

The Public Hearing of the Sidney Town Board was called to order by Eric Wilson Town Supervisor at 7:00 p.m. November 6, 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
Joseph A. Ermeti	Absent
Sheila R Paul	Clerk

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION/PRAYER

Supervisor Wilson opens the Public Hearing on the 2026 Preliminary Budget and asked if anyone has any comments.

Mr. Ermeti stated that since I am going to speak on the budget, I don't believe that ethically I can do that as your Town attorney. So, I am resigning effective tonight (November 6, 2025) And specifically I want to speak to the Town Clerk's line in the budget. A few months ago, my son came in and took a day off from work. He came in and he asked for a birth certificate. Both Sheila and Julie were here, and he was told that he couldn't get a birth certificate because the printers were down. Now I do not believe that every printer in this office, in this building, was down. I believe that this was done out of vindictiveness towards my son's mother, who was the ex-Town Clerk. So, after my son took the day off, he went back to work and eventually assumed the printer was fixed. But we got no phone call that, you know, your birth certificate is ready, you can come down and pick it up. I didn't get a call, my ex didn't get a call, and my son didn't get a call. I mentioned this to the three members, the Republican members of the board and nothing was done. Nothing was said to Sheila. Nothing was, she wasn't held accountable for anything. And personally, the \$ 30,000 a year you pay me to be here isn't worth the principle of that event, because there's no doubt in my mind that it was done out of sheer vindictiveness. So, let's say for a moment that the printers didn't work, there's still a typewriter in this building and that the birth certificate could have been typed, but it wasn't. They both just sat there, not getting out of their chairs, and they did nothing. Now we all know that Sheila works about three days a week, on average, if that. And you're proposing going forward and rewarding this person with a raise. She doesn't deserve a raise, she shouldn't be given a raise in this budget yet, you're going to do that anyway. Why?

At this time, a resident state "I have a question" Mr. Ermeti comment "I'm not done."

So, you know it always comes back that, you know, you can't dictate my hours, I'm an elected official, that's true, but you don't have to give a raise when somebody's not working up to their full potential. And as far as her assistant. What does she do other than be a buddy to Sheila. Now, I've been doing this for about 30 years, and it always comes back. Well, I need help during tax season. Well, no you don't. You're paid for a salary position; you might have to work overtime during tax season to get it done. That position is not needed, it's not required, and it should be cut from the budget, not an additional raise on top of that. So, as a taxpayer, I object to you giving any raise at all to the Town Clerk and I object to you

even having a line for a Deputy Town Clerk because it's unnecessary and not needed. A resident asked if they could ask their question now? Mr. Ermeti stated "sure."

The resident asked, why wouldn't you have come back down here with your son and talked to Sheila and Julie, being that you work together instead of getting mad. Mr. Eremit state "I am not mad" the resident continues to state that this isn't the place, and not sure where, but here isn't the place. Mr. Ermeti stated "that because you don't know the full story" Mr. Ermeti continue to say, there have been numerous times where credibility has been an issue here about bills getting paid, things going down and not working in the office and members of the board have had evidence in front them to controvert the excuse that was given at these meetings, and not of them brought it to light. The resident stated that you have evident that this has happened, and Mr. Ermeti stated, "I do", Resident stated "I still don't think is this is the place for this. Mr. Ermeti question, well, then what is the place for it? I mean, if you feel your family is wronged by a public official, where's the place to do it? The Resident "I don't know, but it's not in front of a budget meeting.

Mr. Ermeti stated that "Well, this is what the budget meetings for. At this time Supervisor Wilson, stated. It is, you know in all fairness, we know that what. What he's saying is, you know, one of the purposes of having the public hearing is so that people, not just him, Joe specifically, but anybody that wants to address or question things and so forth. But I mean, I'm sorry that, that you are resigning and it's kind of catching me off guard, and I'd like to discuss if further if we can. Mr. Ermeti stated. Possibly can, but I can't work in a place that lacks principle. I'd rather go hungry; you know I just. I don't need it. I am disappointed with you, all of you. Nobody's goanna do something like this to my son and not have it hurt. Supervisor Wilson said, "All I can say, I mean, it wasn't that it went undiscussed, the only person I had to discuss it with was Frank, as he was here when they did and didn't see it quite that exact same way. And I didn't realize that it was felt that strongly about or certainly would have said something or tried to at least to bring you two together beforehand. I am sorry that it turned out the was that I did.

Mr. Ermeti stated, "Well, thank you for hearing me out and good luck on your vote. Second resident ask for she could say something, her statement was "Joe, thank you for all the work you have don all these years. I appreciate it.

Supervisor Wilson asked if anybody had any questions about the budget, and does everyone have a copy of Preliminary budget?

Mr. Crawford Court Clerk hours on the back page of the budget, where it says Court Clerk 1 and Court Clerk 2 could have the total hours per year for the Court Clerks. As there should be more then 2 Court Clerk, so you will have a backup, for example: one Court Clerk is on vacation and the other Court Clerk gets sick, you would have some to cover. Like nearby town Hancock, maintain a dedicated court clerk plus backup. As Cindy was the Court Clerk in Hancock, they didn't place any line item on their budget, so she only is a Court Clerk in Bainbridge, beside here in Sidney. Mr. Crawford stated she struggles in Bainbridge, being the only Court Clerk for the Town and Village. As things don't, get done, like billing, paperwork, people don't get their information.

Mr. Crawford also asked about , where do you get the funds to keep tax rates flat? Supervisor Wilson answer that the bulk was the tax from the cannabis sales. The amount taxes received was much higher than what was originally budgeted, which was \$ 35,000 and it was at least double if not more. Did take some from the fund balance, but not much.

Supervisor Wilson if no more questions, I ask for a motion to approve the Preliminary budget to the 2026 Adopted. Mr. Selleck to motion to approve the Preliminary budget to 2026 Adopted and it was seconded by Mr. Heath. AYES: E. Wilson, P. Muratore . K. Greene abstain from the vote.

At 7:21 pm Supervisor Wilson motion to close the public hearing and it was second by Mr. Selleck and carried. AYES: B. Heath, K. Greene, P. Muratore. NAYES: None

At 7:22 p.m. Supervisor Wilson called the board meeting to order.

**APPROVE TOWN BOARD MINUTES:** Regular Meeting held on October 9, 2025, Motion to accepted minutes, by Mr. Selleck and seconded by Mr. Muratore and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, B. Heath, K. Greene. **NAYES:** None

**2025 APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

**General A Fund:** 25- 388 thru 25-452: in the amount of \$ 23,763.97. Motion by Mr. Heath and seconded by Mr. Selleck and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, K. Greene, Mr. Muratore **NAYES:** None

**B Fund:** 25-19 thru 25-20: in the amount of \$ 750.88. Motion by Mr. Muratore and seconded by Mr. Greene and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, F. Selleck, B. Heath. **NAYES:** None

**ESL:** 25-97 thru 25-103 in the amount of \$ 32,499.42 Motion by Mr. Selleck and seconded by Mr. Heath and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, K. Greene, P. Muratore. **NAYES:** None.

**Sidney Center Lighting:** 25-12 in the amount of \$ 381.20. Motion by Mr. Greene and second by Mr. Heath and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, F. Selleck, P. Muratore. **NAYES:** None

**Total General Vouchers: \$ 57,395.77**

**Highway DA Fund Vouchers:** 25-116 thru 25-124 in the amount of \$ 24,271.11 Motion by Mr. Muratore and seconded by Mr. Selleck and carried. **AYES** E. Wilson, K. Greene, B. Heath. **NAYES:** None

**Highway DB Fund Vouchers:** 25-57 thru 25-60 in the amount of \$ 7,996.52 Motion by Mr. Heath and seconded by Mr. Greene and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, F. Selleck, P. Muratore. **NAYES:** None

**Total Highway Vouchers: \$ 32,267.63**

**CM Hospital Fund Vouchers:** 25-208 thru 25-230 in the amount of \$ 24,053.66. Motion by Mr. Heath seconded by Mr. Muratore and carried. **AYES:** E. Wilson, F. Selleck, K. Greene. **NAYES:** None.

**Total Vouchers paid: \$ 113,717.05.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Receive information on the Youth for Christ walk, which will be held on April 18, 2026. They are asking for an approval from the Town to have the function. Mr. Wilson motion to approve this Event and it was seconded by Mr. Muratore and carried. **AYES:** F. Selleck, B. Heath. K. Greene.

**REPORTS/DISTRIBUTED:**

Monthly reports of Supervisor, Bookkeeper and Town Clerk. The clerk is submitting checks totaling in **\$ 3,496.00** fees collected during October 2025.

## REPORTS/ORAL

**HIGHWAY**- Highway Superintendent Codey Lambrecht: Over the past month, the Highway Department has been busy hauling in a substantial amount of shoulder material and completing all the shouldering work on our newly paved roads.

Going into winter operations, we've begun outfitting the trucks with winter equipment in preparation for snow.

We also have been performing numerous repairs and maintenance tasks on the trucks in the shop to ensure they're ready for the upcoming season.

I'll be asking Sheila to submit an ad to The Reporter regarding our upcoming seasonal road closures. I will forward the ad to Sheila via email so she can post it on our behalf.

**SUPERVISOR**- Eric Wilson: I want to thank everyone for participating in the election this year.

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

**TOWN CLERK**- Sheila Paul: Clerk. All is good. Will be closed on Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup> for Veterans Day.

## REPORTS

**Highway: Frank Selleck/ Eric Wilson:** Mr. Selleck asked Mr. Lambrecht Highway Superintendent, how the new hire was working out. Mr. Lambrecht replied, that he is doing well.

Councilmember Mr. Greene asked a question about ordering a new truck, seeing that it takes a few years to a truck. Supervisor Wilson replied that we could certainly start exploring it, but we need to pay for new that's coming this year.

**Hospital: Paul Muratore/ Eric Wilson:** Bassett Hospital signed a 3-year lease. The Mental Health that they have to postpone due to labor shortage.

Keeping an eye on the roofs. Need to write up some specs for materials to advertise for next year.

**Insurance: Heath/ Greene:** Schedule a special meeting for Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to hear proposals from two insurance companies.

**Zoning & Planning: Paul Muratore/ Frank Selleck:** Meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month. There will be no Comprehensive this coming month.

Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

**East Sidney Lake: Heath/ Selleck:** Manager John Nolan the excavator has been purchase and all of the electrical supplies have been purchased. Will be putting new electric panels, weather permitting.

A surprise Department of Health inspection revealed compliance issues, including leaking pressure tanks, and missing one-way hose bids to prevent backflow contamination, prompting an agreement to purchase at least 50 hose bibs by December to avoid fines.

Ongoing tree removal.

Water testing protocols include daily chlorine residual checks and monthly lab samples done.

Council member Mr. Muratore questioned on the electrical bills. Also, asked Mr. Nolan that once the smart meters are installed to take photo of them to be able to double check cost.

**Finance: Paul Muratore/ Eric Wilson:**

Nothing to report.

**IT: Eric Wilson / Paul Muratore:** Need to install a new monitor at the hospital to connect the camera system to.

Weather station has been installed on roof at the Building Town, which is tied into the National Weather Service.

Spoke with the Court regarding email account through Spectrum, which they need and old account number. Work with Town Clerk to get that information.

**DCO liaison: Kevin Greene:** She was pretty busy this month. I have worked with on some different things with neighbor disputes.

**Justice: Bill Heath / Frank Selleck:** All good.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR** A resident asked Mr. Muratore if received a response from the state regarding the weed spray. The reply was not yet.

Question as about the agenda and minutes. The reply was that minutes are on the website shortly after approval is done at Board meeting and agendas are ready the Monday before the Board Meeting.

**Adjourn:** At 8:00 pm motion to adjourn made by Mr. Selleck, seconded by Mr. Muratore, and carried.  
NAYES: E. Wilson, B. Heath, K. Greene. NAYES: none

The next Regular Board Meeting will on December 11, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila R Paul, Town Clerk