

TOWN OF WAYNE
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
JULY 8, 2025
6:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Roll Call;

Councilmember Haar, Councilmember Bauer, Councilmember Freeman, Councilmember Kenyon, Supervisor Mahr, Clerk Serphillips

In attendance;

Legislator Jeff Horton, Joe Serphillips, David Westcott, Chris Hand, Wayne Hand, Larry Albee, Dave Harmon, Bernadette Erwin, Steve Woodhouse, Amy Gush, Nancy Gabel, Ron McIntire

Legislator Horton reported on the State of Steuben County.

Legislator Horton stated that a lot of times, in the middle of the night throughout the County, there is only one Deputy, the most would be two to cover the whole County, which is 1400 miles of roads. In outlying areas there may be a 45 minute wait on the 911 call center, before they can actually get to you. They were recently approved to hire two more Deputies for the overnight shift. The Deputies are also EMT'S, and when they are responding to an EMT call, there is no coverage in the whole County. A grant was given for two vehicles, so there will be two more Deputies, who are already trained, from other departments. They should be starting on August 1st.

He also stated that the leach from the landfill was on the news and it sounded catastrophic. What it actually was, is one of these storms dropped so much rain on the land fill, that the run off tanks at the land fill got filled, causing the alarms to go off, which the CDC has to report. Nothing went into the streams, no problems at the land fill.

Legislator Horton stated that with the local small towns are asking if there is any funding for the road work or trees from these

storms. He stated that with FEMA there has to be \$30,000,001.00 in damages. So, the County is setting up a reserve fund, taking money out of its Fund balance and setting it up as a Disaster Reserve fund. Whenever there is a state of emergency declared, the County Highway department will draw money from that instead of their normal budget.

The audit came back and the County is in great financial shape. The only thing that they would like to see is capital projects. In the County they have capital projects for a building, or roads, and that State wants them labeled as reserves. The County is taking all of the ones called capital projects and putting them in reserves. So, for example, money in reserve for highway can be used only for highway. There is \$27 million going into setting up reserves. That information is available on the Internet.

Legislator Horton also talked about the speed limit on E. Lake Rd. When trying to reduce speed in his town, the state law is that the minimum speed that they can set is 25 mph. He suggested that residents keep sending petitions. The board accepts the petitions, then they pass it on to the County. Then the county Safety Board approves it, then it goes to the State. The State has the say. Also, residents can send letters to their State Legislatures, Senator and Assemblyman.

A question was asked regarding opting in or out of the STR data base for the county. Legislator Horton will look into it.

He was asked if there is a minimum or maximum on the speed limit petitions. The more signatures on the petition the better the chances

Approval of minutes;

Supervisor Mahr stated that there was an oversight in the May minutes. According to the Association of Towns, when going into an Executive session, it is not acceptable to say that we are going into Executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Going forward we should use the statement "to discuss the employment history of an individual." Supervisor Mahr has adapted the May minutes for this change. A motion to approve the change in the May minutes was made by Councilmember Haar, seconded by Councilmember Kenyon. All are in favor.

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A motion to approve the June minutes after corrections, was made by Councilmember Freeman, seconded by Councilmember Haar. All are in favor.

Supervisor's report;

From a financial standpoint we are in good shape. For the second half of the year, spending rate is expected to increase due to road repairs.

Supervisor Mahr stated that there were minor negatives that need to be adjusted, resulting in a budget modification.

He also stated that we purchased 20 rolls of stamps because the price is going up. We need to replenish out of the Contingency fund to the Clerks account.

A motion to approve the Supervisors report was made by Councilmember Haar, seconded by Councilmember Kenyon. All are in favor

A motion to approve Resolution 14, moving \$1500.00 from Special Items Contingent, and \$25.00 from Justice Postage, to \$1000.00 into the Clerk's Printing/Postage, \$25.00 into Justice Dues/Subscriptions and \$500.00 into Supt. Highways Advertising was made by councilmember Kenyon, seconded by Councilmember Freeman.

Voting as follows.

Councilmember Haar, yes

Councilmember Bauer, yes

Councilmember Freeman, yes

Councilmember Kenyon, yes

Supervisor Mahr, yes

Clerk's report;

We had zero marriage licenses, \$1256.00 for disbursements, paid to the General fund, and \$13.00 to the animal population control program. We did receive \$140.00 in donations for the Rabies Clinic, \$70.00 of that is paid to Steuben County.

A motion to approve the Clerk's report was made by Councilmember Kenyon, seconded by Councilmember Freeman. All are in favor.

The Clerk Mid-year report totaled \$13,127.25. It is \$9,000.00 less than 2024, due to the reduced number of STR permits.

A motion to approve the Vouchers was made by Councilmember Haar, seconded by Councilmember Kenyon. All are in favor. Supervisor Mahr stated the big expense in the General budget, is for paying for the heating system. There is also a large bill in the Highway, for road repair.

Justice report;

Fees collected were \$400.00.

Assessor's report;

Highway report;

Most of the activity for the Highway department was flood damage recovery. A culvert was removed at Corning Landing.

Superintendent Starkweather met with a contractor for a quote to repair the road that was damaged.

Debris was removed from gullies.

The focus was to get the roads passable. A sink hole was checked on Silsbee Rd., as well as a plugged culvert pipe.

The Highway department also operated small dump truck for ditch opening on Alderman Rd and Fleet Rd.

Superintendent Starkweather stated that some projects are being delayed due to the weather issues.

The water room flooded. It was shut down and Superintendent contacted the company in Buffalo to check the system and update it.

Code officer report;

The Code officer, Jon Serdula, reported on the Building permits and applications submitted, and STR permits issued. There were no violations. C of O's were issued and 50 calls were reported.

Mr. Serdula did respond to a call from the Sheriff's department for the House of Surprises, that was struck by a car, and was deemed safe to reside in.

Also, the Williamson Law software purchased for the Code officer, has been implemented and information is now being loaded.

Zoning/Planning boards;

The minutes were approved for the Planning board, and there were two site plan reviews, that were approved.

There were two actions for the Zoning board, one of which went to the Planning board.

Watershed report;

Ms. Gush stated they are making progress with tracking down over due inspections, and that people are complying with the 2025 letters.

Two houses will get a final 10-day letter. Then they will get final letters, then they will be fined, if they don't comply.

Ethics report;

No activity this month

Dog Control Officer report

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DCO Samantha Swarthout stated that there were no dog related calls. She thanked Karen Doucette VMD, Angie Serphillips, and Heather Swarthout for their help with the Rabies clinic. "Your time and dedication are deeply appreciated."

History report;

The Kernan family descendants visited the History department and were impressed with what they saw. They sent a \$500.00 donation.

June Smoot and her sister (Samual Hallett's great granddaughter), will be present at the Annual History open house on August 2, 2025., from 10am-2pm at the Wayne Town Hall.

Web Statistics;

Total users were 570 and 969 sessions.

Old business;

There were 89 permits issued for STR. Some properties on the market that are already Short-Term Rentals, buyers were asking if STR permits are transferable. They are not.

Jon Serdula and Jeff Cederstrand were thanked for the assistance in the Regulation process

Supervisor Mahr and Superintendent Starkweather met with Whitmore fencing regarding the boat launch, to get a quote. He is the Vendor that installed the gate in Urbana. If a gate is installed, the control unit will be in the gate. It would need its own electric meter.

Supervisor Mahr spoke with Mr. Buck, the Town Attorney and was told that we can put together a law that regulates the launch.

Mr. Buck, said that it would take about 45 days start to finish to put a law in place.

Ron McIntire suggested that we partner with Urbana to put a boat launch at Chaplin Beach.

Supervisor Mahr spoke with Sheriff Allard about the speed limit on E. Lake Rd. Sheriff Allard said that if we resubmit the proposal that we submitted in September, for a reduced speed limit, that he would take it forward and present it at his next meeting. From there it would go to the state Department of Transportation.

Sheriff Allard told Supervisor Mahr that we can do speed traps at random times. He also said that we can't reduce speed limit lower than 25 mph. We are following all of the needed steps to reduce speed.

Last year the request went to the DOT, but we never received a response. One resident asked if Keuka Village Rd will be included for the lower speed limit. For that we will need a new petition to add each road as recreational.

We did get the speed limit machine in September and the Town wasn't given the chance to provide input as to where to install it. The average speed detected was 12.5 mph.

Mr. Hand suggested doing trial speed humps in key areas along with signs. Superintendent Starkweather stated that it has to be engineered. It would be engineered into the road.

The letters of petitions would be more effective if residents write individual letters.

A resident asked about a deputy to be there to write tickets. A Deputy will not write a ticket for anything less than 5 mph. over the speed limit.

Supervisor Mahr will ask Sheriff Allard to come to the August meeting.

New business;

There was no business to discuss.

Public comments;

Ron McIntire asked Legislature Horton about the law suit against Sheriff Allard. Mr. Horton said that it is in appeal status. Ron McIntire asked if the Legislature is prepared to go to the Supreme Court of the United States. Legislature Horton replied that he can't tell if the Legislator is, but the people named in the law suite are. The Legislature voted no, 10 to 7.

Ron McIntire also asked what the benefit is to the tax payers of Steuben County if Jack Wheeler, and Scot VanEtten win the appeal. Sheriff Allard would have to buy his own liability insurance.

Announcements;

Next Town Board meeting is August 12, 2025 at 6pm

KWIC/KLOC Meeting at Wayne Town Hall Monday, July 28, 2025 at 6pm

History Group Open House, Saturday August 2, 2025, 10am -2pm

Respectfully submitted by
Angie Serphillips
Clerk, Town of Wayne