

**TOWN OF CATHARINE**  
**TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**May 19, 2026**

Members Present: Supervisor – Richard Lewis; Councilmembers – Ronald Hoffman, C. Michael Learn, Brett Reynolds.

Absent: Councilmember – Glenn Bleiler; Code Enforcement / Building Inspector – Anthony Nevone; Highway Superintendent – Marty Vondracek.

Public in attendance: Bill Fearn, Rosa Rice, Rob Halpin.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Lewis.

Public Heard: Bill Fearn questioned the status of short-term rentals, and Supervisor Lewis stated that the county has given property owners until the end of April to get registered. After the county has the registry finished, the code enforcement officers for each municipality will be required to inspect the properties. Bill Fearn shared his concerns regarding parking on Cottage Road, especially with the street being very narrow. It is difficult for emergency vehicles to get through when vehicles are parked on the street. Rosa Rice requested more signs stating no parking on the street. Rob Halpin shared that the county's role is to have the registry in place, and they have contracted with a provider to locate all the rentals currently being offered

Minutes: Minutes were approved as read.

**RESOLUTION 26-2026**

RESOLVE that the minutes of the April board meeting be accepted.

RESOLUTION by C. Michael Learn, seconded by Brett Reynolds.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

**RESOLUTION 27-2026**

RESOLVE that the April Clerk's Report be accepted as submitted to the Supervisor.

RESOLUTION by Brett Reynolds, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

**RESOLUTION 28-2026**

RESOLVE that the April Justice Report be accepted as submitted to the Supervisor.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Zoning Report: Supervisor Lewis read the report provided by Tony stating that he conducted 5 inspections, issued one permit, identified and acted upon one violation, attended training, and attended one formal meeting.

**RESOLUTION 29-2026**

RESOLVE that the April Supervisor's Report be accepted as submitted to the Supervisor.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Highway Superintendent's Report: Marty stated that they have been grading roads and hauling sand. They also did the ditch on Gulf Road. Dust oil is done except for Texas Hollow Road, and they need to do gravel in front of the residences.

RESOLUTION 30-2026

RESOLVE that the following bills be paid: G 86 – G 111 in the total sum of \$25,004.59 and H 35 – H 41 in the total sum of \$3,303.30.

RESOLUTION by Brett Reynolds, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Unfinished Business: Short-Term Rentals – See the public be heard section above for comments.

Proposed wind farm legislation – The Town Clerk will email the planning board members to have a draft ready for the Town Board to review at next month's board meeting.

New Business: – Personnel Policy updates – The board members looked at the proposed changes to the town's personnel policy. A decision will be made at the next board meeting when all members are present.

Suggested Park Rental Increases/Improvements and repairs – The Town Clerk provided the board members with information on what pavilion rentals cost throughout New York State and in the surrounding areas. The current rate is \$10 per pavilion for residents and \$25 for non-residents. The rates are significantly lower than other locations, and an increase would help with park maintenance and improvements.

RESOLUTION 31-2026

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine shall increase the price of park pavilion rentals to \$50 for residents and \$75 for non-residents, with the charge to include the rental of the pavilion and the indoor bathroom.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Brett Reynolds.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Councilmember Brett Reynolds will look at the cost for replacing the roof on the small pavilion. He will also look into clearing the brush around the large pavilion and remove several dead trees. Our highway department will deliver stone to put around the large pavilion. The benches will have new Trex boards installed to replace the old, weathered wood currently in place.

Village of Odessa Court – The board members discussed the costs to the town for hosting the Village of Odessa Court in the town hall building. The Village currently covers half of all books purchased for the court per year, and occasionally provides postage. They also pay the fee for Court Clerk and the Justice. The Town Clerk will work on providing figures for the court to operate in the Town Hall and will also look into how many cases are brought before the Town Justice Court vs the Village Justice Court on average.

Assessment Review Board vacancy – The Town needs to appoint a person to the Assessment Review Board to fill the vacancy from John Murch's departure.

RESOLUTION 32-2026

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine shall appoint Arin Walter to the Assessment Review Board for a term of 5 years to run from 5/19/2026 through 12/31/2030.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Brett Reynolds.

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes

Correspondence – The Town received a check from the County for sales tax for the first quarter in the amount of \$40,370.98.

The Town Board received a letter from Vince Turner regarding fuel price increases for mowing the town-owned properties, and he was requesting a fuel surcharge of \$10 per mowing. The board declined adding anything additional to the current contract.

The Schuyler County Planning Department sent a notice regarding a public hearing for the updated countywide Comprehensive Plan. The hearing will be held on June 8, 2026 at 6:30 at the Schuyler County Courthouse.

Brett asked Rob Halpin about weight restrictions on area bridges, questioning when the weight restrictions might be lifted for those roads. Rob wasn't sure on the details or timing but will share the information with Brett when he gets an answer.

Motion to Adjourn by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Brett Reynolds. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Kretchmer  
Town Clerk/Collector

**Next meeting June 16, 2026 at 7:00pm**