

**TOWN OF COVERT, SENECA COUNTY
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

September 14, 2026

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, September 14th, 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
	Councilwoman Barbara Soyka	Present
	Councilman Ben Guthrie	Present

Others Present: Town Clerk Leslie Adams-Compton, Highway Superintendent Jeff MacCheyne, Town Attorney Patrick Morrell, Dog Control Officer April Moore, Deputy Town 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 August 10th Regular Town Board Meeting. Aye-Soyka, Aye-Guthrie, and Aye - Nottke.

Presenter: Dog Control Officer April Moore told the Board that Sandra Boyce plans to donate 2 acres of flat land on Kingtown Road to Charlie's Dog Haven. The 2 acres would be surveyed off of an existing ≈ 35 acre parcel. She asked for the procedure to file the apportionment. Morrell said the property will have to be surveyed off by a surveyor and the deed drawn by an attorney, then filed with the County Clerk. It will then proceed to the 911 office for a number assignment. Moore said the cost estimate for a new survey is ≈\$900 and would like to ask the four towns to contribute ≈\$250 each for the process. She would like to have the property in time for application for the Capital Grant due in December. She is thinking a pole barn with all the specifications required by law. She said she has an architect who is familiar with all the regulations for a shelter.

When asked about Beverly Animal Shelter's status, Moore said they did not open as promised and they did not pass the Ag and Market inspection in July. The Town will probably have to continue using Schuyler Humane Society in 2027.

Bid Opening for Lawn Mowing:

Two bids were received for the Town of Covert Lawn Mowing job for the years: 2027, 2028 + 2029

- LOCATIONS: (#1) the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 S. Main St., Interlaken, (#2) the Old Covert Town Hall, 9273 Rte 96, and (#3) the Old Covert Cemetery, 9219 Schier Rd (CR 144A).
- BETWEEN MAY 1ST AND OCTOBER 31ST UNLESS DIRECTED OTHERWISE BY THE TOWN SUPERVISOR.
OVERALL DURATION = 26 WEEKS
- MOW LOCATION #1, WEEKLY, AND MOW LOCATIONS #2 and #3, EVERY OTHER WEEK.

Annual:

Wolverton Services, Romulus	\$3,542.50
John Yonkers/JB Lawncare	\$3,120.00

Morrell noted that the bid for Yonkers did not include the "current original insurance company issued certificate of insurance" as required.

Highway: MacCheyne reported on the activities for the month of August. They cut tree limbs along roadsides, cutting weeds around guide rails, cut shoulders on S Frontenac Rd, did ditching and shoulders on Congress St, added material and scraped Hatch Rd, and replaced faded stop signs and straightened road signposts, as well as cold patching on all town roads. They located footer drains and cleaned pipes at Town Hall and worked on eradicating the bees there in order to fix downspouts at the southeast corner of

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the building. They did a burial at Lakeview Cemetery. They worked with Lodi and Ovid on their chip sealing projects. MacCheyne reported a couple of breakdowns with the roadside mower; belt tensioner pulley on roadside mower was replaced. Regular maintenance was done on all equipment.

MacCheyne said that Romulus has asked if the Town of Covert would like to buy the roller we've been borrowing for the past five years. No price discussed yet. There was some discussion on storage of the roller.

MacCheyne said they are expecting \$187,227.69 in CHIPS money on Thursday and about \$93,000 remains for submission by Nov 2nd. He would like to pave Extension, and sections of Halls Corners and Arden Roads, and chip seal Bassett Rd. A waiver is necessary for the Bassett Rd due to '10 year limit'.

Town Clerk: Adams-Compton said minute books were scanned to 2009. She also invited all to attend the Interlaken Historical Society Plowing Day this Saturday, Sept 19th from 10:00 -2:00.

Committees: Nottke said that residents on Frontenac are complaining about the speed of vehicles going down to Three Falls Park and asked what could be done. Guthrie suggested the blinking speed signs. Reynolds said that the Seneca County Board of Health bought some for the Towns. He will find out from the County. NY Parks' police do not monitor this per the agreement with the LDC.

Nottke said the Town is still in arrears with Three Falls LDC. Also, she has asked to see the LDC's budget.

Guthrie reported that repairs have been made to the old Town Hall. He said it has been tightened up and he's put in the triple-track storm windows. There are 3 wooden sash windows to paint and put in the east and west wall. He said the floor is broken in two spots. Peter Cooke's estimate, for repairing trim, wainscoting, jacking floor + insulation in walls, not including an architect's input(+\$2-6.000), is \$65,000. Two historic windows' replacement could be \$6-7,000 each, also not included in the estimate.

Guthrie said the data centers issue is heating up. He would like to see the Town Board come up with a resolution less specific than the Dryden moratorium. Morrell asked, what do you want to do? Prevent data centers in Covert? A moratorium would require a local law and public hearing.

Residents responded that they would like both a moratorium and letting Lansing know how it affects our community. They suggested beefing up the penalty as outlined in Dryden's law and pressuring the Governor.

There was some discussion about the unlikelihood of a data center moving in to the Town of Covert.

Guthrie will meet with the residents to cater a resolution for Covert.

Town Supervisor: Reynolds said that MacCheyne would like to reward employees who have not used up their sick time when they leave. He asked for the Town to update its personnel policy to allow sick time pay for employees in good standing when they leave. He would like to pay Jeff Monroe \$1,303.80 for his unused sick time. More specifics were requested, ie: from the County personnel policy, in order to update the Town's policy.

Reynolds reported that Dan Bizzell had been accepted by ORPTS as qualified for the Town Assessor position.

Reynolds said that the McCormick bill and the Cooke bill for the old Town Hall reparation had been submitted to insurance. Progressive may have an adjuster come to look at the building.

Reynolds asked the Board to decide whether they wanted to pay CivicPlus to update the Town's website for \$4550/annually plus startup cost. Reynolds said that they do the Dryden website which he thought was easy to maneuver. Guthrie said he knows the guy that does the Ulysses website and could check with him.

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Attorney: Morrell said the local law for floodplain enforcement has to be approved by the DEC by Oct 23rd before the Town has a public hearing for the local law.

The Town Clerk accepted the resignation of Town Board member Todd Wyckoff, effective 8/31/2026. The Town may appoint a replacement. Morrell was unclear on whether a special election would be required.

Nottke asked if there was a conflict of interest for someone otherwise employed by the Town to be a Board member. Morrell said 'yes'; they can't sign their own paycheck.

Petitioners: Regarding Town Board member replacement, Amy Quan spoke of precedence for publicizing, having open forums, for inviting people to the board, not just appointing someone, but soliciting interest and inviting them to speak on why they're interested, as a more transparent and open process.

Barry Ford asked what the motivation to save the old Town Hall is. Guthrie replied that it is on the Historic Register, in great shape, and worth saving.

Resolutions:

Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka, to appoint Daniel Bizzell as Town Assessor, wages to be determined by amount remaining in the 2026 Budget line A1355. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka, to accept the bid for Lawn Mowing from Tim Wolverton for an annual fee of \$3,542.50 for the years 2027, 2028 + 2029; Two Bids were received. One was disqualified for omission of certificate of insurance. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

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

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

Nottke moved, seconded by Soyka, to approve the Town Clerk report for the month of August 2026. Town Clerk received total of \$3,427.00 and \$557.10 was remitted to the Supervisor for the month of August 2026. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

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

Nottke moved, seconded by Guthrie, that Highway Fund Vouchers #114 – 120 in the amount of \$9,205.06 and General Fund Vouchers # 180 - 197 in the amount \$10,604.16 be approved for payment. Aye – Nottke, Aye – Soyka, and Aye – Guthrie.

Nottke made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Adams-Compton, Town Clerk