

The Combination Regular and 2026 Organizational meeting of the Sidney Town Board was called to order by Eric Wilson Town Supervisor at 7:00 p.m. January 8, 2026 in the boardroom at 44 Grand Street, Sidney. Prior to the meeting, bills were audited by the Board.

Present were:

Eric Wilson	Supervisor
Codey Lambrecht	Highway Superintendent
Andrew Hinkley	Councilmember
Kevin Greene	Councilmember
Frank Selleck	Councilmember
Paul Muratore	Councilmember
Sheila R Paul	Clerk

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION/PRAYER

Supervisor Wilson welcomes Andrew Hinkley as the new Councilmember.

Oath of Office were given by Supervisor Wilson: For Frank Selleck as Deputy Supervisor, Andrew Hinkley as Town Council Member and Daniel Wilbur as Deputy Code Enforcement.

ORGANIZATIONAL PORTION OF MEETING

The following 8 -part resolution is hereby offered for its adoption.

- 1.) The regular monthly meeting of this Board shall be held on the second Thursday of the month with an audit of the bills at 6:30 p.m., and commencement of the meeting at 7:00 p.m., unless notice to the contrary is given.
- 2.) NBT Bank of Sidney is named as the official depository of Town funds with JP Morgan Chase Bank N.A. being an additional depository. Community Bank is also an official depository of Towns funds.
- 3.) The Reporter shall be the official newspaper.
- 4.) Amy Cross is hereby reappointed as Dog Control Officer: for a 1-year term expiring December 31, 2026
- 5.) Mark Lee was appointed to a five-year term on the planning board, term expiring December 31, 2030.
- 6.) Vacant is hereby appointed to a 5-year term on the Zoning Board Appeals, term expiring December 31, 2030. (have several applications and to be announced at the February Board Meeting)

7.) The mileage allowance for town personnel using their own vehicle on town business shall be at the rate of Delaware County reimbursement rate which is at this time \$.70 per mile.

8.) Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP are hereby appointed as The Sidney Town Attorney for a 1 year-term expiring December 31, 2026

Motion to Adopt 8- the part resolution was made by Mr. Muratore and seconded by Mr. Selleck and carried. AYES: E. Wilson, K. Greene, A. Hinkley NAYES: None

APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED & COMMITTEES NAMED

The Supervisor hereby announces his appointment of **Frank Selleck** as Deputy Supervisor for a 1-year term, expiring December 31, 2026.

Clerk/Collector names, **Julie Steven** as 1st Deputy Clerk/Collector, **Gina Smith** as 2nd Deputy Clerk/Collector and **Alison Barnes** 3rd Deputy Clerk/ Collector. For a 1-year term, expiring December 31, 2026.

The Supervisor announces his appointment of **Karen Kropp** as Bookkeepers to Supervisor for a 1-year term, expiring December 31, 2026.

The Supervisor announces his appointment of **Alison Wilbur** as Code Enforcement for a 3-year term, expiring December 31, 2028.

The Supervisor announces his appointment of **Daniel Wilbur** as Deputy Code Enforcement for a 3-year term, expiring December 31, 2028.

Highway: Frank Selleck/ Eric Wilson:

Hospital: Eric Wilson/ Andrew Hinkley:

Insurance: Andrew Hinkley / Kevin Greene:

Zoning & Planning: Paul Muratore/ Frank Selleck:

East Sidney Lake: Frank Selleck / Paul Muratore

Finance: Paul Muratore/ Eric Wilson

IT: Eric Wilson / Paul Muratore

Justice: Kevin Greene/ Andrew Hinkley

Grants: Kevin Greene/ Andrew Hinkley

DCO liaison: Kevin Greene

At 7:09 p.m. Mr. Muratore motion to adjourn the Organizational meeting and Mr. Selleck seconded and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, K. Greene, Andrew Hinkley. **NAYES:** None

At 7:10 p.m. Mr. Wilson Town Supervisor called the Regular Meeting to order.

APPROVE TOWN BOARD MINUTES: Regular Meeting held on December 11, 2025. We're not approved. Council member Frank Selleck asked to speak: He stated the following: December board minutes make it sound, that the council members are not doing a proper job for the Town of Sidney, Mr. Ermeti comments fall under the First Amendments of the Constitution that is Freedom of Speech. As a third-term member of the Sidney Town Council, I stand for high standards, common sense and empathy with being transparent. Please let us move forward in the New Year. Council Member Paul Muratore also had a few issues with the December board minutes, which will be corrected and sent out and voted on at the February Board meeting.

2025 APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

General A Fund Voucher: 25-502 thru 25-523: in the amount of \$ **14,195.80** Motion by Mr. Selleck seconded by Mr. Muratore and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, K. Greene, A. Hinkley. **NAYES:** None

ESL: 25-18: Amount of \$ 1,736.04 Motion by Mr. Muratore and seconded by Mr. Selleck and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, K. Greene, A. Hinkley. **NAYES:** None

Total General Fund Vouchers: \$ 15,931.84

DA Fund: 25-141 thru 25-153: Amount of 102,078.98 Motion by Mr. Muratore and seconded by Mr. Selleck and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, K. Greene, A. Hinkley. **NAYES:** None.

Total Highway Fund Vouchers: 102,078.98

CM Hospital Fund: 25-255 thru 25-266: Amount of 47,674.90 Motion by Mr. Selleck and seconded by Mr. Muratore and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, K. Greene, A. Hinkley. **NAYES:** None

Total General Vouchers: \$ 165,685.74

2026 APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

General A Fund: 26-1 thru 26-9: in the amount of \$ 7,691.32. Motion by Mr. Selleck and seconded by Mr. Muratore and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, K. Greene, A. Hinkley. **NAYES:** None.

General B Fund: 25-1 in the amount of \$9.80. Motion by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Muratore and carried. **AYES:** F. Selleck, K. Greene, A. Hinkley. **NAYES:** None.

ESL: 26-1 in the amount of \$182.13. Motion by Mr. Selleck and seconded by Mr. Muratore and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, K. Greene, A. Hinkley. **NAYES:** None.

SC Lighting: 26-1 in the amount of \$ 396.09. Motion by Mr. Greene and seconded by Mr. Selleck and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, P. Muratore, A. Hinkley. **NAYES:** None.

Total General Vouchers: 8,279.34

Highway DA Fund Vouchers: 26-1 in the amount of \$ 10,132.00. Motion by Mr. Selleck and seconded by Mr. Muratore and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, K. Greene, A. Hinkley. **NAYES:** None

Total Highway Vouchers: \$ 10,132.00

CM Hospital Fund Vouchers: 26-1 thru 25- in the amount of \$ **3,326.40**. Motion by Mr. Muratore was seconded by Mr. Selleck and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, K. Greene, A. Hinkley. **NAYES:** None.

Total Vouchers paid: \$ 21,737.00

CORRESPONDENCE:

REPORTS/DISTRIBUTED:

Monthly reports of Supervisor, Bookkeeper and Town Clerk. Clerk is submitting checks totaling in \$ **1738.00** fees collected during December 2025.

REPORTS/ORAL

HIGHWAY- Highway Superintendent Codey Lambrecht: The past month has been extremely busy for the Highway Department; due to all the weather we've had. Most days have been constant snow removal along with working on trucks that were down or needed maintenance. After the last board meeting, we reached out to dealers for a truck quote and were able to secure one that came in about \$ 10,000 less than the original quote I submitted. That truck should be up and together within the next couple of weeks. Other than that, we're doing what we can to keep up with everything. The weather has been nonstop, and we've gone through a lot of materials including salt, sand and diesel.

SUPERVISOR- Eric Wilson:

BOOKKEEPER- Karen Kropp: Nothing to report.

TOWN CLERK- Sheila Paul: Tax Season has begun.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Highway: Frank Selleck/ Eric Wilson: Need truck will help, as have aging fleet

Hospital: Andrew Hinkley/ Eric Wilson: Hope to get some more tenants. Council Member Paul Muratore question if we received anything from T-Mobile. (I stated that I was not aware of anything)

Insurance: Andrew Hinkley/ Kevin Greene: We are back with NYMIR. Supervisor Wilson stated that we should get into Bill from NYMIR, as the oil tank for the building needs to be replaced, as it's 30 to 40 years old.

Zoning & Planning: Paul Muratore/ Frank Selleck: Meetings are scheduled on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The Comprehensive committee meets at 6:00 p.m. before the planning board meeting.

A ZBA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 13th at 6:00 p.m. We will also be setting up interviews to fill the vacant position on the ZBA committee.

East Sidney Lake: Muratore/ Selleck: Report from John Nolan the Lakes' manager. We need to discuss park fees for the upcoming year with Council members. There are about 20-30 dead ash trees that have been taken down this year. Have plenty of volunteers to help with electrical projects and other work around the park once the weather cooperates.

Finance: Paul Muratore/ Eric Wilson: We ended up very close to our budget numbers, there probably be some adjustment and generally financial year end reports are not done, probably in the next 2 months. But we are in good shape.

IT: Eric Wilson / Paul Muratore: Need to work with N. Ouimet to set up his phone, so he can monitor the temperature in Town Building.

Spoke with Peggy at the DMV regarding fax machine and the machine was purchased last year. I don't feel it's the fax machine, I think it's communication issue and will need to contact Gabbit to discuss.

Grant: Kevin Greene/ Andrew Hinkley: Called Delaware Opportunities to check the status on the CDBG Grant. Currently there are no announcements.

Justice: Kevin Greene/ Andrew Hinkley: nothing to report

DCO liaison: Kevin Greene: The past month has been busy. Had a long discussion with Amy. She had training last month about new shelter regulations and worries about the repercussion of the regulation. The regulations make it difficult for the small-town shelter to stay open. Amy had an issue with a dog that needed to be euthanized. Amy is the DCO for several other towns besides Sidney.

NEW BUSINESS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council member Paul Muratore made the following statement:

Before we get into this, I just want to say a few things.

Everyone here cares about this town. I know emotions have been high and there are strong opinions, but I truly believe most people want what's best for the community and for town government to function properly.

That said, it would be unrealistic to ignore that there are also individuals who, whether intentionally or unintentionally, contribute to confusion or attempt to undermine the process rather than improve it. My goal tonight is not to engage in that or add fuel to it.

There's been a lot said over the last couple of meetings, and some of that confusion stems from how events are documented and communicated. My goal tonight isn't to point fingers or escalate anything. It's to clarify the record so we're all working from the same set of facts.

I also want to be clear and respectful about the Town Clerk's role as custodian of the town's records — getting the record right isn't about blame, it's about accuracy so we can move forward.

Once the facts are clear, it becomes much easier for all of us to focus on continuity and doing the work we were elected to do.

That's my intent tonight, and I appreciate everyone taking the time to listen.

The first issue is whether the former Town Attorney actually resigned. He did. A resignation does not depend on a specific format or a piece of paper. Under New York law and long-standing public-office principles, a resignation occurs when someone clearly communicates their intent to step away and then ceases performing the duties of the office. That happened here.

There is no law that allows a town to force an attorney—or any town official or employee—to continue serving simply because documentation did not immediately follow. When paperwork lags reality, it can create confusion, but it does not change what actually occurred.

For clarity, the former Town Attorney had already resigned before making any public comments during the meeting. His remarks were made after he stepped away from the role and therefore were made solely as a private citizen and taxpayer. Whether people agree or disagree with what he said is separate from the fact that he was no longer acting in any official capacity.

Once a resignation occurs, the issue becomes documentation, not enforcement. That's where process and role clarity matter. The Town Clerk's Office serves as the custodian of the town's official records, and accurate documentation is critical. When records clearly reflect events as they happen, issues tend to remain manageable. When they don't, routine matters can escalate into unnecessary conflict.

I also need to address the claim that the former Town Attorney acted "unethically." Ethics violations are not determined by opinion or frustration. They require a formal finding through the appropriate professional process. No such finding exists. Disagreement with someone's actions or comments does not, by itself, make them unethical.

Those comments included concerns involving his son and interactions with the Town Clerk's Office. Whether one agrees or disagrees with his perspective is not the issue here, and I am not weighing in on the merits of that claim. The only relevant point is that the remarks were made after his resignation and therefore not in any official capacity.

I also want to correct the statement that this board is "not trained." That is false. Board members are required to complete annual training, including a minimum four-hour course each year focused on governance and compliance. Many of us complete far more than the minimum. To suggest otherwise misrepresents the record and the commitment of this board.

The path forward is not blame. It is clarity. It is tightening procedures where needed and ensuring the record keeps pace with reality so governance remains stable and focused.

That is where my and the boards focus remains.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Sidney resident Rob Pomeroy brought up the subject about road signage regarding the Amish buggies, as there have been some near misses on County Route 23. Supervisor Wilson stated that he would discuss the matter with the county.

Adjourn: At 8:21 p.m. Mr. Wilson motioned to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Mr. Muratore and carried. AYES: B. Heath, F. Selleck, K. Greene. NAYES: None

The next Regular Board Meeting will on February 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila R Paul, Town Clerk