Nottke said that Ulysses was given property for a park and the LDC will also be collecting donations for that park, so donations to Covert's Three Falls State Park should be marked as such.

Nottke said the Town is still in arrears with Three Falls LDC. She and Catherine still do not have a vote but she believes that they would be supported by other voting members if membership fee payments were up to date.

Guthrie reported on the old Town Hall, that windows were painted and would be up soon. He would like to rent a lift to clean the gutters. He said that Peter Cooke could jack up the floors.

Guthrie said that the TeraWulf data center resolution needed just a couple edits.

Town Supervisor: Reynolds acquired sick time policy for the County. It was noted that one policy is for union workers and another for management. Guthrie and Nottke will be the committee to revise policy for the town.

Reynolds said that Wil Millard has moved, therefore has resigned from the Board of Assessment Review. A new member will be needed.

Petitioners: Barry Ford asked it there was an "endgame" to the old town hall repairs. Guthrie said the $25K insurance money should be used to restore/stabilize the Old Town Hall to the way it was.

Rick Glabach asked if the Resolution regarding TeraWulf could be shared.

Resolutions:

Resolution #3 - 2026
REGARDING TERAWULF'S PROPOSED CAYUGA DATA CAMPUS
IN THE TOWN OF LANSING

WHEREAS, The Town of Covert recognizes the Town of Lansing's authority over land-use decisions within its jurisdiction; and,

WHEREAS, At the same time, we respectfully ask our neighboring municipality to acknowledge that the consequences of the decisions regarding the TeraWulf Data Center will be regional; and,

WHEREAS, Cayuga Lake is a shared natural resource of extraordinary environmental, recreational, economic, cultural, and scenic importance to communities throughout the Finger Lakes; and,

WHEREAS, Decisions that could significantly affect the lake and its surrounding environment deserve consideration from the perspective of the entire Finger Lakes community; and,

WHEREAS, The Town Board of the Town of Covert and other potentially affected communities have a legitimate interest in decisions concerning a development of this magnitude; and,

WHEREAS, The Town Board of the Town of Covert is increasingly aware of the potential effects of a large-scale data center on Cayuga Lake and its watershed; regional electricity demand and costs; noise and light pollution; water use and discharge; air quality; stormwater runoff; wildlife and habitat; the scenic character and viewshed of Cayuga Lake; tourism and recreation; emergency services and infrastructure; and the quality of life of residents throughout the region; and,

WHEREAS, Given the scale of the proposed development and the potential for serious detrimental consequences and significant impacts extending well beyond the project property;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Covert opposes approval of TeraWulf's proposed Cayuga Data Campus and urges the Town of Lansing and all reviewing agencies to protect Cayuga Lake and the long-term interests of the communities that surround it; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Cayuga Lake connects our communities and its protection is a responsibility we all share.

Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Covert, New York, this 12th day of October, 2026.
Motion: Nottke, Second: Guthrie. Vote: Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, Aye – Guthrie, Aye – Reynolds

Office of the New York State Comptroller
NYSLRS
New York State and Local Retirement System
110 State Street, Albany, New York 12244-0001
Please type or print clearly in blue or black ink

Received Date

Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials

Employer Location Code: 3 0 3 7 3

SEE INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORM ON REVERSE SIDE

RS 2417-A (Rev.12/23)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Covert (Name of Employer) / 30373 (Location Code) hereby established the following standard work days for these titles and will report the officials to the New York State and Local Retirement based on their record of activities:

Name	Social Security Number	NYSLRS ID	Title	Current Term Begin & End Dates	Standard Work Day	Record of Activities Result	Not Submitted	Pay Frequency	Tier 1
Elected Officials:									
Michael Reynolds			Town Supervisor	1/1/2026-12/31/2026	6	12.06	☐	monthly	☐
							☐		☐
							☐		☐
Appointed Officials:									
Patrick J Morrell			Town Attorney	1/1/2026-12/31/2026	6	3.67	☐	monthly	☐
Nancy Swartwood			Bookkeeper to Sup	1/1/2026-12/31/2026	6	1.86	☐	bi-weekly	☐
							☐		☐

I, Leslie Adams-Compton (Name of Secretary or Clerk), secretary/clerk of the governing board of the Town of Covert (Circle one) (Name of Employer), of the State of New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution passed by such board at a legally convened meeting held on the 12th day of October, 20 26 on file as part of the minutes of such meeting, and that same is a true copy thereof and the whole of such original.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Town of Covert (Name of Employer) on this 12th day of October, 20 26.

(Signature of Secretary or Clerk)

Affidavit of Posting: I, Leslie Adams-Compton (Name of Secretary or Clerk) being duly sworn, deposes and says that the posting of the Resolution began on 10/13/2026 (Date) and continued for at least 30 days. That the Resolution was available to the public on the:

- ☑ Employer's website at: townofcovertny.gov
- ☐ Official sign board at: _____
- ☑ Main entrance Secretary or Clerk's office at: 8469 S Main St, Interlaken, NY

(seal)

Page 1 of 1 (for additional rows, attach a RS 2417-B form.)

Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka, to approve Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution, above. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka, to schedule Budget Workshops for October 20st and October 27th at 10 AM. Aye - Nottke, Aye - Soyka and Aye - Guthrie.

TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
October 12, 2026

Guthrie moved, seconded by Nottke, 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 2027 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise specified in General Municipal Law 3-c for October 27th, 2026 at 10:00 AM. Aye – Guthrie, Aye - Nottke and Aye - Soyka.

Guthrie moved, seconded by Nottke, to schedule a Public Hearing for the Town of Covert 2027 Budget on October 27th, 2026 at 10:00 AM. Aye – Guthrie, Aye - Nottke and Aye - Soyka.

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to schedule a Public Hearing for the adoption of a local law for Flood Damage Prevention on November 9th, 2026 at 7 PM. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka, to advertise in the Seneca Area Shopper for persons interested in serving as Town Council member to fill vacancy. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka, to allow Town Clerk to send out dog licensing flyers reminding the public of NYS Ag and Markets dog law, not to exceed $500.00. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

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

Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka, to approve the Town Clerk report for the month of September 2026. Town Clerk received total of $4,754.00 and $594.17 was remitted to the Supervisor for the month of September 2026. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to approve the Code Enforcement Officer Report for September 2026. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

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

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, that Highway Fund Vouchers #121 – 131 in the amount of $150,938.94 and General Fund Vouchers # 198 - 215 in the amount $9,950.53 be approved for payment. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Nottke made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Adams-Compton, Town Clerk

TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
BUDGET WORKSHOP
October 20TH, 2026

The budget workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Tuesday, October 20th, 2026 at 10:00 AM at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

Roll Call:	Supervisor Michael Reynolds	Present
	Councilor Deborah Nottke	Present
	Councilor Barbara Soyka	Present
	Councilor Ben Guthrie	Present

Others Present: Town Clerk Leslie Adams-Compton.

Call to order: Supervisor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

There was discussion on the 2027 Town Budget.

Resolutions:

Resolutions for adjustments made to the 2027 Tentative Budget

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie,
To make the following change to Preliminary Budget:

Increase line item: A7140.4 Culture and Recreation.....$40,000.00
Increase line item: A9060.8 Medical Insurance.....$266.97
Increase line total: DA Employee Benefits.....$15,333.87
Increase line total: DB Employee Benefits.....$15,333.87

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

Nottke moved, seconded by Reynolds, to adjourn the meeting at 12:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Adams-Compton, Town Clerk

TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
BUDGET WORKSHOP
PUBLIC HEARINGS
October 27TH, 2026

The budget workshop meeting and Public Hearings of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, October 27th, 2026 at 10:00 AM at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

Roll Call:	Supervisor Michael Reynolds	Present
	Councilor Deborah Nottke	Present
	Councilor Barbara Soyka	Present
	Councilor Ben Guthrie	Present

Others Present: Town Clerk Leslie Adams-Compton.

Call to order: Supervisor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 10:14 AM.

There was discussion on the need for IT security, and the need for the Town to pay its membership fees due to Three Falls LDC.

Public Hearing: Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka, to open the Public Hearing at 10:49 AM to hear comments on a Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-C. Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka, to close the Public Hearing at 10:50 AM.

Questions were raised about where the $70,000 balance of the expected County Sales Tax revenue was included in the budget.

Public Hearing: Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to open the Public Hearing at 11:50 AM to hear comments on the 2027 Town of Covert Preliminary Budget.

Guthrie said that, in light of the fact that we have this (NY State Park) huge asset in the Town of Covert, we need to fund our commitment to the park.

Nottke stated that the money is to be refunded when the Park is running.

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, to close the Public Hearing at 11:52 AM.

Resolution to approve letter of commitment for Charlie's Dog Haven to apply for capital grant tabled for November 9th meeting.

Resolutions:

Resolution #4-2026
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, 2026 at 10:00 AM; 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. 2 of the year 2026
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 2027 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 2027 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 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: Soyka, Second: Nottke. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, Aye – Guthrie, Aye –Reynolds.

TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
BUDGET WORKSHOP
PUBLIC HEARINGS
October 27TH, 2026

Resolutions for adjustments made to the 2027 Preliminary Budget

Guthrie moved, seconded by Nottke,
To make the following change to Preliminary Budget:
Increase line item: A1650.4 Central Commun/IT Security.....$3,000.00
Aye - Nottke, Aye - Guthrie, Aye – Soyka and Aye - Reynolds.

Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka,
To make the following change to Preliminary Budget:
Increase line item: A7140.4 Culture and Recreation.....$54,000.00
Aye - Guthrie, Aye - Soyka, Aye – Nottke and Aye - Reynolds.

Nottke moved, seconded by Reynolds, to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Adams-Compton, Town Clerk