Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Monthly Meeting of the Santa Clara Town Board held on Thursday, June 11, 2026 at Saranac Inn, NY Town Hall, at 6:00 P.M.

**Roll as follows for the Public Hearings and Regular Monthly Meeting:**

**Present:** Curtis Reynolds – Supervisor
Alexandria Bevilacqua Councilwomen
Jude Capalbo – Councilman
Andrew McGill – Councilman
Marcel Webb - Councilman
Shaun Trombley – Superintendent of Highways

**Recording Secretary:** Karen Graff – Town Clerk

**Public Hearing** Called to order by Supervisor Reynolds at 5:30pm. P.M for the purpose of considering proposed Local Law 1 0f 2026, to authorize partial real property tax exemptions for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers pursuant to
NYS REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW SECTION 466-a

Upon questioning from the floor and by email regarding the total cost and the financial impact on taxpayers, it was stated that, although the actual numbers aren't as yet available, the cost and subsequent impact will be minimal. The number of applicants was estimated to be 5-7, reducing their assessment by 5%, with the reduction applying only to the town tax portion, which is 18% of their total tax bill.

Some present expressed concern about voting on the law before having final figures, and to the lack of equity of reductions based on home ownership and value.

All who spoke expressed appreciation for all of the volunteers giving of their time, and funding their own training.

All those wishing to make oral or written comments having been heard, the Public Hearing was closed at 5:50 P.M. on the motion of Jude Capalbo, seconded by Marcel Webb. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

**Regular monthly meeting** called to order by Supervisor Reynolds at 5:51 P.M.

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

**Local Law 1 0f 2026**

# TOWN OF SANTA CLARA LOCAL LAW NO. _01_ of 2026

## PARTIAL REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO NYS REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW § 466-a

**Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Santa Clara that the Town Code is hereby amended by adding this Local Law # 01 of 2026, as follows:**

**Section** I. **Purpose.** The Town Board finds that volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers provide essential emergency services to our community and that it is in the best interests of the Town of Santa Clara to encourage this exceptional volunteerism. The Board further finds that providing partial real property tax exemptions to qualified workers would be an incentive to attract new volunteers and help combat an alarming decline in the number of volunteers serving as active responders to fire and medical emergencies. This Local Law adopts the real property tax exemptions as provided for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers under NYS Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a.

**Section** 2. **Partial Real Property Tax Exemption.** A primary residence property owned by an active enrolled member in good standing of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service or such enrolled member and spouse, residing in the Town, shall, upon confirmation of eligibility, be entitled to a partial exemption from taxation to an extent of five percent (5%) or ten percent (10%), as hereinafter set forth, of the assessed value of such property for Town purposes, exclusive of special assessments.

**Section 3. Qualifications.** Such exemption shall only be granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance services if:

(a) the applicant resides in the Town of Santa Clara and is an active member in good standing of an incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service which provides service within the Town.

(b) the real property which is the subject of such exemption is the primary residence of the applicant.

(c) the real property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation at its full assessed value and the remaining portion only, serving as the primary residence of the applicant, shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this Local Law.

(d) the applicant has been certified, as provided in Section 4, by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department, confirming that the applicant has been an enrolled active member in good standing of such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department for at least two years, or the applicant has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an enrolled active member in good standing of such incorporated voluntary ambulance service for at least two years.

**Section 4. Certification That Applicant Satisfies Initial Eligibility Requirements And Continuing Eligibility Requirements, As Applicable.** For each applicant seeking a partial exemption under this Local Law, the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department, or the incorporated voluntary ambulance service, of which such applicant is a member, shall certify in writing to the Town Assessor as to whether such applicant is in fact an active member in good standing thereof, the date on which the applicant became a member thereof, and the number of complete, continuous years the applicant has been an active member in good standing. Such authority shall provide re-certification of the applicant's active membership in good standing upon request of the Town Assessor to confirm the applicant's continuing eligibility for the exemptions provided for hereunder.

**Section 5 Partial Exemptions to be Provided.**

A) Upon proper certification or re-certification, as applicable, under Section 4 above, applicants with at least two and as many as ten complete years of active membership in good standing shall be entitled to a partial exemption equal to five percent (5%) of the assessed value of the real property which is the primary residence of the applicant, and as otherwise in accordance with NYS Real Property Tax Law §466-a.

B) Upon proper certification or re-certification, as applicable, under Section 4 above, applicants with eleven or more complete years of active membership in good standing shall be entitled to a partial exemption equal to ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of the real property which is the primary residence of the applicant, and as otherwise in accordance with NYS Real Property Tax Law §466-a.

**Section 6. Active Members for Twenty Years or More.** Any enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrues twenty or more continuous years as an active member in good standing, and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service, shall be granted a ten percent (10%) exemption, as otherwise set forth in Section 5(B) above, for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the Town.

**Section 7. Un-remarried Surviving Spouses of Volunteers killed in the line of duty.** An un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker killed in the line of duty may receive the same partial real property tax exemption which the volunteer received while alive if:

(a) Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of a member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service who was an active member thereof in good standing at the time of death and was killed in the line of duty; and

(b) Such deceased volunteer had been an active member in good standing for at least five years; and

(c) Such deceased volunteer had been receiving the partial exemption prior to his or her death.

**Section 8**. **Honorary Members and/or Un-remarried Surviving Spouses of Volunteers with at least Twenty Years of Service.** An Honorary Member and/or un-remarried surviving spouse of a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker with twenty or more years of membership in good standing at the time of death may receive a partial exemption equal to ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of the real property which is the primary residence of the Honorary Member and/or un-remarried surviving spouse if:

(a) Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of a member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service, who was an active member thereof in good standing at the time of death and who was killed in the line of duty.

(b) Such deceased volunteer had been an active member in good standing for at least twenty years.

(c) Such deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption of such property prior to the death of such member.

A lifetime exemption may be provided to honorary members and/or unremarried surviving spouses of eligible volunteers to retain the exemption as long as they maintain their primary residence in the Town that the eligible volunteer served and, if and as applicable, remain un-remarried.

**Section 9. Application Process.**

(a) An application for any exemption provided for under this Local Law shall be filed with the Town Assessor on or before the taxable status date on a form as prescribed by the New York State Commissioner for the Office of Real Property Tax Services.

(b) The Town Assessor shall be provided with the certification, as defined in Section 4 hereof, and file a copy of such certification prior to granting any exemption provided for by this Local Law.

**Section 10. Changes to Assessment Rolls**. The Town Assessor is hereby authorized and directed to make any revisions to the Town's Assessment Rolls that are necessary and consistent with the partial exemptions granted by this Local Law.

**Section 11. No Reduction of Current Benefits.** No applicant who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who by reason of such status is receiving any benefit under the provisions of law on the effective date of this Local Law shall suffer any diminution of such benefit because of the provisions of this Local Law.

**Section 12. Enactment and Effective Date.** This Local Law is enacted in accordance with Section 10 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law and New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a. This Local Law shall take effect upon its filing by the NYS Secretary of State and shall apply to assessment rolls prepared on the basis of taxable status dates on or after December 31, 2026.

**Resolution No 10 of 2026**

**DATE: JUNE 11,2026**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 10 OF 2026**

**INTRODUCED BY: MARCEL WEBB**

**SECONDED BY: ALEXANDRIA BEVILACQUA**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW No. 1 OF 2026 AUTHORIZING PARTIAL REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER AMUBLANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO NYS REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW SECTION 466-A**

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara Town Board (the "Town Board") is considering adoption of a Local Law which would authorize partial real property tax exemptions for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers pursuant to NYS Real Property Tax Law section 466-a

**WHEREAS**, at the Town Board's request, the Town's Special Counsel prepared proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2026 to authorize partial real property tax exemptions for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers pursuant to NYS Real Property Tax Law section 466-a

**WHEREAS**, on June 11,2026, the Town Board opened a Public Hearing with respect to proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2026 after compliance with applicable notice requirements, and heard all interested persons, and the Town Board duly closed the Public Hearing, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has discussed and deliberated about proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2026, and has concluded that its adoption would be in the best interests of the Town,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** that the Town Board hereby approves and adopts Local Law No. 1 of 2026, and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby authorizes and directs the Town Clerk, to file Local Law No. 1 of 2026 in substantially the same form as hereby approved, with the New York Department of State in accordance with the provisions of the

Municipal Home Rule Law and acknowledges that the Local Law will take effect immediately upon filing by the Department of State, and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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: Capalbo, Webb, Reynolds, Bevilacqua

NAYS: None

RECUSED: Andrew McGill

ABSENT: None

The Resolution was declared duly adopted by the Town Board.

**Regular Meeting July 9, 2026, immediately following the Public Hearing to be scheduled for 5:30 PM.**

**Good of the Town**

Highway Superintendent Shaun Trombley reported that the Highway Department has finished sand removal from the roads, helped Tupper Lake with the last mile of Floodwood Road, helped St Armands and Harrietstown.
He noted that we need a new riding lawnmower. He requested the OK for a John Deere commercial series Model 390 at a cost of $5,985.18. Andy McGill motioned the purchase, Mickey Webb seconded. A vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.
He requested the OK to purchase a Skid-Steer Loader, with a bucket, broom, and snowblower, costing in the range of $92-100,000. It has the advantage of easy attaching to existing equipment, and the ability to borrow other pieces of equipment from other towns as needed. The funds would come from the existing budget. There is a cap on the purchase of $100,000.
A motion was put forth by Jude Capalbo for the purchase, and seconded by Lexi Bevilacqua. A vote was taken, with the motion passing unanimously.

A quote was submitted by: Friend Commercial Contracting
Project: Santa Clara Community Center Repairs – repairs to include sidewalk sections in the front and back, a siding section, and inside lock adjustments.
Cost Estimate: $15,000
A motion was put forth by Andy McGill to accept the proposal, and seconded by Jude Capalbo. A vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was put forth by Jude Capalbo, seconded by Micky Webb, to approve $1,000 to begin the town budget process. A vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Our grant application was submitted. It is hoped that the reimbursement will arrive in 2-3 weeks. The anticipated amount to be approximately $598,000. Mickey Webb acknowledged Superintendent Reynolds' efforts. Supervisor Reynolds thanked all who helped get the proposal submitted, including Laurie McGill and Guy Middleton, and to Bob Curry for initiating the process.

The town received a request for donations from Homeward Bound Adirondacks, with an offer to speak about what services they offer for veterans. It was proposed that they be invited to speak in July. As well, the question will be researched as to whether the town could legally make a donation to this organization.

Supervisor Reynolds invited Martin Tischner hold an open meeting in August, possibly Labor Day weekend, to answer questions on the reassessment process. It was noted that the board of 2024 only approved the data collection portion of the process.

**Public Hearing Resolution**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 11**

**INTRODUCED BY: MARCEL WEBB**

**SECONDED BY: ANDREW MCGILL**

**DATE: JUNE 11, 2026**

**RESOLUTION SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 02 OF 2026 ABOLISHING THE ELECTED COMBINED OFFICE OF TOWN CLERK / TAX COLLECTOR AND CREATING THE APPOINTED COMBINED POSITION OF TOWN CLERK / TAX COLLECTOR**

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara Town Board is considering adoption of Local Law No. 02 of 2026 to provide that the combined office of Town Clerk / Tax Collector will be appointed rather than elected commencing January 1, 2027, and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation is authorized under New York Municipal Home Rule Law §10; and

**WHEREAS**, Municipal Home Rule Law §20 requires the Town Board to hold a Public Hearing prior to the adoption of any Local Law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLARA, FRANKLIN COUNTY, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The Town Board shall meet on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 5:30 PM to hold a Public Hearing to hear and receive comments from all people who are interested in proposed Local Law No. 02 of 2026, which would abolish the elective combined office of Town Clerk / Tax Collector effective at the end of the day on December 31, 2026, and create the appointive combined office of Town Clerk / Tax Collector effective as of January 1, 2027. Following such Public Hearing, the Town Board may take any other actions authorized by law concerning proposed Local Law No. 02 of 2026.

2. The Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a Notice of Public Hearing in the *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* not less than five (5) days before the date of the Public Hearing and to make a copy of the proposed Local Law available at no charge to anyone who requests it.

3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of this Resolution by the Santa Clara Town Board was duly put to a vote on roll call and it was declared duly adopted.

Ayes: McGill, Capalbo, Webb, Reynolds, Bevilacqua

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent:

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

MaryAnn Randall asked about the noise hotline which is on the Short-Term Rental page of the website. In answer to her questions, it was noted that the hot line is for Short Term Rental complaints only, and that there is no town noise ordinance other than that under Short Term Rental contract. Regarding excess dog barking , refer to Local Law 01 0f 2010, Dog Control. She spoke of the breaking of the fireworks permit requirement, and requested town board meetings by Zoom. She wondered if the town highway department could pick up the futon mattress left on the side of the road for free. The board consensus was that the town is unwilling to take on that responsibility. It was suggested that any persons leaving objects on the roadside be contacted by their neighbors to retrieve anything not taken.

Steve Maikowski seconded the request for Zoom. He questioned why the town had to go to outside resources for the Town Clerk position. The board cited the town's small population and therefore limited pool of candidates, with the provision that residents would always get preference in hiring decisions. He also spoke of road salt reduction efforts, offering to help connect the highway Department with organizations supporting other towns. Shaun Trombley accepted the offer, and spoke of the actions the department is already taking, saying that the town uses very little salt, and uses procedures which limit the salt needed. He feels confident that the town is doing its part.

Chris Cohan noted that the cost of Zoom equipment is modest. Supervisor Reynolds said that the conversation will be continued.

Supervisor Reynolds closed the discussion, as all had been heard.

General Fund vouchers No. 116 to 126 in the amount of $6,323.54 and Highway Fund vouchers No. 41 to 45 in the amount of $5,031.05 were audited by the Board. Motion by Marcel Webb seconded by Andy McGill to approve vouchers and pay audited vouchers. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was offered by Lexi Bevilacqua, seconded by Jude Capalbo. A vote was taken, with the motion passing unanimously.

The meeting ended 6:55 PM