

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Sweden was held at the Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport, New York, on Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

Town Board Members present were Supervisor Patricia Hayles, Councilperson Tyler Sharpe, Councilperson Adam Staskiewicz, and Councilperson Gary Sullivan. Councilperson Scott Maar was absent. Also present were Finance Director Hiedi Librock, Town Attorney Jim Bell, Highway Superintendent Brian Ingraham, outgoing Town Historian Christine Hunt, Town Assessor Tammy Baker, Building/Planning Clerk Phyllis Brudz, Director of Buildings and Grounds Adam Shade, and Town Clerk Karen Sweeting.

One visitor present – Rory Schnurr.

Supervisor Hayles called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone present to say the Pledge to the Flag and remain standing for a moment of silence to reflect on our first responders, residents in California, and all those that put themselves in harm's way for our freedoms.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

No comments.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence noted.

REPORTS OF BOARD AND DEPARTMENTS:

Supervisor Hayles asked all Department Heads to provide a report on 2024 and goals for 2025.

Outgoing Town Historian Christine Hunt provided the board with a written report.

- Exhibits
 - Seymour Library Local History Room display case
 - Butter Churn (operated by animals) at the Sweden Farmers Museum
 - Display of the Asa Rowe Homestead
- Presentations/Talks
 - Cobblestone Museum, Brockport Central School 4th graders, spoke on agricultural history, manufacturing of farm implements and David Bruce legacy – May 21 – 23, 2024 and June 4, 2024
 - Hosted Pioneer Day at the museum – presenters Christine Hunt, Marie Bell, Don Grentzinger, and Marion Dilger
 - “The Forgotten Garden” – history and lore of six forgotten plants
 - Hosted Gardening Lectures presented by Monroe County Cooperative Extension
- Historical Events
 - May 18, 2024 Night at the Museum
 - September 21, 2024 free floriculture workshop for children
- Historic Preservation Projects
 - Soldiers' Monument
 - Formation of Triangle Tract Historical Society

- Collecting information on Asa Rowe property, King house and Locke family
- Met with nationally known taxidermist historian John Janelli of New Jersey
- Photographed standing farm outbuildings
- Attended conference in Rochester, April 16, 2024
- Spent over 120 hours at the Farmers Museum – organizing and cataloging
- 2025 Goals
 - Continue to establish a library of agricultural books, ledgers, journals
 - Tour of Beach Ridge Cemetery – tentatively scheduled for May 18, 2025
 - Investigate Pomeroy markers for Sweden Center and West Sweden
 - Gardening lectures by the Cooperative Extension
 - Organize collections housed in the barn

Town Clerk Karen Sweeting provided the board with a written report, including an annual financial report and disbursement of funds.

- Total dog licenses issued in 2024 – 1,285
 - 2025 conduct a postcard mailing – mailing done 2020 – 2022 with over 113 new licenses – worth doing again
- Dog License late fees collected - \$4,495
- Marriage Licenses issued in 2024 – 66
- One Day Marriage Officiant Licenses – 4
- Garage Sale permits issued in 2024 – 25
 - Increase awareness of the law in 2025
- On-Going Projects
 - Records Management
 - Digitization of Town Records
 - Town Zoning Map

Town Assessor Tammy Baker provided the board with a written report.

- Town wide assessment update
- Conducted over 160 informal hearings, Board of Assessment Review heard 36
- Received several new Veterans Exemptions
- Mailed over 550 senior exemption forms and 278 agriculture renewal applications to Sweden and Clarkson residents
- Legislative Updates
 - Fireman/Ambulance Exemption (RPTL 466(k)) is set to be repealed December 9, 2025 – new one needs to be adopted. There are local options. Purpose of the law to provide local municipalities the option of adopting a local law to allow residents who serve as a volunteer fireperson or ambulance in a neighboring municipality who serves in the town to receive the exemption.
 - Local option 459 (c) adds a person with a disability with primary residence in a trust or life interest in the property to be eligible for an exemption
 - Amendment to the Agriculture and Markets law to include cannabis
- If Town opts not to reassess in 2025, equalization rate will drop to 96%, adjustment of 6% to stay at 100%.

Building/Planning Clerk Phyllis Brudz provided the board with a written report.

- Building/Fire Marshal End of Year Comparisons
 - Permits issued, inspections performed, violations, and fire inspections – comparison from 2023.
 - Fire Inspections due in 2025 – 85. They would like to complete 50 by the end of April.
- Building Permit Type Breakdown
 - Building, Open Burn, Operating, and Other
 - Operating Permits will increase in 2025 due to NYS requiring more types of businesses to obtain operating permits.
- Planning Board Project Annual Comparison
 - Increase in projects accepted for review – 22 in 2024
 - Approved Residential Projects
 - Brandon Woods – 13 buildings remain under construction, 51 total townhouse units
 - Stonebriar South – 57 buildings with 150 townhouse units, community building, inground pool, and storage building.
 - Approved Commercial Projects
 - Colby Street – Self Storage Building
 - Chick-Fil-A – target start date of late February
 - Mavis Tire
 - Jiffy Lube
 - Owens Road Self Storage

Director of Buildings and Grounds Adam Shade and Councilperson Gary Sullivan reported. A written report was provided to the board by Adam Shade. Councilperson Sullivan started with highlights from 2024.

- Town Park
 - Removed retaining wall at Nietopski Field
 - Field #6 outfield fence replaced, Field #5 infield and mound repaired
 - Graded driveway to shop and parking lot near Dog Park
 - Splash Pad concrete resealed
 - Assisted with installation of new fishing deck
 - Repairs to Dog Park fence and placement of benches
 - Removal of Ash trees
 - Repairs to mowers and lawn equipment
 - Replacement of fans in concession building
 - Assisted Boy Scout with construction and placement of “library” box
 - Repairs to playgrounds
 - Assisted with Seymour Library Story Path
- Sweden Clarkson Community Center
 - Replaced metal roof on outdoor storage shed
 - Resealed gym floor
 - Kitchen repairs for use by Lifetime Assistance
 - Repairs to roof
- Town Hall

- Installation of shelving for Finance Director
- Construction of shelving for records storage
- 133 State Street
 - Removal of Town items

Director of Buildings and Grounds Adam Shade thanked his department and the Highway Department for their hard work and cooperative efforts. Goals for 2025:

- Town Park
 - Baseball fields – replace outfield fence, replace concrete dugouts, pressure wash and paint fence, build new dugout benches
 - Repair playground rubber surface, seal playground surfaces, and seal concrete at the Skate Park
 - Regrade parking lot, topsoil and seed around soccer kick wall
 - Remove dead trees
 - Electric installation for back barn
 - Paint cross walks, speed bumps, and parking lot spaces
- Sweden Clarkson Community Center
 - Replacement of the roof
 - Bathroom renovation
 - New metal siding on shed
 - Painting and replacement of ceiling tiles
 - Air circulation duct work
 - Installation of ground border near windows of new addition
- Town Hall
 - Painting, door replacement, general maintenance of the building
 - Update fire alarm system

Superintendent of Highways Brian Ingraham provided the board with a written report. 2024 Year in Review:

- Town Road work
 - Milled and paved Crestview Drive, Trefoil Lane, and the Seymour Library parking lot
 - LaDue Road received final asphalt overlay
 - Rebuilt turn around at dead end and chip sealed/fog sealed Long Point Lane and Golden Hill Lane
 - Chip sealed/fog sealed White Road, Ellis Drive, Timber Trail, and Rogers Parkway
 - No parking sign installation and removal for April eclipse planning
 - Site work for new fishing deck at Sweden Town Park
- Assisted other Towns and Villages – Village of Brockport, Towns of Hamlin, Parma, Riga, Clarkson, and Bergen
- Monroe County work (billable)
- Snow and Ice Control
 - Snow fence installation and removal
 - Salt usage – 2,388 tons – 85% of year average
 - Anti-ice liquid usage – 8,366 gallons – 109% of year average

- Logged a total of 26,330 miles plowing and salting
- Sanitary Sewer work – flushed 15 miles of sewer system, created a list of repairs
- Storm Sewer Work
- Pickups and mowing – Spring and Fall pickups, town wide leaf collection, roadside mowing, and truck drop offs for residents (80 drop offs).
- Tree work – Redman Road, Gallup Road, West Canal Road, Euler Road, White Road, Coleman Creek, and Sweden Walker Cemetery and Lakeview Cemetery.
- Cemetery – placement of over 800 veteran’s flags (with volunteers), site work for Rothenberg mausoleum, Harvest Festival set up and tear down, burials
- Building and equipment repairs – sand blasted and painted fuel tanks, office floor grinding and epoxy coating, new communications antenna installation

2025 Goals:

- Town work
 - Complete fourth and final phase of work on LaDue Road
 - Installation of sidewalks, concrete gutters, milling and paving on Sherry Lane
 - Various chip seal work
- Monroe County work – Root Road, Swamp Road, Northampton Park, and possibly Brockport Central School District and Brockport Fire District
- Snow and Ice
- Sanitary Sewer – pump station and infrastructure repairs
- Cemetery
 - Installation of roadway to Section F
 - Recoat all existing roadways with asphalt millings
 - Paint cemetery barn and repair mausoleum
- Building and Equipment Repairs
 - Replace siding on salt storage building and old dog control building
 - Roof repair on cold storage building and concrete flooring in main building
 - Repair or replace overhead doors on cold storage buildings

Finance Director Hiedi Librock reported that since July (hire date) she has been learning policies and procedures and evaluating payroll processes and investment strategies. Changed the Towns investments to include NYCLASS.

Goals for 2025:

- Implementation of electronic time keeping system for payroll
- Review employee handbook, employee wages and benefits
- Implementation of IT services
- Inventory of Fixed Assets
- Organize contracts and intermunicipal agreements – streamline for tracking

Town Attorney Jim Bell reported the following:

- There are four pending tax assessment cases with commercial properties. Spoke with the Town Assessor to decide how to move forward.
- Sale of 133 State Street
- Code violations
- Revisions to Sweden Town Code

Councilperson Staskiewicz provided a recap of 2024 for the Sweden Clarkson Community Center.

- Total of 513 participants for soccer, baseball, and basketball programs. Megan Lester found a new baseball league out of Albion for 2025.
- New online summer camp registration. Amanda Kinney took extra training to get this into place. There were 200 participants for 9 weeks of summer camp.
- Caitlin Curley has been working hard to continue offering swimming lessons. Scheduling has been changed to accommodate participants.
- Lifetime Assistance nutrition program is now at the SCCC – senior luncheons have been successful
- November election – conducted pre-planning with Monroe County – accommodated close to 9,000 voters
- Increase in participants for group exercises
- Popular adult programs – volleyball, yoga, Pilates, dance, and instructional pickleball
- Looking for a new Silver Sneakers instructor
- Held several successful events – Easter, roller skating, July 3rd fireworks, Halloween and holidays
- Banners at the Town Park – five returning partners and three new partners – 2025 letters will be going out soon

Goals for 2025:

- Megan Lester found a skateboard instructor to start lessons in the Spring
- Amanda Kinney – cutting costs of summer camp by doing three bus trips and offering special events each day.
- Purchase of new playground equipment
- Update the front entrance
- Add two new exercise machines to the fitness room
- Add two more security cameras to the building

Councilperson Staskiewicz reported total foot traffic for 2024 was 111,920.

Councilperson Sharpe reported:

- Cemetery
 - Burials will continue in the Spring
 - Continue repairs to the mausoleum – long term preservation
 - Addition of a road to Section F – allow access to the area for additional sales
- Farmers Museum
 - Thank you to Christine Hunt and Marie Bell
 - Would like to utilize more technology and volunteers – important for education and preservation
- Harvest Festival – 2024 event was successful. Looking for volunteers to help with 2025 planning

Supervisor Hayles shared Councilperson Maar's report on the Seymour Library:

- An ad hoc committee was formed to explore a permanent Story Book Path at the Town Park. Members include the Library Director and Trustees and representatives from the Sweden Community Foundation, Sweden Clarkson Community Center, and Town of Sweden

- Increased participation and counts in all categories
- Patrick Pittman, Seymour Library Director and Jill Wisnowski, Sweden Recreation Director will meet to discuss streamlining programming
- The Sweden Library Foundation has new leadership in place for 2025
- Bathroom renovations are complete
- Carpet replacement for 2025

Supervisor Hayles provided the board with a written report listing 2024 action items, their current status, and 2025 action items:

- Formation of LaDue, Swamp & West Sweden Road water district. Applications have been submitted to USDA Rural Development.
- Approved the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Clarkson for water along West Avenue
- Town Personnel
 - Reinstatement of Buildings and Grounds Director
 - New Finance Director
- Update the Park Master Plan in 2025 – 2026
- Increased tax exemption income level to \$52,000 for seniors
- Seymour Library
 - Approved capital improvements – bathrooms & parking lot
 - Added \$8,000 to reserves
 - Consideration of permanent Story Book Path – discussion in 2025
- Sale of 133 State Street
- Community Safety & Traffic
 - Approved safety measures in conjunction with Monroe County Sheriff for the April 2024 Eclipse event
 - Held a community meeting with the Monroe County Sheriff. Sheriff completed 35 hours of traffic enforcement, concentrating on Talamora Trail, Sweden Village and West Sweden Road
- Board Appointments – filled several vacancies. Consideration of candidates for other vacancies for 2025
- Budget preparation for 2025
- Investment of funds with NYCLASS
- Town Code Review – ad hoc committee was formed and are meeting twice a month
- Update of the Comprehensive Plan in 2025
- Review of pay and benefits offered to Town employees in 2025
- Study EMS funding – Councilperson Maar assigned to this issue

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Councilperson Sharpe made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to approve **all** Consent Agenda items as listed below.

VOTE BY ROLL CALL AND RECORD:

Councilperson Maar	<u>Absent</u>
Councilperson Sharpe	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Staskiewicz	<u>Aye</u>

Councilperson Sullivan
Supervisor Hayles

Aye
Aye

ADOPTED

- Approval of the Town Board Organizational Meeting minutes held on January 2, 2025
- RESOLUTION NO. 24 Ordering Public Hearing on Renewal of Iroquois Rock Products Excavation Permit

WHEREAS, the Excavation Permit for Iroquois Rock Products quarry on Colby Street and Sweden Walker Road, in the Town of Sweden expires on March 29, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Mr. John Swierkos, Jr. of Iroquois Rock Products has submitted an Application for an Excavation Permit to the Town Board for review and study; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the residents of the Town of Sweden to hold a public hearing so all persons desiring to be heard for or against such renewal shall be heard.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden will hold a Public Hearing at the Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport, New York on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 6:15 p.m. to hear all persons desiring to be heard for or against the renewal of the Excavation Permit for Iroquois Rock Products located on Colby Street and Sweden Walker Road.

Sec. 2. That the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish said Public Hearing in the official newspaper of the Town as required by law.

Sec. 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

- RESOLUTION NO. 25 Authorizing Supervisor to Contract with Airserve Heating and Air Conditioning

WHEREAS, the maintenance agreement between Airserve Heating and Air Conditioning and the Town of Sweden has expired on December 31, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden does hereby authorize and direct the Supervisor to contract with Airserve Heating and Air Conditioning.

Sec. 2. The term of this agreement shall be for a period of one (1) year, commencing on January 1, 2025 and expiring December 31, 2025.

Sec. 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

- RESOLUTION NO. 26 Establish Sweden Farmers Museum Committee Emeritus Member

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Sweden wishes to create a Sweden Farmers Museum emeritus member position to the current Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden does hereby create the Sweden Farmers Museum Emeritus Committee seat.

Sec. 2. That the terms of office shall be a four-year term.

Sec. 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

- RESOLUTION NO. 27 Appoint Member to the Town of Sweden
Farmers Museum Emeritus Committee Member

WHEREAS, the Town of Sweden Farmers Museum Committee has a vacancy for the Emeritus member seat; and

WHEREAS, the Town Supervisor has recommended Kathleen Goetz for this vacancy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden does hereby appoint Kathleen Goetz to the Sweden Farmers Museum Committee to fill the vacancy of the Emeritus member seat.

Sec. 2. That this term of membership will begin January 1, 2025 and end on December 31, 2028.

Sec. 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

No items.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No additional business or announcements.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Councilperson Sharpe moved to adjourn the January 14, 2025 meeting of the Sweden Town Board at 7:22 p.m. Councilperson Staskiewicz seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion – four ayes. Motion adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Sweeting
Town Clerk