

PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING, TOWN OF SANTA CLARA, NOVEMBER 13, 2025

Minutes of a Public Hearing and the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Santa Clara Town Board held on Thursday, November 13, 2025 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
Ryan Schneider – Councilman
Curtis Reynolds - Councilman
Shaun Trombley – Superintendent of Highways

Absent: Jude Capalbo – Councilman

Recording Secretary: Laurie McGill – Town Clerk

Public Hearing called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Supervisor Curry for the purpose of considering a new fire protection contract with the Paul Smiths-Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department Inc. The terms of the proposed contract include that the said Fire District shall answer and attend upon all calls for emergency fire protection in the Town of Santa Clara Fire Protection District 2; that the contract term shall be for a period of five (5) years commencing January 1, 2026 and terminating December 31, 2030; and that the amounts to be paid by the Town of Santa Clara to the Paul Smiths-Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department for providing such fire protection shall be: \$7,674.00 for the year 2026, \$7,904.00 for the year 2027, \$8,141.00 for the year 2028, \$8,385.00 for the year 2029 and \$8,637.00 for the year 2030.

All those wishing to make oral or written comments having been heard, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:02 P.M. on the motion of Andy McGill, seconded by Ryan Schneider. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

Regular monthly meeting called to order by Supervisor Curry at 6:03 P.M.

Motion by Andy McGill, seconded by Ryan Schneider to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meetings of October 9 and 27, 2025. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Supervisor Curry, seconded by Ryan Schneider that Supervisor Curry had a procedural request regarding the minutes from the previous meeting. Upon reviewing the approved minutes date October 9, 2025, I noticed that 2 topics I raised were not included in the minutes – specifically, 1) concerns brought to my attention by the Code Enforcement Officer in a email dated September 24, 2025 in which he conveyed having significant concerns with the STR Law and questioned what the law was accomplishing and whether the town should keep the law; 2) a question was posed to the Supervisor as to whether the town had a scholarship fund for town residents and if not, would we consider establishing one. These were not included in the record even after the Supervisor requested, they be included following release of the minutes. For the sake of transparency and completeness I respectfully request that the minutes be amended to reflet that these topics were introduced and briefly discussed. I am not requesting a substantive

revision, but rather an acknowledgement that the matters were raised. I understand that per our adopted procedures and Robert's Rules of Order minutes should reflect actions taken and topics discussed not verbatim transcripts. However, omitting these items may lead to confusion or incomplete public record. If the Board is amenable, I'd like to propose this motion to amend the minutes. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Ryan Schneider, seconded by Robert Curry to accept the minutes of October 9 and 27, 2025 with the notation that Supervisor Curry raised the topics at the October 9th meeting of 1) concerns expressed by the Code Enforcement Officer related to the STR Law and 2) the Town entertaining sponsorship of a scholarship fund, which were briefly discussed but no formal action was taken. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 15 Paul Smiths-Gabriels Fire Department Inc. Contract

New fire protection contract with the Paul Smiths-Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department Inc. The terms of the proposed contract include that the said Fire District shall answer and attend upon all calls for emergency fire protection in the Town of Santa Clara Fire Protection District 2; that the contract term shall be for a period of five (5) years commencing January 1, 2026 and terminating December 31, 2030; and that the amounts to be paid by the Town of Santa Clara to the Paul Smiths-Gabriels Volunteer Fire Department for providing such fire protection shall be: \$7,674.00 for the year 2026, \$7,904.00 for the year 2027, \$8,141.00 for the year 2028, \$8,385.00 for the year 2029 and \$8637.00 for the year 2030.

On a motion by Andy McGill, seconded by Ryan Schneider the Board approved the 5-year contract for fire protection from Paul Smiths-Gabriels Fire Department Inc.

ADOPTED Ayes 4 McGill, Schneider, Reynolds, Curry

Nays 0

Absent 1 Capalbo

2026 Town Budget

On a motion by Robert Curry, seconded by Andy McGill the Board moved to accept the proposed 2026 Town Budget. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 16

Introduced By: Curt Reynolds

Seconded By: Andy McGill

ADOPTION OF THE 2026 TOWN BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Santa Clara, New York, has prepared a Preliminary Budget for the fiscal year commencing **January 1, 2026**; and

WHEREAS, said Preliminary Budget was presented to the Town Board for initial review on **October 9, 2025**, and for final review on **October 27, 2025**; and

WHEREAS, the Preliminary Budget was made available to the public for comment on October 9, 2025, in accordance with applicable public notice and transparency requirements; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law, the following proposed salaries for Town Officials are specified in the 2026 Town Budget:

Position	Salary	% Change from 2025
Supervisor	\$21,035.00	0.00%
Councilperson (4)	\$4,750.00	7.66%
Town Clerk	\$15,665.00	2.02%
Tax Collector	\$5,622.00	0.00%
Highway Superintendent	\$69,000.00	4.31%
Town Justice	\$6,000.00	9.09%

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes that the General Fund Balance is approximately 170% of the 2025 Town Budget, and that the intention of the Board is to utilize this excess fund balance to pay off the outstanding bond obligation in full during the 2026 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Town Budget includes authorization for the full payment of an outstanding bond obligation in the estimated amount of **\$1,280,000.00**, to be paid in full by **September 1, 2026**, from the General Fund Balance; and

WHEREAS, following said payment, the estimated General Fund Balance is projected to be approximately 30% of 2026 Budget Appropriations as of **December 31, 2026**, ensuring continued fiscal stability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Santa Clara hereby adopts the 2026 Town Budget as presented, including the full payment of the outstanding bond obligation using excess funds from the General Fund Balance, as a fiscally responsible action aligned with the Board's long-term financial planning;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Curt Reynolds, seconded by Councilman Andy McGill

ADOPTED: Ayes: 4 McGill, Reynolds, Schneider, Curry

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 Capalbo

The Resolution was declared duly adopted by the Town Board.

Adopted this **13th day of November, 2025.**

Short- Term Rental Law Review

The Code Enforcement Officer, Todd David, has had concerns expressed to him from the Short-Term Rental permit holders. There currently are approximately 45 permit holders and they are concerned with the 60-day rental limit per calendar year and the high cost of the permit fee. Todd advised that any septic systems that were found to need upgrading or replacing were approximately only 4. As of today, there have been no complaints received directly to the Code Office or via the STR portal. Supervisor Curry suggested to bring the STR law back to the Town Planning Board for review to see if they recommend any changes. John LaHart, a member of the Planning Board, requested that any information the Town can compile on the STRs and the fee schedule be presented to the Planning Board in a packet for their review. Maryann Randall inquired if there is a cap on the number of rentals in the Town. At this time there is no cap. Susan Storch of Church Pond sent an email to the Board to let them now that the Short-Term Rental Law has been a positive difference in the quality of life for the full-time residents in her area. On a motion by Robert Curry, seconded by Andy McGill the Board moved to have the Planning Board review the current law with the idea of providing the Planning Board with as much data to be able to reassess the current law. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

Scholarship Fund Offered by the Town

Supervisor Curry had an inquiry if the Town offered a scholarship. Currently the Town does not. Discussion followed. On a motion by Supervisor Curry, seconded by Ryan Schneider the Board moved to research further the legality and feasibility and identify a small committee from the Public to administer it and report back by the January Board meeting. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

Discuss Options for Town Hall Structural Issues

On a motion by Ryan Schnieder, seconded by Supervisor Curry the Board move to contact the Town Attorney, the Engineer and the contractor to discuss options to resolve issue with the Town Hall. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

Regular Meeting Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.

Good of the Town

Highway Superintendent Shaun Trombley reported that the plow trucks are ready for the winter season and that the Floodwood Road has been graded. Shaun now has surplus equipment that he wishes to put up for auction. On a motion by Andy McGill, seconded by Curt Reynolds the

PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING, TOWN OF SANTA CLARA, NOVEMBER 13, 2025

Board deemed the 1985 Backhoe and the 2010 International Paystar truck as excess inventory to allow the equipment to be sold at auction. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

Supervisor Curry advised that the Sand/Salt Shed is almost complete. There will be a Special Meeting on November 21, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. for a final walk through with the contractor, Eagles Associates of Cazenovia, and the engineer from Barton and Loguidice.

Supervisor Curry advised that Richard Donovan will be attending the Justice Court Training the week of December 8th. Mr. Donovan will then take office as of January 1st, 2026 and the current sitting Judge Alan Wright will continue to mentor Rich as needed.

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

Tom Tucker, Chief of the Paul Smiths Gabriels Volunteer Fire Dept., reported that his department has fixed the dry hydrant in the Hamlet of Santa Clara. Tom requested that the Highway Department keep the road to the dry hydrant open all winter so that the fire departments in the area have access to it. Tom also advised that his department has plans to install a dry hydrant on the county bridge on the Keese Mills Road in the spring.

Maryann Randall inquired about the County Route 46 sign that is bent over. The Highway Superintendent advised that it is a Franklin County Road and the county will need to fix the sign.

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

General Fund vouchers No. 204 to 227 in the amount of \$15,472.39 and Highway Fund vouchers No. 87 to 94 in the amount of \$10,314.24 and Capital Project Fund voucher CP02 in the amount of \$302,930.06 were audited by the Board. Motion Ryan Schneider seconded by Curt Reynolds to approve vouchers and pay audited vouchers. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.

Executive session was determined to no longer be required by Supervisor Curry.

Motion to adjourn at 6:58 P.M. made by Ryan Schneider, seconded by Andy McGill. All members voting Aye. Motion carried.