

**`Town of Delaware Town Board
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 9, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Delaware, Sullivan County, New York, was held at the Town Hall, in Hortonville, New York, in said Town, on the 9th day of July, 2025 at 6:00 o'clock p.m., prevailing time.

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Supervisor Christopher Hermann, and there were

PRESENT: Christopher Hermann, Councilperson/Deputy Supervisor
Cindy Herbert, Councilperson
Alfred Steppich, Councilperson
Ian Blumenthal, Councilperson
ABSENT: Scott M. DuBois, Supervisor

Present were: Tess McBeath, Town Clerk; Kenneth C. Klein, Esq.; Town Attorney; William Brown, P.E., Delaware Engineering

Councilperson Steppich led the pledge to the flag; Deputy Supervisor Hermann welcomed everyone.

RESOLUTION - ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: Minutes of the June 11, 2025 meeting were approved on motion of Councilperson Blumenthal, seconded by Councilperson Steppich, and carried unanimously, AYES-4, NAYS-0 (Supervisor Scott DuBois absent.)

GUEST TO THE BOARD: Harold Roeder addressed the Board as Town Representative on the Upper Delaware Council. They've been struggling for funding for many years. He's been on the Board since 1997. They wondered how they were going to sustain and had hired a consultant who said their monies would last about five years. The five years are up and they now have a deficit in their budget. He's asking for the Board's support.

Mr. Roeder explained that the UDC is a consortium of the 13 member towns on both sides of the river from Hancock to the Mongaup River. This area became the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Years ago the NPS wanted to take the land and make it a park. The people that lived here resisted. In 1978 the Federal government worked to put together the River Management Plan. All these municipalities agreed to help protect the river and make sure they protect private property rights. The UDC was formed by the US Congress, the main purpose is land and water use. Any project in the corridor has to go through a review process with the UDC and then the NPS.

The federal government said they'd give them \$300,000 a year. That was in 1988. Two states, NY and PA each agreed they would support the UDC by allocating \$100,000 a year. That was 36 years ago; they didn't get one dime of support. Mr. Roeder mentioned the UDC might have to drop the TAG grants because they don't have money to fund them.

Mr. Roeder reviewed the \$74,425 we've received in TAG grants since 1989. He provided a letter of support they would appreciate our sending to our elected representatives. He provided his monthly hydrological report.

Councilperson Steppich said it almost seems like they'd like to see it fail. Mr. Roeder responded that the \$300,000 would then go to the NPS; the NPS has hired a land planner to review the projects. Councilperson Steppich spoke of an emergency meeting he, Mr. Roeder and former Supervisor Ed Sykes attended about the dam breaking and a wall of water coming downstream. He stated that it's New York City's responsibility – if that dam breaks it's their responsibility to put in an early warning system and they've never done it.

Mr. Roeder reminded that Board that the flooding in Texas could happen here. Cell phones don't always work along the river. Councilperson Steppich spoke of the speed in which the water would arrive here if the dam broke. He mentioned Wawarsing and the leak in the tunnels.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: No report.

BUILDING INSPECTOR/CEO: No report.

TOWN CLERK: (1) June receipts totaled \$13,524 with \$13,621 turned over to the Supervisor. Of that, \$13,473 was Building fees. (2) Public Health Nursing is holding a Free Rabies Clinic at the Hortonville Firehouse on Wed., July 23rd from 6-7:30.

UDC REPORT: See above.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Bill Brown provided an update: Water project construction continues. Water main is installed on Upper Main and 17B. They just got the permit from the railroad and plan to go under the track next week. The water tank is slated to be here first week of August. The well house building is up; it's tall. The front porch going on now along with mechanical and electrical service in the building. DOH wanted a fence around everything; the concern is when the water comes up it'll be a tree catcher. Glenn Illing suggested we put a security system and some cameras instead. Bookkeeper Katey Dnistiran will coordinate with Spectrum and PN Alarm. Mr. Brown provided costs.

Meters. All but three folks have registered. It turns out there are nine additional properties, resulting in an additional cost from Treffesson. It costs over \$200 to buy the meters, \$896 to have them installed. Mr. Brown requested the Board approve a change order in the amount of \$11,241.90 to have the nine additional meters purchased and installed.

RESOLUTION - APPROVE CHANGE ORDER CALLICOON WATER DISTRICT: Motion by Councilperson Herbert, seconded by Councilman Steppich approving a change order in the amount of \$11,241.90 to have the nine additional meters purchased and installed. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION – APPROVE SPECTRUM & PN ALARM AGREEMENTS:

Moved: Councilperson Blumenthal

Second: Councilperson Herbert

Bookkeeper Kathryn Dnistrian is hereby authorized to arrange with Spectrum for internet and phone service at the well house, and set up a separate account with PN Alarm for alarm and camera system. Carried; all in favor.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COUNCIL COMMENT: Councilperson Blumenthal reminded everyone Michael Sweeten is coming for to speak on farmland conservation.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT WITH SPECTRUM:

Moved by: Councilperson Blumenthal

Seconded: Councilperson Steppich

RESOLVED, that The Supervisor or Deputy Supervisor is authorized to sign a contract for internet and telephone services through Spectrum for the well house. Resolution carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION – REDUCING THE NUMBER OF TOWN JUSTICES FROM TWO TO ONE:

The following resolution was introduced by Councilperson Alfred Steppich, who moved its adoption, and seconded by Councilperson Ian Blumenthal, to wit:

A RESOLUTION REDUCING THE NUMBER OF TOWN JUSTICES
FROM TWO TO ONE FOR THE TOWN OF DELAWARE, SULLIVAN
COUNTY, NEW YORK.

WHEREAS, the creation of a vacancy has occurred as the result of the retirement of Hon. Eric J. Nystrom, one of the sitting Town Justices of the Town of Delaware, and the Town Board has determined, based upon the volume of cases in Town Justice Court, that it is in the best interest of the Town of Delaware to reduce the number of Town Justices from two (2) to one (1); and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is authorized pursuant to Town Law §60-a to reduce the number of Town Justices from two (2) to one (1) by resolution, subject to permissive referendum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the elective office of Town Justice, formerly held by Hon. Eric J. Nystrom, who recently retired, and which would have been on the ballot to be filled at the general election to be held on November 7, 2028, and as a result of such vacancy would be on the ballot to be filled at the general election to be held on November 4, 2025, is hereby abolished pursuant to Town Law §60-a; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution is adopted subject to permissive referendum; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that within ten (10) days after the adoption of this resolution, the Town Clerk shall post on the Town sign board and publish in the Sullivan County Democrat, the official newspaper of the Town, a notice in conformance with the requirements of Section 90 of the Town Law of the State of New York.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, resulting as follows:

Councilperson Christopher Hermann voting aye
Councilperson Cindy Herbert voting aye
Councilperson Alfred Steppich voting aye; and
Councilperson Ian Blumenthal voting aye;

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted. (Supervisor Scott M. DuBois absent.)

RESOLUTION: PAYMENT OF BILLS: July 2025 bills/vouchers were reviewed and approved for payment on motion of Councilperson Blumenthal, seconded by Councilperson Steppich and carried unanimously:

Callicoon Light	\$ 783.82
Callicoon Sewer	12,580.66
Capital	454,504.07
General Fund	56,824.44
Highway Dept.	47,237.18
Kohlertown Light	179.26
Water District	6,758.81

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, on motion of Councilperson Steppich, seconded by Councilperson Herbert and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. Resolution carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tess McBeath, RMC
Town Clerk