

The Regular meeting of the Sidney Town Board Public Hearing was called to order by Eric Wilson Town Supervisor at 7:00 p.m. May 14, 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
Frank Selleck	Councilman
Kevin Greene	Councilman
Andrew Hinkley	Councilman
Paul Muratore	Absent
Sheila R Paul	Clerk

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION/PRAYER

At 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing was called to order by Town Supervisor Wilson: *NY PLAYS Grant for Sidney Center Park*

The town is actively pursuing a grant to significantly upgrade the Sidney Center Park with new equipment and infrastructure enhancements.

- Grant application for \$100,000 park improvements with a \$20,000 town match aims to install a new playground structure for ages 5 to 12, a permanent shade structure, and improved safety surfacing
 - o The grant focuses solely on playground and site improvements, excluding creek repairs and pedestrian bridges due to regulatory constraints
 - o Past upgrades from 2019-2022 included a pavilion, walking trail, basketball court resurfacing, and a 10-station fitness trail, all completed for under \$50,000 with donated labor and materials
 - o The town's in-kind contributions and recent volunteer work may count toward the required 20% match, strengthening the grant application
 - o The grant money is guaranteed to benefit Sidney Center Park as part of the southern tier funding focus, encouraging continued investment
- Project scope excludes large infrastructure like washrooms or septic systems due to DEC regulations and grant rules
 - o Compostable toilets were discussed as a potential alternative but require further investigation and approval
 - o Water and electric access issues limit adding permanent restroom facilities under current grant and regulatory conditions
 - o The grant award decision is expected by August, allowing timely project implementation if successful
- Concerns about eligible expenses and grant restrictions were raised, ensuring compliance with rules about ineligible items like shredded playground mulch and focusing funds on the designated project area.
 - o Alternative Park locations like East Sydney Lake or Keith Clark Park were noted as ineligible under this grant's terms

At 7:31 p.m. Supervisor Wilson made a motion to come out of Public Hearing, and it was seconded by Mr. Greene and Carried. **AYES:** F. Selleck, A. Hinkley. **NAYES:** None

At 7:31 p.m. Supervisor Wilson order the regular board meeting to Order.

APPROVE TOWN BOARD MINUTES: Organization Meeting & Regular Meeting held on April 9, 2026. Motion to accepted minutes, by Mr. Selleck seconded by Mr. Greene and carried.

AYES: E. Wilson, A. Hinkley **NAYES:** None

2026 APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

General A Fund: 26-123 thru 26-157: in the amount of \$ 24,449.46. Motion by Mr. Selleck and seconded by Mr. Greene and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, A. Hinkley. **NAYES:** None.

General B Fund: 26-7 thru 26-10: amount of \$ 445.99. Motion by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Wilson and carried. **AYES:** F. Selleck, K. Greene. **NAYES:** None

ESL: 26-18 thru 26-30 in the amount of \$ 7,055.31. Motion by Mr. Selleck and seconded by Mr. Hinkley and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, A. Hinkley. **NAYES:** None.

SC Lighting: 26-5 in the amount of \$ 403.09 Motion by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Greene and carried. **AYES:** F. Selleck, K. Greene. **NAYES:** None.

Total General Vouchers: \$ 32,353.85

Highway DA Fund: 26-55 thru 26-64 is the amount of \$ 4,025.09 Motion by Mr. Selleck and second by Mr. Hinkley and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, K. Greene. **NAYES:** None

Highway DB Fund: 26-5 thru 26-9 in the amount of \$ 25,886.07 Motion by Mr. Greene and seconded by Mr. Selleck and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, A. Hinkley. **NAYES:** None

Total Highway Vouchers: \$ 29,911.16

CM Hospital Fund: 26-63 thru 26-87 in the amount of \$ 29,900.83 Motion by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Greene and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, F. Selleck. **NAYES:** None

Total Vouchers: \$ 92,165.84

CORRESPONDENCE:

REPORTS/DISTRIBUTED:

Monthly reports of Supervisor, Bookkeeper and Town Clerk. Clerk is submitting checks totaling in **\$ 2,328.00** fees collected during April 2026.

REPORTS/ORAL

HIGHWAY- Highway Superintendent Codey Lambrecht: Busy with maintenance and seasonal preparation work.

The clean-up days went very well.

The Department is getting equipment prepared to begin mowing township roadsides for the season. Also continued work on Wood and Gifford roads and will keep making progress in those areas as conditions allow.

In approximately two weeks, we plan to begin changing out cross pipes in several locations throughout the township.

Aside from those projects, crews are continuing to repair and address washouts throughout the town as needed.

Question about the gas and fuel bids: market price and call around for best price.

SUPERVISOR- Eric Wilson: Submitted annual financial reports to the state.

BOOKKEEPER- Karen Kropp: Nothing to report.

TOWN CLERK- Sheila Paul: 2026 taxes are done and unpaid taxes have been sent back to The Treasurer office in Delhi, NY. Collected 84%, low usually collect around 90% in the past.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Highway: Frank Selleck/ Eric Wilson: Nothing to report

Hospital Andrew Hinkley / Eric Wilson: Was looking to move the Senior meals into the hospital but decided to move it to the Community Center as the lease is in discussions.
Possible tentative

Insurance: Kevin Greene/ Andrew Hinkley: Sexual harassment training was completed for people that attended. Julie Stevens and Kevin Greene are the new compliance officers passed down by Frank Selleck. Bill VanGorder provided all the relevant documents and some suggestions for better risk management. We will reach out to those who weren't able to attend.

- **Zoning & Planning: Paul Muratore/ Frank Selleck:** The board is considering temporary moratoriums on data centers, commercial solar farms, and battery storage due to environmental and community concerns. Consensus emerged to impose a one-year moratorium on data centers, solar farms, and battery storage facilities pending further information.
 - o Concerns include high water and electricity demand of data centers, fire hazards from lithium battery storage, and potential environmental impacts from solar farms on farmland and forest land
 - o Surrounding towns have adopted similar moratoriums, suggesting regional caution and precedent
- Solar farms are seen as beneficial when placed on brownfields or non-arable land, but restrictions in New York may limit grazing livestock under panels.
 - o Three-phase power requirements increase installation costs and complicate feasibility for some projects
 - o Local solar projects like Amphenol's private solar field help offset utility costs but are limited in scale
 - o Concerns were raised about potential power transmission line expansions through state lands, opposed by conservation groups to prevent forest clearing and habitat disruption. The Delaware County Conservation Council is actively opposing such developments

Pipeline and Energy Infrastructure Debate

The board discussed the Constitution pipeline's uncertain future and its local impact, balancing economic benefits and environmental concerns.

- The Constitution pipeline project remains contentious, with no official town stance but ongoing public debate
 - o Issues include previous landowner contracts expiring, state moratoriums on fracking, and community opposition
 - o Pipeline proponents cite potential benefits for local businesses, schools, and hospitals with natural gas access and cost savings
- Board members noted that eminent domain use and environmental risks remain key community concerns
 - o Past pipeline efforts faced strong opposition, but legal and regulatory decisions ultimately allowed construction
 - o Some local landowners retain mineral rights and are challenging state bans on fracking
- The pipeline is primarily a transmission line with no current plans for local taps, but future industrial use could change that
 - o Economic benefits may be limited unless major facilities like AI centers invest in tapping the line
- The debate encourages exploring green energy alternatives, including solar panel installations on public buildings
 - o Challenges include high installation and maintenance costs, especially for solar panels on flat roofs requiring roof replacement or repair

East Sidney Lake: Frank Selleck/ Paul Muratore: Have successfully installed 21 new RV electrical panels and water lines throughout the front overflow section.

The Carpenters Union workday was on April 25th, 2026, and they installed the new metal roof that was damaged.

3 New 86-gallon water pressure tanks and chlorination injection port for the water system were installed to meet the requirements of NYDOH.

The park opened on May 1st, 2026, for seasonal campers.

1 way back flow fittings have been installed on all the campsites.

DEC transport was renewed for this year.

Monthly water samples were sent out for testing on May 6th, 2026, and will continue through September 2026.

Finance: Paul Muratore/ Eric Wilson: Looking at upcoming policy updates will focus on establishing clear investment guidelines to optimize the management of town funds and resources. Calling Executive session to discuss.

IT: Eric Wilson / Paul Muratore: Nothing to report

Grant: Kevin Greene/ Andrew Hinkley: Schedule the public hearing to apply for the CDBG grant on June 11th, 2026.

The Town is now registered with SFS (Statewide financial system)

Mr. Greene motion for an approval for Resolution No. 002-2026 Grant Application for the purpose of Updating and Improving Sidney Center Park, the motion was seconded by Mr. Selleck and

carried. AYES: E. Wilson, A. Hinkley. NAYES: None

TOWN OF SIDNEY

44 Grand Street
Sidney, New York 13839
PHONE: 607-561-2334
FAX: 607-561-2335

RESOLUTION NO. 002-2016

TITLE: GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF UPDATING AND IMPROVING SIDNEY CENTER PARK

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Sidney supports the improvement of existing outdoor recreation opportunities within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation together with the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York has made funds available through a competitive grant application process to support municipalities through the New York Places for Learning, Activity, and Youth Socialization (NY PLAYS) Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Sidney Center Park serves as an important recreational resource for local families and children in Sidney and surrounding rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Sidney is seeking funding to improve the existing community playground and park grounds located at 52 Center Street, Sidney Center, New York 13839; and

WHEREAS, the existing playground equipment and ground surfacing have aged significantly and no longer adequately meet the recreational and safety needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, the funding request will be submitted for use to complete several critical playground and site improvements, including:

- Purchase and installation of a new playground structure for children 5-12;
- Purchase and installation of a permanent shade cover structure;
- Removal of existing mulch and replacement with improved safety surfacing

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Sidney hereby approves the preparation of the grant application to the NYPLAYS program to promote the Sidney Center playground improvement project.

NY PLAYS Grant SC Park

High-Cost Priorities:

1. **Shade structure:** very little shade in the park and especially at the playground area - in need of a permanent, standalone, rigid shade feature - Cost: \$15,000 - Sample Here: <https://willygoat.com/products/eclipse-2-post-arch-shade-structure-canopy>
2. **Play structure** (ages 5-12): with slides, climbing, natural colors/features - Cost: \$35-45,000 - Sample Here: <https://www.byopplayground.com/products/tortoise-hill>
3. **Improved ground surfacing:** use artificial turf or poured in place rubber which is more durable, maintenance free and long-lasting. Cost: \$25,000 - Sample Here: <https://www.americanparkscompany.com/poured-in-place.html>

Low-Cost Additional Elements/Features:

1. Permanent garbage cans - Cost: \$1000
2. Additional musical features - \$1500
3. Additional spring rider - \$750-1000

Subtotal: 89k

Installation costs: 10k

Contingency: 10k

Total: \$109,000

Why the Recommended Additions Would Benefit the Community:

If a grant was applied for and received for the recommendations above - this would build upon the restoration of the park which was accomplished with limited financial resources. Space in the playground area was planned for future additions such as a climbing/sliding play structure for ages 5-12. Although many trees have been planted throughout the park, it will take time for those trees to become large enough to provide shade. Also, the playground area has no shade, which is essential for safe play and for parents watching their kids play. Lastly, the playground area currently has a mulch surface, which needs to be replaced with something more permanent and less maintenance/long-term cost. Therefore, either an artificial turf or poured in place rubber would last longer and require little-to-no maintenance. It will also be safer as it provides a consistent, even surface for children to run around on with less tripping hazards.

Justice: Kevin Greene/ Andrew Hinkley: discussing employment issues in Executive Session

DCO liaison: Kevin Greene: Nothing to report currently.

NEW BUSINESS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Organize insulation delivery for town building on June 1st, 2026, and arrange volunteer help for installation.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Bob Pomeroy, a resident of Sidney and lives in Sidney Center, asked again when the County will be putting the share the road signs up in the area.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: discussing employment issues and policy updates will focus on establishing clear investment guidelines to optimize the management of town funds and resources. At 8:00 p.m.

Supervisor Wilson motion to go into Executive Session, motion was seconded by Mr. Greene and carried.

AYES: F. Selleck, A. Hinkley. NAYES: None

At 8:24 p.m. Supervisor Wilson motion to come out of Executive Session, motion was seconded by Mr. Selleck and carried. AYES: F. Selleck, K. Greene.

Adjourn:

At 8:25 p.m. Mr. Wilson motioned to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Mr. Greene and carried.

The next Regular Board Meeting will on June 11, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila R Paul, Town Clerk