

The Regular meeting of the Sidney Town Board was called to order by Eric Wilson Town Supervisor at 7:00 p.m. December 11, 2025, in the Boardroom at 44 Grand Street, Sidney. Prior to the meeting, bills were audited by the Board.

Present were:

Eric Wilson	Town Supervisor
Codey Lambrecht	Highway Superintendent
Bill Heath	Council member
Kevin Greene	Council member
Frank Selleck	Council member
Paul Muratore	Council member
Sheila R Paul	Clerk

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION/PRAYER

Oath of Office was given to Supervisor Wilson and Council member Frank Selleck for their next term ending in December 31, 2028

PRESENTATION: Bill VanGorder did a presentation for Insurance and the board will be going into Executive Session later in the night to discuss both Insurance company: Reiss and NYMIR.

- The board agreed to proceed with the **Liberty Insurance proposal**, which is **\$1,597 less** than the original fall quote, due to a reduced premium on Inland Marine coverage for contractor's equipment.
- The **property coverage blanket limit** in the new proposal is lower than current coverage, but a **property appraisal by HCA** planned within the first six months of 2026 will update values and potentially adjust premiums.
- They discussed isolating the hospital with a **standalone functional replacement cost limit**, offering potential savings and better risk control if a major hospital issue arises (01:50).
- Optional coverage for **terrorism exclusion** could reduce the premium by **\$208**, and final decisions should be made before binding coverage to manage employer liability and hospital coverage adjustments.
- A **local law establishing a prior written notice agreement** was proposed to limit liability for road hazards once the town is notified, with a public hearing planned for January 2026 to implement it. This legal move aims to reduce unexpected liability costs by clarifying notification responsibilities.

**APPROVE TOWN BOARD MINUTES:** Regular Meeting held on November 6, 2025, Motion to accepted minutes, by Mr. Selleck and seconded by Mr. Heath and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, K. Greene, P. Muratore. **NAYES:** None

**2025 APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

**General A Fund:** 25- 454 thru 25-501: in the amount of \$ 84,762.12. Motion by Mr. Muratore and seconded by Mr. Heath and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, F. Selleck, K. Greene, **NAYES:** None

**B Fund:** 25-21 thru 25-22: in the amount of \$ 3,445.00. Motion by Mr. Heath and seconded by Mr. Muratore and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, F. Selleck, K. Greene. **NAYES:** None

**ESL:** 25-105 thru 25-107 in the amount of \$ 871.86 Motion by Mr. Selleck and seconded by Mr. Muratore and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, K. Greene, B. Heath. **NAYES:** No

**Sidney Center Lighting:** 25-13 in the amount of \$ 381.50. Motion by Mr. Muratore and second by Mr. Heath and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, F. Selleck, Greene. **NAYES:** None

***Total General Vouchers: \$ 89,460.48***

**Highway DA Fund Vouchers:** 25-125 thru 25-140 in the amount of \$ 52,107.64 Motion by Mr. Selleck and seconded by Mr. Heath and carried. **AYES** E. Wilson, K. Greene, Selleck. **NAYES:** None

**Highway DB Fund Vouchers:** 25-62 thru 25-67 in the amount of \$ 46,721.27 Motion by Mr. Heath and seconded by Mr. Muratore and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, F. Selleck, K. Greene **NAYES:** None

**Total Highway Vouchers: \$ 98,828.91**

**CM Hospital Fund Vouchers:** 25-231 thru 25-253 in the amount of \$ 77,089.25. Motion by Mr. Heath seconded by Mr. Muratore and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, F. Selleck, K. Greene. **NAYES:** None.

**Total Vouchers paid:** \$ 265,378.64

**REPORTS/DISTRIBUTED:**

Monthly reports of Supervisor, Bookkeeper and Town Clerk. The clerk is submitting checks totaling in **\$ 1,855.00** fees collected during November 2025.

## **REPORTS/ORAL**

**HIGHWAY-** Highway Superintendent Codey Lambrecht: Winter has been pretty demanding from the start, we already have a significant amount of overtime in.

We have experienced multiple truck breakdowns throughout the month, and during the last weeks snowstorm, we were down three trucks in a single day. It was good thing school had closed, because providing an adequate level of service with that many units out of operation is extremely difficult. Most of these breakdowns are due simply to the age of our fleet.

Because of this, I have been looking into options that can help us in the short term and support us going forward. We located a medium-size truck that we can purchase and up-fit for approximately \$ 130,000.00. This truck would not replace anything immediately, but it would be available when we needed it, which given the trend of our breakdowns, could be daily.

Our top priority is safety on the road, especially for the children riding school buses to and from school. To continue meeting the responsibility, we need to think seriously about the state of our equipment and what next steps are.

I have a quote from Mangino Chevrolet for a Silverado 5500 chassis, and I also have a quote from Stahls Sales and Service covering the installation of a plow, wing, spreader, and lighting.

For example, one of our frontline trucks – the truck is currently at Winn's for transmission and clutch work, it is a 2008 and have already put over \$ 20,000 into it this year alone.

I am working with a \$ 100,000 parts and repair budget for every piece of equipment in the entire department. At the rate our aging fleet is breaking down, that money does not go far.

It is time for us to take a hard look at these numbers and make some decisions about how we are going to move forward. My main goal is safety and right now I question whether we can provide that at any given snowstorm.

***Discuss took place to investigate other quotes and investigate other line items in budget to purchase a second truck, as we have one coming this year, but it has taken 3 years to get it.***

**SUPERVISOR-** Eric Wilson: Nothing

**BOOKKEEPER-** Karen Kropp: Nothing to report.

**TOWN CLERK-** Sheila Paul: Clerk. Tax season is coming on January 2026.

I want to thank Bill Heath for his service at a council member.

## **REPORTS**

**Highway: Frank Selleck/ Eric Wilson:**

**Hospital: Paul Muratore/ Eric Wilson:** Supervisor Wilson asked Nate Ouimet (Maintenance) to give a short synopsis on what is happening at the hospital. Fire panel inspections are done; things are going smooth.

Elevators are down to one thing and that is installing phones and I spoke with Paul about getting quotes. Phones are ADA required. Supervisor Wilson asked, “phones installed in two of the elevators,” Nate “stated all three “as all three get used by the public. Nate stated “have been looking at two ways, if they do a hard wire the phones they have to extended the wires down the elevator shafts and pay the phone company, if we do it cellular then you only have to push a button with a control box and mechanical room and it’s monitor by the elevator company. Supervisor Wilson asked what the total was and Nate stated, just shy of \$ 5400. Council member Paul Muratore stated that he was going to talk about this during IT, but I got the quotes and we are going with T-Mobile. There are three devices and the air devices and going with OMA. Each line is 29.95 a month so a total of 90.00 a month. Mr. Muratore motion to use T-Mobile for phones in the three elevators and Supervisor Wilson seconded the motion and approved by all and carried. Councilmember Muratore stated that he would order the phones tomorrow.

Drainage and leakage issues under the clinic building have been successfully addressed by adjusting eavestroughs and hydraulic cement application, reducing the risk of costly foundation repairs.

Hospital vehicle budget discussions revealed a **previously untransformed \$20,000 payment**, aiding funding for fleet upgrades.

**Insurance:** **Heath/ Greene:** Supervisor Wilson stated that they will be going into Executive Session to discuss and will be coming out to vote.

**Zoning & Planning: Paul Muratore/ Frank Selleck:** Planning and zoning activities will resume with a planning board meeting scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and comprehensive plan at 6:00 p.m. There is going to be a ZBA hearing first one since 2018 on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00p.m. for a variance hearing.

**East Sidney Lake: Heath/ Selleck:** Seasonal maintenance includes clearing drainage and preparation for spring projects, supported by new equipment like the excavator, and stored indoors for winter.

**Finance: Paul Muratore/ Eric Wilson:** Finance reports show the town is close to budget targets at year-end, with minor last-minute adjustments expected, indicating stable fiscal management.

The board discussed the need to identify appropriate budget lines to cover emergency truck purchases without disrupting critical road maintenance funds, emphasizing fiscal responsibility alongside urgent safety needs.

**IT: Eric Wilson / Paul Muratore:** Nate’s request for a remote temperature monitoring system in the town hall boiler room was underway to prevent pipe freezes and heating failures, with pricing and installation in progress.

A weather station was installed on the roof of the building, and they need the contract signed and notarized.

Highway Superintendent Codey Lambrecht asked Councilmember Muratore for a quote about how a temperature monitoring system for his boiler room.

DMV: having programs with their fax machine. Nated stated that the fax machine is old, so it might be the machine.

**DCO liaison: Kevin Greene: Uneventful** month, did some yearly training, I asked for some feedback, there are some new legislative things happening.

**Justice: Bill Heath / Frank Selleck:** Have a new judge starting January 1st, Jennifer Ruling.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:**

My name is Kim Ayes, as most of you know, those of you who don't know who I am, I have been a resident of Sidney for most of my life, with a small period when I lived in Bainbridge and Masonville. I had been approached previously to run for the seats that you currently sit in, and I had a question as to what training is required to hold the position that you hold. I was shocked what I was told that unlike when I served on the Board of Education there's absolutely no requirement for training to be a Town Board member and that is was very concerning to me and I found it to be critical that I made it a question at the Meet the Candidates event at the Community y Cultural Center as Eric knows, he was there and I brought that up and Kevin was in attendance. The election has occurred and my concern about the lack of training for members of the board was brought into glaring and extreme light when I watched the budget hearing held on November 6<sup>th</sup>. I was watching Zoom and I was horrified to see the Town Attorney Joseph Ermeti state he could not ethically speak about the budget as he was therefore resigning immediately. Not a single board member spoke up. Supervisor Wilson "stated that we're not to speak up" and the reminded him that in order to resign, he needed to do so in the manner provide by section 31 of the Public Officer's Law. Mr. Ermeti is an attorney, he is the town attorney, he knows how to resign. The manners provided is a written letter submitted to the Town Clerk, as far as I know he is yet to submit this letter. You need to know and you need to do better. You allowed him to proceed to speak about the budget, about the performance of specific employees by name and their work product in open session and their salary and if they deserved a raise. And it is a shame that the only person to object to this was a person in the audience not a board member, that should understand how open meetings work and how unethical Mr. Ermeti comments were. It should be noted that based on his actions at the budget hearing, I have filed a complaint with the Attorney Grievance Committee for the third Judicial Department, I also mentioned in my complaint the conflict of interest in having Mr. Ermeti as the Town Attorney and the County Public Defender in reviewing the offers the state has available. This board needs to take advantage of the free training available. Certified Town Official programs are available to

all of you. There are ten subject areas. Assessor, RPT issues, Attorney legal issues, Board members, Clerks, Code enforcement, Justice, Courts, Planning and Zoning, Superintendent of Highways, Supervisors and Tax Collectors receiver of taxes for you to understand what it is that you are responsible for. Councilmember Paul Muratore asked to speak stating that “actually we are required” to take training, four hours a year, I am going for the CTO certification, I have been going to certifications with Frank Selleck for the last three years. And prior to me being on board, I went with Frank Selleck to multiple planning and zoning classes. Kim asked “so you are already CTO? Councilmember Muratore state “I am working on my CTO, I have few more credits to get, but I am going to get my CTO. Kim Ayes: So, when the Town Attorney started speaking and said that he was resigning orally, you did not say to him “stop” Sheila do we have a letter from him indicating that he is resigning? Councilmember Muratore: No, I understand what you are saying, but I think with the situation with Joe Ermeti, I think the entire board was just like what just happened. You have to look at both sides; we are very upset that he left. I am not certain if he did give a letter to Sheila. Is that the case? Sheila: No, I have not received anything. Supervisor Wilson: Nobody knew about it. Councilmember Muratore: I will make him aware of the situation. Kim Ayes: But in the meantime, he unethically spoke about two Town Employees in a public hearing and slandered them. And it is your job to make sure that does not happen. Supervisor Wilson: At this point he resigned and if you read the Town Law manual and if you read it, which we have, we are not supposed to comment, that’ 101and you can look it up if you don’t believe me. But you are supposed to simply vent, you are not supposed to give your own opinion on it, so forth. So, we did nothing wrong, we did what we were supposed to do. Kim Ayes: He had not resigned. Supervisor Wilson: He officially resigned. Kim Ayes: His resignation has to be done in the manner provided by section 31 of Public Officers Law, which is to provide a letter to the Town Clerk. That is the only way that he can resign. And as an attorney he knows that and if you guys had the training, you would know that too. Supervisor Wilson if he had resigned, it would not have really mattered, so it is whatever. Kim Ayes: It is not whatever, those two ladies should never be subject to that, shame on you guys for not standing up for them, they work hard. Supervisor Wilson, I just told you why I didn’t, so you can keep saying, yes, they do and I didn’t agree with the way it went down, and I am sorry that it went down that way but if it was a taxpayer saying the same thing. Kim Ayes: Anybody, the first thing that would have happened is the chairperson would have said “that is not acceptable to be discussed in an open session, we do not discuss personal matters in an open session. Supervisor Wilson: I agree. Kim Ayes: Period. End of story and that is what you should have said. Instead, you told people in this audience that he had the right to question at a budget hearing, he has the right to question budget line items, he did not have the right to question specific people. Supervisor Wilson: Okay, is there anybody else tonight that has any questions?

**Executive Session:** At 8:00 p.m. Supervisor Wilson motion to go into Executive Session to discuss insurance presentations, it was second by Mr. Muratore and carried.

At 8:55 p.m. Motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Mr. Muratore and carried.

The Board reviewed both insurance quotes and decided to go with NYMIR; Motion to accepted Insurance company was made by Mr. Selleck, seconded by Mr. Muratore, and carried.

**Adjourn:** At 9:00 pm motion to adjourn made by Mr. Selleck, seconded by Mr. Muratore, and carried.

The next Regular and Organisation Board Meeting will on January 8, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila R Paul, Town Clerk