

**TOWN OF CATHARINE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
September 15, 2026**

Members Present:

- Richard Lewis, Supervisor
- Ronald Hoffman, Councilmember
- C. Michael Learn, Councilmember
- Brett Reynolds, Councilmember
- Glenn Bleiler, Councilmember

Staff Present:

- Marty Vondracek, Highway Superintendent
- Kellie Kretchmer, Town Clerk/Collector

Absent:

- Dean Hillyard, Building Inspector

Public in Attendance: Chris Conolly, Laura McDermott, Rob Halpin, Tammy Vona, Unknown visitor.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Supervisor Lewis.

Public Heard

Laura came to introduce herself to everyone on the Town Board as the new Assessor for the Town of Catharine.

RESOLUTION 52-2026: Accept August Board Minutes

- **Moved by:** Ronald Hoffman, **Seconded by:** Glenn Bleiler.
- **RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the August Board meeting be accepted as read.
- **VOTE:** 5 ayes, 0 noes. (Carried)

RESOLUTION 53-2026: Accept August Clerk's Report

- **Moved by:** Glenn Bleiler, **Seconded by:** Brett Reynolds.
- **RESOLVED**, that the August Clerk's Report be accepted as submitted to the Supervisor.
- **VOTE:** 5 ayes, 0 noes. (Carried)

RESOLUTION 54-2026: Accept August Justice Report

- **Moved by:** Ronald Hoffman, **Seconded by:** C. Michael Learn.

- **RESOLVED**, that the August Justice Report be accepted as submitted to the Supervisor.
- **VOTE:** 5 ayes, 0 noes. (Carried)

Zoning Report

Dean stated that he has issued 6 permits and one certificate of compliance. He conducted 8 construction inspections and investigated 2 complaints.

RESOLUTION 55-2026: Accept August Supervisor's Report

- **Moved by:** Glenn Bleiler, **Seconded by:** Brett Reynolds.
- **RESOLVED**, that the August Supervisor's Report be accepted as submitted.
- **VOTE:** 5 ayes, 0 noes. (Carried)

Highway Superintendent's Report

Marty stated that they graveled Carley Road, using sixteen loads of gravel. They have been taking their time mowing back the roadsides and are about half done. Grant Road paving was finished on August 27th. They have been weed eating the guardrails, and pulling shoulders on Terry Hill Road. They are waiting for the truck that is out for repairs to come back so they can finish the shoulders. They finished the chip sealing on Steam Mill Road last Wednesday; they had to come back as they were short on oil during the first visit. The new employee starts on Monday, and Marty said the town really needs to look at getting the fourth highway employee back, as a lot of time is needed to train newer, younger employees.

RESOLUTION 56-2026: Payment of Bills

- **Moved by:** Brett Reynolds, **Seconded by:** Glenn Bleiler.
- **RESOLVED**, that the following bills be paid: General Fund (G 171 – G 191) in the total sum of \$12,141.95, and Highway Fund (H 71 – H 79) in the total sum of \$123,576.99.
- **VOTE:** 5 ayes, 0 noes. (Carried)

Unfinished Business

- **Short-Term Rentals:** Supervisor Lewis stated that the county is stuck at the moment in trying to find all the available rentals in the county; so, he went on Air BnB and found over 800 listings in the county. The county only provided a list of 4 that they were able to find in the Town of Catharine. Ron stated that Air BnB is good about keeping things safe, and taking the tax for the rooms rented out. At this time, we are still waiting for the county to move forward with whatever the next step may be.
- **Proposed Wind Farm Legislation:** The proposed draft has been sent to the lawyer for review. Brett said the open house that the company held was disappointing. Unless anyone had a specific question, they didn't really speak about anything. They were just there to answer questions. The possibility of a moratorium on wind farms was discussed.
- **Veteran Tax Exemption:** The county is still working to get clarification on the details of the exemption. Tammy Vona wanted to know if this would apply to second homes, and Supervisor Lewis stated that this exemption only applies to the primary residence.

New Business

- **Fire Protection:** Supervisor Lewis stated that he talked with the Mayor of Montour, and there is a possibility that the Village of Montour Falls would be able to provide fire protection for a more affordable amount than what is currently being paid to the Village of Odessa. There was discussion about the lack of volunteers causing an issue for multiple villages and fire departments. Supervisor Lewis stated that the request for a quote was delivered to the Village Mayor, and it will be put before their board at their next meeting. We should have a response by the next board meeting.

Budget Workshops

The Board discussed possible dates for a budget workshop. Everyone checked their schedules, and Tuesday the 22nd from 12-2pm will work. Glenn asked for year-end estimates so that he can start working on the numbers, and Kellie will ask Becki to work on getting the numbers to Glenn.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Glenn Bleiler. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Kretchmer
Town Clerk/Collector

Next Meeting: October 20, 2026, at 7:00 pm.