

Minutes of the
Smithville Town Board
August 18, 2025

OPENING of Town Board meeting
ROLL CALL/PLEDGE/LATE ADDITIONS:

6:30PM

Supervisor John Cammarata
Board members: Dakota Warren,
Shane Butler
Russell Wark
Fred Heisler

ALSO:

Alison Owens, Town Clerk
Vince Witkowski, Hwy Supervisor
Tom Pollard, Resident
Barbara Tallet, Resident
Dierdre Purdy, Clerk part-time

CORRESPONDENCE

6:35PM

C1) Supervisor Cammarata received a suspicious “authorization for direct deposit” letter from Bruce Kinney. It was handed over to the Sheriff and the FBI

NEW BUSINESS

6:40PM

NB1) Create 2nd position for Laborer, part-time for Community Center
NB2) Fill position as Laborer for the Town Barn

After some discussion it was decided to combine the items for business and move to create a budget line item for the Highway worker in DA5110.1. This worker will work as a part-time, 20 hrs weekly for the Highway Dept. mowing roadways, cemeteries, and helping the Groundskeeper at the Community Center with weed whacking when needed.

RESOLUTION #43 (2025): RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CREATION OF A HIGHWAY WORKER IN THE TOWN BUDGET DA5110.1

On motion by Mr. Heisler, 2nd by Mr. Butler, the following Resolution was approved

AYES: Heisler, Butler, Wark, Warren, Cammarata
NAYES: 0

RESOLVED to create a Budget line item for a full-time Highway worker in DA5110.1 to work 20-30 hours per week.

NB3) Consider Resolution to override the 2% Tax Cap for the 2026 Budget

The Preliminary Budget for 2026 indicates that the 2% Tax Cap will have to be overridden. The increases in Health, Town Insurance, wages and general supplies are such that staying within the 2% Tax Cap will not be possible for 2026. It was mentioned a Public Hearing would need to take place prior to the adoption of the

Tentative Budget by October 1st. Supervisor Cammarata suggested a Public Hearing be set for September 15th @ 6:30pm during the next Town Board meeting. This was put to Resolution.

RESOLUTION #44 (2025): CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TENTATIVE BUDGET IN ORDER TO OVERRIDE THE 2% TAX CAP ON THE 2026 BUDGET

On motion by Mr. Butler, 2nd by Mr. Heisler, the following Resolution was approved

AYES: Heisler, Butler, Wark, Warren, Cammarata

NAYES: 0

RESOLVED to hold a Public Hearing on September 15th at 6:35pm during the regular meeting of the Smithville Town Board for the purpose of overriding the 2% Tax Cap on the 2026 Tentative Budget.

NB4) Consider giving Woollybear Web Services access to Namecheap account.

Board members did not have a problem with this as WoollyBear already does a lot of work for the Town of Smithville website. Mr. Cammarata also mentioned a NYS requirement for municipalities over a population of 1500 to provide internet access to Board meetings starting in February 2026. Mr. Butler mentioned the population of the Town of Smithville is in the 1200-1300 residents so this requirement would not apply.

OLD BUSINESS (UPDATES IF ANY)

7:00PM

OB1) continued discussion on addition to Community Center

With the anticipated increases in the 2026 Preliminary Budget just discussed it was questioned whether the addition was needed or not. Mr. Cammarata mentioned the current lack of space for storage of records. With the Justice grant, more options for grant monies are available and with the Justice grant the Town has now been given, it would be worthwhile to create a larger space for those records and use available new grants for equipment for the storage room.

Mr. Heisler has spoken with the man who quoted the foundation and his quote is ok for next year. Other vendors have not replied. Mr. Cammarata would like to get quotes to find out what the cost might be. It was decided to move forward with obtaining quotes for the addition.

RESOLUTION #45 (2025): OBTAIN QUOTES FOR COSTS OF NEW ADDITION TO COMMUNITY CENTER

On motion by Mr. Butler, 2nd by Mr. Wark, the following Resolution was approved

AYES: Heisler, Butler, Wark, Warren, Cammarata

NAYES: 0

RESOLVED to obtain quotes for the addition to the Community Center.

OB2) continued discussion on water system for hamlet

Mr. Cammarata indicated papers were signed for the CDBG grant but there will not be an answer until about October. At that time it would be advisable to get an estimate for installing the system. then get an estimate of

the # of people in the hamlet who would want to have the water system; a $\frac{2}{3}$ approval from those within the district would be required. It was questioned by Resident Tom Pollard whether a public referendum would need to be done to get approval from the voters because land would need to be purchased for the wells and storage tank. Two previous examples were cited where the Town purchased property without going through the proper voting channel. The full answer was unknown and will need to be discussed further. **

REPORTS

7:30PM

R1.) Highway: report submitted

- Working on a driveway sluice pipe on Stone Quarry Rd. and also doing other seasonal road work
- pricing out repair of N. Tyner Rd. which includes a dispute between Fuller Paving \$26K and Midwest Industries; the latter did a special road project there last year which had portions fail over the past 10 months
- Truck has been returned from Sherburne, needs sandblasting
- Old grader will be put up for sale
- Emissions on trucks will be eliminated in 2026

R2.) Assessor: no report submitted

R3.) Enforcement Officer: no report submitted

R4.) Planning Board: no minutes submitted

R5.) DCO: no report submitted but there were some issues:

- 2 FOIL requests: 1 asking for the # of dog tickets the DCO has issued in the last year and the 2nd asking for information on her complaint: a copy of the citation, date and time when the ticket was delivered to the offending dog's property owner, was there a Sheriff's Deputy who accompanied the DCO, the court date, etc.
- 1 complaint and discussion from/with Barbara Tallet concerning dog bite earlier this year. A letter submitted by her said her granddaughter was bitten a couple of months ago by the offending dog on State Hwy 41. No one came out to take reports, find out if the unlicensed dog had had a rabies shot; there was no follow-up by the DCO or the Sheriff's Dept. The Health Dept was the only Dept who did make a call to her but nothing happened after that. No tickets were issued to the dog's owner. Her granddaughter has recovered. Concern was noted that the DCO does not answer phone calls or take complaints
- There was additional discussion on the Smithville Dog Local Law and NYS shelter requirements. No one has heard from the Town DCO. Mr. Cammarata will contact the DCO and the Health Dept. to find out what is being done and why tickets were not issued.

R6.) vacant

R7.) Justice: report on Justice grant process. The heat/ac units were installed in the "Court room" and in the Justice quarters. This takes up most of the funding. What remains is some additional file cabinets which will be ordered soon.

R8.) Custodian/Groundskeeper: no report submitted

R9.) Playground Committee: no report submitted.

R10) Town Clerk: report submitted

- The Town Clerk's main concern has been the Wilcox Cemetery in N. Tyner, its mowing, plans for fencing and changes to add the refurbished gate. The 2nd mowing to have been done by Stage's Seasonal Mowing will not happen as the company has gone out of business. Board members were concerned about the costs involved and how things would be paid for as there is no money left in the budget. Mrs.

Owens reminded the Board of the importance of the Cemetery as a resting place for a Revolutionary War Soldier and commitment by his descendants to provide a plaque and memorial service for him at the cemetery. The Town is required to mow twice a year and to provide a fence for abandoned cemeteries. Other ideas were mentioned concerning possible grant monies for the fencing. Mrs Owens will check on these. If need be, money could be transferred from Unexpended balance to fund the fencing.

R11) vacant

R12) Supervisor's Report: submitted

- Both the Part-time Code Enforcement and the DCO are not responding to complaints. Building permits get to the County without the required signature and the Town is not always informed of the permits issued. The Assessor does not get the updates to the properties for her records. There was a suggestion to do a signature fee for next year which might help alleviate the problem and generate additional income.
- The 2% tax Cap for 2026 will limit the increase in the Town budget to \$10,438 for both the Highway and General; With the Highway Salaries increasing by \$6670. (by Union contract)., Town Insurance 13% or \$3500., probable contract with the SPCA next year, increase in Health insurance costs, it is necessary to do a Local Law overriding the 2% Tax Cap
- Sales Tax collected to date is \$193,510 with another check expected in October dedicated to the Highway fund
- The General fund owes the Hwy fund \$22,312 of which \$9100. Will need to be transferred into Highway; the leftover will be put in the new equipment acc't. The Budget for 2025 is looking well.
- A Budget work session of Aug 27th 6:30pm was approved.
- A motion to approve the Supervisor's report was made by Mr. Warren, 2nd by Mr. Heisler. All 5 Boardmembers: Heisler, Butler, Wark, Warren and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL for July 14 and July 21st , 2025

8:00PM

The two sets of minutes were declared approved by Mr. Heisler, 2nd by Mr. Warren. All 5 Boardmembers: Heisler, Butler, Wark, Warren and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

WARRANTS

8:05PM

General Warrant # 8, Vouchers # 106-120 in the amount of \$29,760.95 was submitted for payment. A motion to approve and pay these claims was made by Mr. Butler, 2nd by Mr. Heisler. All 5 Boardmembers: Heisler, Butler, Wark, Warren and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

Highway Warrant # 8, Vouchers # 97-101, in the amount of \$3315.01 was submitted for payment. A motion was made by Mr. Heisler, 2nd by Mr. Wark to approve and pay these claims. All 5 Boardmembers: Heisler, Butler, Wark, Warren and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

There was no other business to come before the Board. Supervisor Cammarata declared the meeting adjourned.

CLOSE:

8:15PM

Alison B. Owens

Smithville Town Clerk

**** ADDENDUM**

8/20/2025

Further communication regarding the grant for the water system was received the day after the Board meeting. Complications arose with new details and commitments regarding the original grant and the CBDG grant which would make it difficult for the Town to comply within the time frame allotted. Mr. Cammarata spoke with 3 Board members about the option going forward, whether to try and comply or whether to step away from the grant funding for the water system. **A vote was taken by phone on August 20, 2025 and the result was that the Town of Smithville would no longer pursue the grants for a water system for the hamlet of Smithville Flats at this time. RESOLUTION # 46**

Cammarata	Aye
Heisler	Aye
Butler	Aye
Warren	Aye
Wark	Could not be reached