

TOWN OF CATHARINE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
June 16, 2026

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

Absent: Code Enforcement / Building Inspector – Anthony Nevone.

Public in attendance: James Allen, Chris Conolly, Kristi Allen, Rob Halpin, Roger Smalley, Bill Fearn, Joel Moore, Kyle Edele.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by Supervisor Lewis.

Public Heard: Jim Allen came in to discuss his plans for a possible small scale camping project for hunters. He is asking for input on what direction he needs to go in for approval from the town's zoning. He discussed the scope of the plan, and the difficulties with moving forward without knowing if there would be an adequate number of people interested in this type of project. The town board members asked multiple questions, and Mr. Allen answered their questions. He was advised that his next steps would involve presenting his plans to the planning board, and then they would make a recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Joel Moore, a trustee with the Village of Odessa, came to the board to determine the Town's stance on continuing to pursue a Fire District. Questions were asked and answered on both sides, with the town reiterating their continued support of this endeavor. Joel Moore asked for support in finding at least three people from the Town of Catharine who would be willing to be on the Fire District's board.

Roger Smalley came in to question the 5-acre requirement for building lots in the Town of Catharine. He stated that this is much too large, and would like it reduced, and he wanted the board members to do something about making this happen. Supervisor Lewis stated that changing this requirement is one of the changes that will be made when the zoning ordinance is changed into a local law.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as read.

RESOLUTION 33-2026

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

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

VOTE 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 Abstained – Glenn Bleiler

RESOLUTION 34-2026

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

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 35-2026

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

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

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Zoning Report: Supervisor Lewis read the report provided by Tony stating that he conducted 4 inspections, issued 2 permits, and identified and acted upon 4 violations.

RESOLUTION 36-2026

RESOLVE that the May 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 grav t h 6/10 mile, 150 loads of gravel, grade one more than lay oil, downed trees during storms, budget passed, hauling stone, half in, chips increased 13000, blacktop sched for aug, been mowing, talk about hiring a temp, someone offered to help, time with no benefits, retiree, his brother, help when they need help,

RESOLUTION 37-2026

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine approves Highway Superintendent Martin Vondracek's request to hire a temporary Motor Equipment Operator to fill the vacant position until such time as a permanent employee is hired.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

RESOLUTION 38-2026

RESOLVE that the following bills be paid: G 112 – G 129 in the total sum of \$7,183.80 and H 42 – H 50 in the total sum of \$42,587.77.

RESOLUTION by Brett Reynolds, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Unfinished Business: Short-Term Rentals – Supervisor Lewis discussed an email he received from a town resident complaining about someone running an Airbnb through their residence. He explained that short-term rentals are now being handled through the county, and we are still waiting for them to provide our town with a list. The Code Enforcement Officer will then need to inspect all of the properties for compliance. Supervisor Lewis will hear more regarding this matter at the next Council of Governments meeting.

Proposed wind farm legislation – The planning board presented a rough draft of a proposed legislation, and the board members read through the proposal. It was discussed that language about legal fees and ongoing fees wasn't mentioned in the draft, and Glenn Bleiler would like a section included that requires the applicant to commit to some sort of recreation fund or language of that nature, that would benefit the town in some way other than just taxes on the property. After these additions are made, the draft can be sent to the town's lawyer for review. A neighbor of the current Azalea Wind Farm project in Hector was present during the meeting, and stated that some of the benefits of that project include a PILOT program, and direct cash payments to the town.

Personnel Policy updates – The board members discussed the proposed changes to the personnel policy.

RESOLUTION 39-2026

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine approves the proposed changes to the Town's Personnel Policy as presented.

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

New Business: Speed Reduction Request on County Road 10 – Brett Reynolds discussed Jennifer Owlett's request for a speed reduction on County Road 10. Jennifer has tried talking with the County regarding her request, but has been denied. She requested that the town consider passing a resolution asking the county to consider the reduction.

RESOLUTION 40-2026

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine requests Schuyler County to consider a speed reduction request to the State Department of Transportation from the current 55 mph to 45 mph for the portion of County Road 10 located within the Town of Catharine.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Brett Reynolds.

VOTE 5 ayes, 0 noes

Veteran Tax Exemption – The board members read the information provided regarding the new tax exemption for 100% disabled veterans.

Motion to Adjourn by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Kretchmer
Town Clerk/Collector

Next meeting July 21, 2026 at 7:00pm