

Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Monthly Meeting of the Santa Clara Town Board held on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at Saranac Inn, NY Town Hall, at 6:00 P.M.

Roll as follows for the Public Hearing and Regular Monthly Meeting:

Present: Robert Curry – Supervisor
Andrew McGill – Councilman
Jude Capalbo – Councilman
Tyler Ellithorpe – Councilman

Absent: Shaun Trombley – Superintendent of Highways
Ryan Schneider – Councilman

Recording Secretary: Laurie McGill – Town Clerk

Public Hearing Called to order by Supervisor Curry at 6:00 P.M for the purpose of considering a contract with the Saranac Lake Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. for the contract year 2025. The contract is for the furnishing of pre-hospital emergency medical care and transport ambulance services of the sick and injured within the borders of the Town for a fee of \$41,806.00. All those wishing to make oral or written comments having been heard, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:04 P.M. on the motion of Andy McGill, seconded by Jude Capalbo. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

Regular monthly meeting called to order by Supervisor Curry at 6:05 P.M.

Motion by Andy McGill, seconded by Tyler Ellithorpe to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. All members voting Aye. Motion carried. Motion by Jude Capalbo, seconded by Tyler Ellithorpe to accept the minutes. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

Resolution No 13

Saranac Lake Volunteer Rescue Squad Inc. Contract

WHEREAS, The Town Board is required to provide the furnishing of pre-hospital emergency medical care and transport ambulance services of the sick and injured within the borders of the Town to Santa Clara,

WHEREAS, the Saranac Lake Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. will furnish pre-hospital emergency medical care and transport ambulance services of the sick and injured within the borders of the Town to Santa Clara,

WHEREAS, the terms of the proposed contract include that the contract term shall be for a period of one (1) year commencing January 1, 2025 and terminating December 31, 2025; and that the amount to be paid by the Town of Santa Clara to the Saranac Lake Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. for providing such service shall be \$41,806.00,

Be it resolved that, on a motion by Andy McGill, seconded by Tyler Ellithorpe the Board adopted the contract with Saranac Lake Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc.

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Curry, Capalbo, McGill, Ellithorpe
Nays 0
Absent 1 Schneider

Resolution No 14

Tri-Lakes Humane Society Animal Control Contract

WHEREAS, The Town of Santa Clara desires a Dog Control Officer and pound or shelter services as described in Sections 113 and 114 of the State of New York Agriculture and Markets Law within the borders of the Town to Santa Clara,

WHEREAS, the Tri-Lakes Humane Society, Inc. will provide a Dog Control Officer and pound or shelter services within the borders of the Town of Santa Clara,

WHEREAS, the terms of the proposed contract include that the contract term shall be for a period of one (1) year commencing January 1, 2025 and terminating December 31, 2025; and that the amount to be paid by the Town of Santa Clara to the Tri-Lakes Humane Society Inc, for providing such service shall be \$930.00,

Be it resolved that, on a motion by Andy McGill, seconded by Jude Capalbo the Board adopted the contract with Tri-Lakes Humane Society, Inc.

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Curry, Capalbo, McGill, Ellithorpe
Nays 0
Absent 1 Schneider

North Country Sports Council - Matthew Dougherty, Executive Director of the North Country Sports Council had requested to speak to the Town Board at the monthly meeting. Unfortunately, Matthew was unable to attend the meeting and will reschedule at a later date with the Town Board.

Organizational and Regular Meeting January 9, 2025 6:00 P.M.

Good of the Town

Andy McGill, in the absence of Highway Superintendent Trombley, reported that all the highway trucks both old and new are operational. Alltech Integration had to replace a faulty CO2 detector in the highway garage and will return to replace a second faulty CO2 detector as they only had one replacement detector with them.

Town Clerk, Laurie McGill, inquired if the Town was going to continue to retain Miller, Mannix, Schachner & Hafner LLC as the Town's attorneys for 2025. The Board agreed that Miller Mannix, Schachner & Hafner LLC will continue to be the Town's attorneys. The Town Clerk will reach out to the firm for a new contract for 2025.

Resolution No 15

Introduced by: Jude Capalbo

Seconded by: T. Ellithorpe

New York State and Local Retirement System Appointed and Elected Officials

Be it resolved, that the Town of Santa Clara hereby established the following 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	Title	Standard Work Day	Record of Activities
Shaun Trombley	Highway Superintendent	8	20

The question of the adoption of this Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted in votes by each Town Board member as follows:

AYES: McGill, Ellithorpe, Capalbo, Curry

NAYS:

ABSENT: Schneider

The Resolution was declared duly adopted by the Town Board.

Supervisor Curry reported that the final draft of the Sand/Salt Shed plans were received from Barton and Loguidice. Shaun Trombley and Todd David have reviewed the plans. Todd David, the Code Enforcement Officer, questioned the height of the building. To be in compliance with the Adirondack Park Agency the building cannot be over 40 feet high. Supervisor Curry will consult with Barton and Loguidice to make sure the height is in compliance with the APA. Either Barton and Loguidice or Todd David, will complete the APA application that is required and needs to be approved before any construction can begin.

Supervisor Curry received a request from the Waverly Food Pantry for funds. The Waverly Food Pantry helps to assist the people that reside in the Hamlet of Santa Clara. Supervisor Curry has some questions for the Director of the food pantry and is awaiting her return call before he wants the Board to authorized any funds be distributed.

Supervisor Curry reported that there was a posting on Facebook and an email sent to the members of the Upper Saranac Foundation titled "Santa Clara Rejects Septic System Working

Group Proposal”. Supervisor Curry felt it was a very negative article against the Town of Santa Clara. As stated in November minutes, *“The septic system working group that consisted of Jude Capalbo, Scottie Adams and Robert Curry was formed to better educate the Town Board on the possible impacts of septic systems in the Town of Santa Clara. The Town Board had a discussion to determine if any additional actions should be considered at this time. A motion was made by Jude Capalbo to allow the Planning Board to perform a more formal and detailed study on the impact of septic systems on the Upper Saranac Lake Watershed and to provide proposals to the Town Board following that study. A second was called for by Supervisor Curry, no second was received. The motion was not carried and removed from the table with no further discussion. Supervisor Curry inquired if there were any other motions to consider. No motions were put on the table. Council member Jude Capalbo requested it be mentioned in the minutes that although the Town Board has not formally approved the Planning Board to move forward with additional studies on this matter, it does not prevent the Planning Board from continuing to perform its responsibilities within the scope of those responsibilities. Supervisor Curry and other council members agreed that this is proper and does not require board approval; however, if there is any expenditure of Town funds that may be required, then the Planning Board will require Town Board approval before proceeding. There were no additional comments on the subject and this agenda item was closed for further discussion.”*

USLA Fireboat – The fireboat, owned by the Upper Saranac Lake Association, is currently stored in one bay of the community center/town hall garage. At the November Board meeting, the Highway Superintendent inquired if the boat could be stored at another location off of Town property or shrink wrapped and stored outside on Town property. There is a need for the Town to put Town equipment and the new CEO Town owned pickup truck in a garage out of the weather. This would also allow for easier plowing of the parking lot that the truck is currently parked in. Supervisor Curry sent an email to Larry Koch, President of USLA, requesting the boat be stored in another location or shrink wrapped and stored outside on town property. Supervisor Curry requested that the USLA provide the Town with an action plan by December 20, 2024 for moving the boat. As stated in Mr. Koch’s letter he was not given 13 days to move the boat, the Town just wanted a response by December 20, 2024, as to when the USLA could move the boat out of the town garage. Discussion followed on the storage of the boat by the Town and the proposal by USLA for the Town to take over the ownership of the boat or any future boat purchased. The Town’s insurance company has also notified the Town that if the USLA boat is on Town property for storage it must be covered by Town insurance in case of any damage done to the boat while located on Town property and this will be an increase to the Town’s insurance policy.

On a motion by Andy McGill, seconded by Tyler Ellithorpe the Board denied the proposal by the USLA to take ownership of the current fireboat or any new fireboat that would be purchased to replace the existing boat. All members voting Aye. Motion carried. On a motion by Andy McGill, seconded by Tyler Ellithorpe the Town Board agreed to allow the current USLA fireboat to stay in the community center/town hall garage until June 1, 2025 and to approach the USLA for any increase in insurance cost to the Town for storing the boat. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

Open Discussion – The floor was opened by Supervisor Curry for open discussion.

John LaHart inquired if Tupper Lake Fire Department does not take back the fireboat once it is repaired will the fire department members be covered by insurance if they are working on the boat. Supervisor Curry advised that if an injury happens on Town property it should be covered by Town insurance but would have to check further with the Towns insurance company for clarification. If the boat is not on Town property, the members would have to check with Tupper Lake Fire Department to see if they would be covered when on the boat.

Todd Hall reported that the gas tank in the boat still needs to be cleaned out as there is foreign sediment in the tank. Republic Services needs to come and remove the old gas and foreign sediment from the tank. Once this has been completed the fireboat will be ready to use again. Supervisor Curry requested that this process be done outdoors as the Town does not want spilled gas or gas fumes in the garage.

John Briaddy stated that room is need to work around the fire truck and to be able to get in an out of the truck. In the past too many items have been stored in the garage to close to the truck.

Guy Middleton handed out the latest version of the Upper Saranac Foundation newsletter. Guy reported that the construction on the Bartlett Carry dam is complete. The Saranac Inn oil spill is still being cleaned up but the company has found that no oil has escaped outside of the foot print of the house.

The floor was closed to open discussion by Supervisor Curry as no one else wished to speak.

General Fund vouchers No. 239 to 258 in the amount of \$15,030.99 and Highway Fund vouchers No. 111 to 118 in the amount of \$12,646.28 were audited by the Board. Motion by Jude Capalbo seconded by Tyler Ellithorpe to approve vouchers and pay audited vouchers. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

Executive Session – On a motion by Andy McGill, seconded by Tyler Ellithorpe the Board move to go into executive session at 7:01 P.M. to discuss matters relating to litigation. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

Return from Executive Session – On a motion Jude Capalbo, seconded by Tyler Ellithorpe the Board moved to return from executive session at 7:29 P.M. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 7:29 P.M. made by Andy McGill, seconded by Tyler Ellithorpe. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.