Town of Starkey
Workshop Meeting
October 15, 2025

Council Members Present:	George Lawson, Supervisor Jeremy Hall, Councilperson Julie Dunkelberger, Councilperson	John Socha, Councilperson Caryl Sutterby, Councilperson
Council Members Absent:	None	
In-Person Attendees:	Christine Sutherland, Village Clerk Ralph Warren, Highway Superintendent Fred Cratsley, Highway Superintendent elect	Samantha Clark, Bookkeeper Tim Senavaitis, Councilperson, elect
Recording Secretary:	Candace Iszard, Town Clerk	

The Town of Starkey Board held a workshop on October 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM to discuss the 2026 Town Budget.

George Lawson, Supervisor, presented the first draft of the 2026 Preliminary Budget. He explained that in the past we have been able to offset the budget increase by using Fund Balance. This has put the Town in a tough position. Our current Fund Balance is at $272,330 which creates a hardship, as the CHIP program is a reimbursement for road work up to $290,000.00 which will need to be paid upfront, to be eligible for reimbursement, and we currently don't have enough money to do that.

The Town Board discussed that they would like to adopt the "step system" that Yates County uses, which rewards employees for years of service, however they recognize that the pay increases will need to be achieved gradually.

Fred Cratsley states that we need to start planning to reserve funds for equipment replacement. Currently the 1988 grader would cost roughly $100,000 to replace, he further explains that he is unsure if parts are even available for repairs if necessary.

Tim Senavaitis expressed that the monetary change in the tax levy between 20% and 25% is minimal and that based on the information presented, he feels that 25% is reasonable.

The Board agreed that a 25% tax levy for the coming year, following a reassessment would be fair.

The minutes of this workshop will be offered for approval at the next regular Town Board meeting, November 13, 2025, at 6:30 PM. The workshop was adjourned at 7:34 PM by George Lawson.

Candace Iszard

Candace J. Iszard, Starkey Town Clerk

DRAFT