

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MINUTES VAN ETTEN TOWN BOARD  
VAN ETTEN TOWN HALL  
6 GEE STREET, VAN ETTEN, NY  
JULY 10, 2025**

RESOLUTIONS THIS MEETING  
BEGIN **55-25** THRU **58-25**

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF TOWN OF VAN ETTEN WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY TOWN SUPERVISOR GEORGE KETURI AT 7:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF TOWN BOARD**

HAROLD SHOEMAKER-COUNCILPERSON/DEPUTY SUPV.  
FRED SWAYZE, JR.-COUNCILPERSON  
PENNY FLORA-COUNCILPERSON  
ANDREW LARISON-COUNCILPERSON  
GEORGE KETURI-SUPERVISOR

**TOWN OFFICERS**

BOB EASTWOOD-H'WAY SUPT  
SALLY WHITSON-ASSESSOR-EXC  
DAWN ROSE-TOWN CLERK  
BRANDON DECKER-CODE ENF-EXC  
DENEEN DILLER- TOWN HIST  
HEATHER GABLE- WATER OPERATOR  
DUSTIN ROSE-CEMETERY CURATOR AND  
DOG CONTROL OFFCR.-EXC  
DONNA REDSICKER-WATER CLERK-EXC  
LEON TUTTLE-TOWN JUSTICE-EXC

OTHERS PRESENT: GEORGE DILLER, REBECCA WRIGHT, MATT FREEZE (MORNING TIMES), ROBIN ACKERLEY, FRED SWAYZE, KAREN FRICK, ANGELA DENNISON, TIM GABLE, JANET SAYRE, DAN BEST, BECKY BEST AND PETER SECONDO.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LARISON AND SECONDED BY SHOEMAKER TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES FOR REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON JUNE 12, 2025. ALL AYE. CARRIED

**CORRESPONDENCE READ AND ON FILE WITH THE TOWN CLERK**

- PANTHER PRIDE DAY JULY 26 11A – 2P IN BANFIELD SQUARE.
- CHEMUNG COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF-OCTOBER 11; PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

**REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS:**

-TOWN JUSTICE-NO REPORT

- CHECK # 1066 FOR \$1,538. PRESENTED TO G. KETURI/TOWN SUPV.

-ASSESSOR-SALLY WHITSON-REPORT FILED

-BUDGET OFFICER-GEORGE KETURI-REPORT FILED AND KETURI READ FIRST PAGE OF JUNE 2025 BUDGET REPORT.

-TOWN CLERK-DAWN ROSE-REPORT FILED

- CHECK FOR \$384.48 PRESENTED TO KETURI/TOWN SUPERVISOR.

-TOWN HISTORIAN-DENEEN DILLER-REPORT FILED

-PARK COMMISSION-NO REPORT-HAROLD SHOEMAKER

-DOG CONTROL-DUSTIN ROSE-REPORT FILED

-BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER-NO REPORT FILED

-BUILDINGS & GROUNDS-HAROLD SHOEMAKER-

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- SHOEMAKER NOTED NEW "TOWN OF VAN ETTEN" SIGN WILL BE INSTALLED ON CLOCK TOWER NEXT FRIDAY, JULY 18.
- CF&R FIRE CO-NO REPORT FILED
  - SWAYZE, JR. ASKED FOR REPORT FROM CF&R
- HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT-BOB EASTWOOD-REPORT FILED
  - EASTWOOD PRESENTED CHIPS 284 AGREEMENT IN AMOUNT OF \$176,000 FOR PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS.
  - EASTWOOD HANDED OUT JUNE 2025 HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT INVENTORY LIST.
- TOWN SUPERVISOR-GEORGE KETURI-VERBAL REPORT
  - KETURI NOTED NEW BOOKKEEPER IS WORKING GREAT.
  - KETURI STATED MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ACCOUNT FOR TOWN OF VAN ETTEN (PER RESOLUTION 49-25) HAS BEEN CREATED.
  - KETURI RECEIVED CHECKS AS FOLLOWS:
    - WEITSMAN FOR SCRAP #107290 IN AMOUNT OF \$248.29 AND #107291 IN AMOUNT OF \$102.98
    - SAFETY KLEEN #80011785 IN AMOUNT OF \$2,714.31 FOR DOUBLE PAYMENT AND #80011772 FOR ERROR IN BILLING SALES TAX.
    - AMERIPRIDE #130481 IN AMOUNT OF \$11.56 SETTLEMENT PAYMENT.
  - CHEMUNG COUNTY SHERIFF STATISTIC REPORT FOR JUNE 2025.
- WATER OPERATOR-HEATHER GABLE-REPORT FILED
- WATER DIRECTOR-HAROLD SHOEMAKER- REPORT FILED AND SHOEMAKER READ FIRST PAGE OF JUNE 2025 WATER BUDGET REPORT.
  - SHOEMAKER RECEIVED QUOTE FROM RAFA SYSTEMS IN AMOUNT OF \$17,430.76 (MINUS \$1,291.16 FOR NYS SALES TAX) IN REFERENCE TO UPGRADING TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT FROM WATER TANK TO WELL HOUSE; ONE MORE QUOTE TO FOLLOW TO ADHERE TO PROCUREMENT POLICY.
  - SHOEMAKER STATED NEW SUBMERSIBLE PUMP IS DUE FOR DELIVERY SOON; GABLE ASKED WHAT WARRANTY STATUS WAS AND SHOEMAKER WILL INVESTIGATE.
  - GABLE RECOMMENDED GRANT FUNDING FOR NEW UPGRADE ON EQUIPMENT.
- CEMETERY-DUSTIN ROSE-REPORT FILED

ALL OFFICERS WRITTEN REPORTS ARE ON FILE WITH TOWN CLERK.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SWAYZE, JR. AND SECONDED BY LARISON TO ACCEPT THE OFFICER'S REPORTS AS PRESENTED. ALL AYE. CARRIED

**AUDIT COMMITTEE-GENERAL-H. SHOEMAKER**

A ACCT: \$22,548.52  
FIRE: \$

**HIGHWAY/WATER-H. SHOEMAKER**

DA ACCTS: \$12,752.27  
FX (WATER): \$2,048.50

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**BUDGET ADJUSTMENT**

**RESOLUTION #55-25**

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN AUTHORIZES A BUDGET MODIFICATION TO INCREASE DA3501 (CHIPS-REVENUE) AND DA5112.4 (CHIPS-EXPENDITURE) BY \$115,000.

SPONSOR-SHOEMAKER. SECONDED-SWAYZE, JR. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., FLORA, LARISON AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KETURI AND SECONDED BY LARISON AND CARRIED TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS AS RECOMMENDED BY AUDIT COMMITTEE OF SWAYZE, JR., AND SHOEMAKER. ALL AYE. CARRIED.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- SHOEMAKER STATED HAEFELE BROADBAND PROJECT IS PROGRESSING; HAEFELE HAS STARTED TO SET POLES ON BLAKE HILL.
- CLERK ROSE STATED MEETING WITH NYSEDA REPRESENTATIVE NEXT WEEK TO INITIATE GRANT FOR NEW TOWN HALL FRONT DOORS.
- SWAYZE, JR. STATED TOWN BOARD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE AS FOLLOWS: FRED SWAYZE, JR., PENNY FLORA, BRANDON DECKER, BOB EASTWOOD, DENEEN DILLER, JIM LOOMIS, ISABELL SMITH, JEREMIAH WHEELER, KAREN FRICK, ROBIN DAVIS ACKERLY AND ANGELA DENNISON. SWAYZE, JR. RESEARCHED NEW YORK OPEN LAW MEETING REQUIREMENTS AND DOESN'T BELIEVE THOSE RULES APPLY. SWAYZE, JR. NOTED COMMITTEE MAY MEET MONTHLY AND WILL OFFER PUBLIC WORKSHOP AFTER FEW INITIAL COMMITTEE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. SWAYZE, JR. NOTED TOWN DID NOT RECEIVE ANY BIDS FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ASSISTANCE FROM LEGAL NOTICE AND TOWN DOES NOT NEED TO HIRE ENGINEERING FIRM TO MOVE FORWARD. SWAYZE, JR. HAS REACHED OUT TO COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT, ALISON HERMAN, AND SHE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ASSISTANCE. ZONING IS NOT REQUIRED TO HAVE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND SWAYZE, JR. WILL REACH OUT TO ALL MEMBERS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS. SWAYZE, JR. HAS REVIEWED DRAFT LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2025-RAZE OR REPAIR OF UNSAFE BUILDINGS AND RECOMMENDS SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING SOON.
- LARISON NOTED FIVE (5) NEW LIGHTS ARE INSTALLED AND ONE (1) IS IN WRONG PLACE; LARISON WILL CONTACT NYSEG FOR RESOLUTION.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

- MR. SWAYZE ASKED WHY FIRE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT HAVE SIREN TO WARN RESIDENTS; TOWN WILL INVESTIGATE.
- MS. FRICK INFORMED BOARD VILLAGE OF VAN ETTEN UTILIZED GRANTS FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; SWAYZE, JR. NOTED MS. HERMAN FROM COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT ENCOURAGED TOWN TO PROCEED WITHOUT ASSISTANCE FOR NOW.
- MS. GABLE INFORMED TOWN BOARD OF ISSUE WITH DOOR AT WELL HOUSE; SHOEMAKER WILL INVESTIGATE.

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- MS. WRIGHT EMAILED LIST OF QUESTIONS EARLIER TODAY FOR TOWN BOARD:
  - THE EXACT DOLLAR AMOUNT RECEIVED FOR THE MITIGATION PLAN
    - SWAYZE, JR. INDICATED NO MONIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM FEMA GRANT FOR PROPANE GENERATOR TO DATE.
  - DO WE HAVE A STANDARD RFQ FORM THAT IS USED, AND SENT OUT OR DO WE ADVERTISE ONLY?
    - SHOEMAKER STATED TOWN UTILIZED SPECIFICATIONS FROM ANOTHER QUOTE FOR WATER TANK TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT.
  - WHAT IS THE WORK PLAN FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FOR JULY & AUGUST? ROAD SPECIFIC, AS WELL AS TASK SPECIFIC.
    - EASTWOOD HANDED OUT REPORT AS FOLLOWS:
      - WORK PLAN VAN ETTEN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
        - JULY THROUGH AUGUST 2025
      - JULY 14 - JULY 17 DECKER HILL RD CUT SHOULDERS, CLEAN DITCHES, ADD GRAVEL AND CUT BRUSH WHERE NEEDED.
      - JULY 21 - JULY 31 ELSTON HILL RD CUT SHOULDERS CLEAN DITCHES, ADD GRAVEL AND CUT BRUSH WHERE NEEDED.
      - AUGUST 4 - AUGUST 14 HUDDLE HILL RD AND KIES RD CUT SHOULDERS, CLEAN DITCHES, ADD GRAVEL AND CUT BRUSH WHERE NEEDED.
      - AUGUST 18 - AUGUST 28 NOBLE HILL RD CUT SHOULDERS, CLEAN DITCHES, ADD GRAVEL AND CUT BRUSH WHERE NEEDED.
      - THIS PLAN WILL CHANGE WITH STONE AND OIL, MIRCO SURFACING DATES, WEATHER AND UNFORESEEN ISSUES.
  - WHAT IS THE TOTAL \$ AMOUNT PAID FOR MR. RODMAN'S TRAINING.
    - SHOEMAKER STATED IN 2023 TOWN PAID SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$600) FOR CLASS C WATER OPERATOR TRAINING.
  - WHAT VENDOR, OR PERSON IS CONTRACTED TO MOW THE WELL HOUSE? WHAT SERVICES DOES THAT ENCOMPASS? & WHAT IS THE FEE WE ARE CHARGED PER MOW?
    - SCENIC LANDSCAPE WAS LOW BID (\$850) FOR ENTIRE MOWING SEASON. SHOEMAKER READ MOWING SPECIFICATIONS. MS. WRIGHT DROVE TO WELL HOUSE AND STATED IT LOOKED ROUGH. SHOEMAKER HAS SPOKEN TO SCENIC AND TOWN MAY CHANGE BID SPECIFICATIONS IN FUTURE. MS. GABLE STATED LOW BID ISN'T ALWAYS BEST; SCENIC MOWED INSIDE AND UTILIZED WEED EATER ON ONE SIDE OF FENCE AND NOT OTHER SIDE.
  - HAS THE BOARD REACHED OUT TO THE CONSORTIUM TO OBTAIN A QUOTE FOR INSURANCE?
    - SHOEMAKER STATED HE HAS REACHED OUT IN PAST AND CONSORTIUM WAS NOT CHEAPER AND COVERAGE WAS NOT AS GOOD AS CURRENT; TEAMSTERS CONTRACT IS FOR THREE (3) YEARS.

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- WHERE ARE THE MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WORKSHOP? I COULD NOT FIND THEM ON THE WEBSITE.
  - CLERK ROSE DID NOT COMPLETE AND WILL COMPLETE AND POST.
- WHY IS THERE ONLY MARCH MEETING MINUTES LISTED ON THE WEB PAGE FOR WATER? HAVE WE ONLY HAD 1 MEETING FOR THE WATER DEPARTMENT FOR THE ENTIRETY OF 2025?
  - CLERK ROSE POSTED APRIL WATER MEETING MINUTES ON WEBSITE.
- MS. ACKERLEY ASKED IF TOWN IS PAYING TOWN ASSESSOR \$30,000 EVERY YEAR. SHOEMAKER STATED TOWN BOARD WILL DISCUSS. SHOEMAKER NOTED TOWN ASSESSOR NEEDS TO MAINTAIN 100% TOTAL ASSESSMENT VALUE. SHOEMAKER STATED WE DID PAY MS. GABRIEL TO ASSIST WITH REEVALUATION.
- MS. DENNISON ASKED WHAT TOWN ASSESSOR'S JOB CONSISTS OF; KETURI STATED SHE HAS VISITED ALL PARCELS IN VAN ETTEN AND HAS UPDATED PICTURES FOR EACH PARCEL; MS. DENNISON STATED THAT WAS A LIE BECAUSE HER PICTURE IS FROM 2017 WHEN CONSTRUCTION BEGAN. KETURI STATED VAN ETTEN HAS NEW PICTURES. MS. DENNISON ASKED WHERE TOWN LAWYER WAS AND KETURI STATED HE BELIEVES TOWN DOESN'T NEED ATTORNEY AT EVERY MEETING.
- MS. ACKERLEY QUESTIONED WHY WE HAVE PAID PROTECTION BUT NOT TOWN ATTORNEY AT MEETING. MS. ACKERLEY STATED WE DON'T NEED PAID PROTECTION EITHER; SWAYZE, JR. STATED SECURITY WILL BE REVIEWED AT BUDGET TIME. MS. ACKERLEY STATED PAID PROTECTION SENDS WRONG MESSAGE AND KETURI STATED WE'VE HAD ISSUES IN PAST.
- MS. FRICK ASKED CLERK ROSE WHERE LEGAL NOTICES ARE BEING ADVERTISED AND ROSE INDICATED THEY'RE ADVERTISED WHERE BOARD DIRECTS THEM TO BE ADVERTISED. CLERK ROSE NOTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MEETING WAS ADVERTISED IN OWEGO PENNSAVER, MORNING TIMES AND NEWS CHRONICLE. SWAYZE, JR. NOTED BOARD WILL USE DISCRETION WHEN ADVERTISING IN FUTURE TO INCLUDE OWEGO PENNSAVER WHEN NEEDED.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 56-25**

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN ACCEPTS HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT EASTWOODS 284 AGREEMENT IN AMOUNT OF \$176,000 FOR PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS (SEE ATTACHMENT). SPONSOR-KETURI. SECONDED-FLORA. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON, FLORA AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

**RESOLUTION 57-25**

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN AUTHORIZES TOWN CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2025 – RAZE OR REPAIR OF UNSAFE BUILDINGS ON AUGUST 14, 2025 AT 7:00 PM IN MORNING TIMES, OWEGO PENNSAVER AND NEWS CHRONICLE. SPONSOR-LARISON. SECONDED-SWAYZE, JR. ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON, FLORA AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

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**RESOLUTION 58-25**

TOWN BOARD OF VAN ETTEN AUTHORIZES ESTABLISHING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ADVISORY BOARD CONSISTING OF, FRED SWAYZE, JR., PENNY FLORA, BRANDON DECKER, BOB EASTWOOD, DENEEN DILLER, JIM LOOMIS, ISABELL SMITH, JEREMIAH WHEELER, KAREN FRICK, ROBIN DAVIS ACKERLEY AND ANGELA DENNISON. SPONSOR-KETURI. SECONDED-LARISON ROLL CALL VOTE-SHOEMAKER, SWAYZE, JR., LARISON, FLORA AND KETURI. ALL AYE.

- KETURI ASKED AGAIN FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR PANTHER PRIDE DAY ON JULY 26 FROM 11AM – 2PM; CLERK ROSE STATED DENEEN AND GEORGE DILLER HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL, SWAYZE, JR. WILL BE HERE TO ASSIST. CLERK ROSE ASKED FOR HELP RECRUITING VENDORS WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL.
- CLERK ROSE ADDRESSED BOARD REGARDING SECURITY OFFICER ATTENDING MEETINGS; CLERK ROSE SPENDS MOST OF WEEK ALONE AND HAS HAD UNCOMFORTABLE ISSUES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN PAST AND NOW LOCKS CAR DOOR WHEN SHE'S AT OFFICE. CLERK ROSE STATED SHE'S COMFORTABLE KNOWING SECURITY IS HERE AND OFFERED TO PAY FOR HIS WAGES; MS. ACKERLEY STATED PLEASE DO AND THAT WOULD HELP WITH TOWN FINANCES.
- LARISON STATED IN PAST WHEN TOWN HAS HAD SECURITY THREATS, LAW ENFORCEMENT IS THIRTY (30) TO FORTY-FIVE (45) MINUTES AWAY (UNLESS THEY HAPPEN TO BE IN TOWN) AND TOWN MADE DECISION TO HIRE TRAINED SECURITY. LARISON FEELS ITS MONEY WELL SPENT.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 14, 2025, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2025.

ADJOURNED AT 8:03 PM MOTION BY SWAYZE, JR. SECONDED BY LARISON. ALL AYE. CARRIED.