Town of Yates May Board Meeting
8 S. Main St., Lyndonville, NY 14098
July 9, 2026, 7:00PM

Present: Jim Simon, Supervisor
Susan Hrovat, Councilman
Harold Suhr, Councilman
Bill Jurinich, Councilman
Michele Harling, Town Clerk
Justin Edwards, Deputy Highway Superintendent

Excused: Steve Vann, Councilman
Roger Wolfe, Highway Superintendent
David Reese, Code Enforcement Officer
Trisha Laszewski, Town Assessor

Others: Bob Mack Bonnie Mack Georgette Stockman
Julie Helsdon

Supervisor Simon called the July Board Meeting to order at 7:15PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERVISOR REMARKS

No remarks.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No comments.

RESOLUTION NO. 61-7/26

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR JUNE TOWN BOARD MEETING

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2026 regular Board Meeting as presented to each Board Member.

Offered by Councilman Hrovat, who moved its adoption
Seconded by Councilman Suhr

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Vann)

Motion: Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 62-7/26

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the June, 11 2026, Yates Town Board Executive Session meeting as presented to each board member.

Offered by Councilman Hrovat, who moved its adoption
Seconded by Councilman Jurinich

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Vann)

Motion: Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 63-7/26

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 6, 2026 SHORT-TERM RENTAL PUBLIC HEARING MEETING

RESOLVED, to accept the minutes of the Short-Term Rental Local Law Public Hearing meeting held July 6, 2026 as presented to each Board Member.

Offered by Councilman Hrovat, who moved its adoption
Seconded by Councilman Suhr

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Vann)

Motion: Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 64-7/26

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASE FOR TOWN SERVICES FOR SNOW & ICE CONTROL AND MOWING

WHEREAS, the Orleans County Highway Superintendents' Association has met and documented current cost to the Towns for Snow & Ice Control and Mowing of County Roads; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendents and Supervisors/Board Members of each Town did meet with Orleans County on June 30, 2026 and presented said documented current cost; and

WHEREAS, it was determined that a 30% increase in payment to the Towns for Snow & Ice Control and Mowing of County Roads would relieve the Towns of the cost from their budgets due to the current five-year agreement rates being paid; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the 30% increase beginning January 1, 2027, the Town proposes a 5% increase or the yearly Consumer Price Index percentage increase, whichever is higher, for the remaining four years of the five-year contract, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Yates hereby supports the Highway Superintendents request for a 30% increase in rates with a yearly increase for the term of said agreement as determined above from Orleans County upon agreement renewal that is due to expire December 31, 2026, and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Chairman and Members of the Orleans County Legislature and the Chief Administrative Officer of Orleans County.

Offered by Councilman Hrovat, who moved its adoption
Seconded by Councilman Suhr

Supervisor Simon said there have been a couple of meetings so far with the County and with the Superintendent's Association. At the last Superintendent's Association meeting they invited Town Supervisors and some of us went to that. Yesterday there was a meeting again with the County. Justin was there as well, so chime in if I missed something. It's been made clear that the renewal of the five-year contract is going to be contested by the County. The Superintendents have done some math on spreadsheets, and provided it to the County and they're going to provide more that indicates that we're 30% behind. In the Town of Yates we plow and provide salt and mowing for 20 miles of County roads. This is no small thing. I think the last analysis for the contract was done five years ago. It makes sense to base the contract on a certain amount and then increase it each year based on the consumer price index which, as you know, can be pretty low. Even though inflation is high, sometimes the CPI could still only be 2% or 3%. Sometimes it moves up a little. Anyways, the Superintendents, with Supervisors backing, came up with a 30% increase right off the bat starting January 1st. That's their negotiating position, and then 5% increases every year for the remaining four years or the CPI, whichever is higher. Of course there was pushback by Jack Welch and Craig Lane, with Orleans County DPW. Two legislators were there, Bill Eick and Ed Morgan. I think they got the message that the Superintendents are strongly supporting this and that there's a lot of backing; I think there were five Supervisors and a Board Member from another Town. Each of the Towns have been asked to pass this resolution. Obviously I think we will. Then we'll go back to a meeting somewhere in early August. I think Jack Welch said he would have a counter proposal by August 7th. They don't have any leverage. And as you all know, we had a letter that we all signed saying that if you want to compare this to sales tax, then we'll take 30% sales tax instead. That would be $6 million divvied up amongst the municipalities. I'd be okay with that.

Councilman Jurinich replied and to make it clear, the County's 30% behind.

Supervisor Simon said right, this gets us caught up. Then the 5% each year should keep us slightly ahead. That's where we're at.

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Vann)

Motion: Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 65-7/26

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWN SUPERVISOR TO SEEK REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE

WHEREAS, the Village of Medina's Fire Department provides contracted ambulance service to the Towns of Yates, Ridgeway and Shelby until December 31, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the contract negotiations with the Village and the Town are indicating dramatic increases in charges to the towns, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to seek requests for proposals for ambulance service starting January 1, 2027, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor shall consult with adjoining towns, villages and fire districts/companies to explore arrangements and possible agreements for joint municipal contracting with potential ambulance providers.

Supervisor Simon said that last one is literally a shot across the bow. If you guys are okay with it, I'll send this to the Village Mayor right after this meeting and say we just approved this wording because it's not a joke anymore. They've wanted to quadruple what we pay and we've said that's crazy. We're the smallest town. We have the least number of calls, etc. We have all these justifications and they're not listening. So I don't know exactly what's going to happen with that fire department. Harold probably knows better. There's a meeting coming up on the 23rd with the County to give us the results of the study that they did of all EMS and fire for the County. I'm curious to see what that says. I have a draft RFP that I'll send around to everybody. I want to publish that when we go out for bids or proposals; probably something in the Hub. I think there's probably going to be one ambulance service that responds.

Councilman Hrovat said I think it's important that we make our decision clear to them or our opinions because we're basically helping them play catch up for mistakes that they've made with their budget. We can't afford it, nor should we have to. People are struggling. It's going to be fall soon, and people are going to be struggling even more.

Supervisor Simon said the amounts that they're talking are crazy. We're still paying; taxpayers are paying $225,000 a year towards the Joint Fire District, here. They've been good about keeping it at 2% or less each year since it became a district.

Offered by Councilman Hrovat, who moved its adoption

Seconded by Councilman Jurinich

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Vann)

Motion: Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 66-7/26

RESOLUTION TO PAY BILLS

WHEREAS, bills have been reviewed by the Town Board, be it

RESOLVED to pay bills as follows:

Fund A (General – Townwide)	$ 38,583.95
Fund B (General – Outside Village)	$ 1,615.39
Fund DA (Highway – Townwide)	$ 12,379.95
Fund DB (Highway – Outside Village)	$ 10,871.38
Water 4-	$ 27,095.04
Water 2-	$ 46,572.36
Youth-	$
Fire-	$
TOTAL	$137,118.07

Offered by Councilman Suhr, who moved its adoption
Seconded by Councilman Jurinich

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Vann)

Motion: Carried

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Georgette Stockman, Town of Yates, said I wanted to thank the board for the huge pile of sand that has appeared by the Town buildings just in case something happened with the lake levels. Things are just beginning to go down a little bit. So hopefully we're past it.

Julie Helsdon, Town of Yates, said speaking of the water, I have an issue down in Yates Center. I've been here before about this. We could probably measure that water because it's coming down my driveway right now and it's washing away my stone again. It no longer is where the town had cut a knoll off so that it would run down into the yard instead of hitting the driveway. For a little while that kind of worked. It went down into the yard, and into my $10,000 brand new drainage system I just put in, and overflowed it. It eventually drained out, but it flooded everything once again. Today it washed away the corner of the whole entire driveway. I'm here again begging for something to be done about the runoff water off of 63 and West Yates Center

Road. It begins right there at my property. The knoll has kind of come back up because the grass has grown. The dirt gets shoved off the road into the knoll and it builds it back up and then it can't drop off into the yard anymore and that's what's happened. Now it's going down farther until it hits my stone and it's flooding my entire driveway and my side yard. Like I said, I put a pretty extensive drainage system in there to handle what I thought was me being in a low spot. I have a video here that I'd like to show you today of how much water literally comes off of it. I know everybody's got flooding problems. I know there's a lot of stuff going on, so nothing's ever easy, but I've put some money into this little yucky trailer and I kind of wish that I didn't have this problem. I can't even fix it myself because it's on the right-of-way so I can't go there and just hire somebody to fix the problem. It's the Town's problem; it's the Town's water. It's the runoff water from Route 63. It comes down the West Yates Center Road and comes off into my yard. (Showed the Town Board video of water) It's pouring and I'm out there. But once you get down to the end, you'll see how much is actually coming directly down. It just washed the corner out. I keep putting the corner back in, but it keeps washing it out. There's a real issue on the other side because that water comes through from Shorty's and I know they put that in there because Shorty was having so much trouble with flooding. It goes through that culvert under the road, and down to the Donald's and makes a pond in the Donald's backyard. Lou Anne and I took a little hike down there when it was really, really bad. It has nowhere to go. We do have a big ditch down there by the White Birch that runs right that way. We could run it right to it, but it has nowhere to go.

Councilman Suhr said it'll back up on me. I own the golf course.

Julie Helsdon said it should be able to go down that golf course drainage thing. That's what's coming into my yard. That's just that little dribble we had today. When it rains my system can't take it. It's coming off of there so fast. Please help me do something. I don't know what I'll do.

Supervisor Simon said I know that we've met in the past when this was an issue. I know Roger looked at it with you and has tried to work with you on it. I don't know that this is a new development that he will have to analyze or if this is something that it's doing that it always does when you have a really bad rain, and it may not be easy to solve.

Julie Helsdon said I understand that, but I'm asking for help from this Town. It's not my problem. I can't even fix it myself because it's on the Town's right-of-way. I can't solve the problem myself. I'm begging, please, look at this issue. I don't know if it's a ditch from there to the culvert that will solve it? There's so much water that comes across here in the bad seasons and goes under that road and then goes down to the Donald's back property there. It has nowhere to go so it pools there into a big pond. I walked out there. I've seen it myself. It has nowhere to go. We made the culvert under the road for Shorty's water to come through, but we didn't give it anywhere to go. When that gets full, that backs my whole system up because my swell goes East and West in the back.

Supervisor Simon said the Town can only be responsible for the right-of-way, and you've already mentioned that. Maybe he'll take another shot at it and see if there's something that can be done. Once you go off the right-of-way, there are multiple roads, including my driveway, that get flooded in bad storms. So it's a challenge for a lot of people, and yours is unique because where

it's actually happening is on the right-of-way. So let's see if we can take another look at it. Maybe there's something that can be done. I'll bring it up with Roger.

Supervisor Simon said if you were interested in the STR law, we've delayed that until next month, so we're still working on that.

TOWN OFFICERS REMARKS

Councilman Jurinich said it was a nice day for the 4th.

Supervisor Simon said kudos to the Lions Club. It was wonderful. Dave Godfrey is going to send us some background information that we can use for a proclamation, and we'll do that next month from the Town, thanking the Lions Club for decades of doing amazing things. You two in particular (speaking to Councilman Hrovat and Councilman Suhr), I appreciate you, and what you do. I talked to Jeff Dewart, the Supervisor for Somerset, and he said that they have two ambulances that they've slowly, over the years, they'd get a new replacement one but, he understands that there's limited response times or not a response at all for an EMT during the day because people are working. They do pretty well at night. They have a contract with that department. He said I'm going to ask the question because it might be that if they had those two ambulances chopped, if you will, military term, if they chopped them to mercy flight, and mercy flight then provided daytime EMS or made some type of arrangement, we would pay a lot less for that service. This is two ambulances the same distance away from Medina, so it's not outside of the possibilities that that might work. He's going to inquire. I'll draft the RFP.

Councilman Suhr said Bill and I have got to get over there. We just haven't had a chance.

Supervisor Simon said he's going to ask the fire department, too. If you can as well, then I'll draft the RFP, and I'll run a draft by you guys, but I'll run it by him, too.

Councilman Hrovat said I found a little EMT here right in Town, one of the gals that works at the summer rec program, Hannah Marker. She's a sophomore in college, but she said when she's home, if we had something, she would definitely help out. She's going to ask around and see if there's anyone else. She said it takes a lot of time and energy and focus.

<u>Town of Yates Highway & Water Departments Report</u>

<u>June-July 2026</u>

<u>Highway:</u>

- Completed 1st clean-up of brush inside highway right-of-way
- Completed 2nd round of roadside mowing before July 4th
- Completed 2nd round of grading gravel roads
- Patched all potholes with hot mix asphalt
- Hauled 2" crusher run stone from quarry

- Equipment repairs were minimal this month
- Assisted Town of Ridgeway with chip sealing projects
- Assisted Fire Department with multiple fallen trees across highway

Water:

- Read water meters. Repaired meters/readers that did not read properly
- Installed meter/reader at newly built Bane Lane home
- Repaired fire hydrant on Route 18
- Repaired curb valve for Marshall Road home
- Supervised relocation of water main on RT 18, relocation is complete
- Diagnosed multiple residents water issues
- Located mains/valves/curbs/pits/service lines for 19 UDIG tickets
- Purchased 370 used water meters + used Sensus reading equipment to support our water reading system that is becoming obsolete

Cemeteries:

- Executed 1 cremation burial service

Town Park:

- Prepared/supervised pavilion pressure washing project
- Having problems finding contractor to spray for spiders

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councilman Hrovat, Whereas there is no new business to be brought before the Board, the meeting is adjourned at 7:35PM.
Seconded by Councilman Jurinich

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Vann)

Motion: Carried

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele L. Harling
Yates Town Clerk