

Nichols Town Regular Board

Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2025

Board Members Present:

Supervisor Esther Woods, Councilperson Brenda Fay-Pelotte, Councilperson LeeAnn Tinney, Councilperson Rose Cole, Councilperson J. Ladd Yost

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present:

Jeff Blow, Bryan Cole, Matt Freeze and Marcy Hill, Town Clerk.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, seconded by Esther Woods at 6:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve May 27, 2025 minutes by, Supervisor, Supervisor E. Woods, seconded by Councilperson B. Fay Pelotte

Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent

Acceptance of Financial Reports

A motion to accept the April 2025 financial reports by motion Councilperson R. Cole, seconded by Councilperson L. Tinney.

Vote: 4 Ayes, 0-No, 1-abstain, 0 absent

Public Comments

- None
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New Business

1. Donation request: Kirby Band

- It was noted the Kirby bank is seeking its annual donation.
- A motion was made authorizing the donation of \$1200 to Kirby Bank
- **Motion by:** Councilperson Rose Cole
- **Seconded by:** Councilperson, J. Ladd Yost
- **Vote:** -5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent
- Motion carried.

2. 5-Year Plan for Water & Sewer Plant

Councilperson Rose Cole discussed the 5-year plan for the Water & Sewer plant. Bob Nugent will coordinate with the highway department and obtain quotes for additional items. The board considered whether to issue an RFP for a detailed study of the Water & Sewer systems. Given Bob's thorough knowledge of the current plan, the consensus was to proceed with the existing 5-year plan and not pursue an RFP at this time.

3. Susquehanna Heritage Grant: Cady Library & Carriage House

The board plans to pursue several grants, including funding for library windows, Design Connect, and the Smart Growth community initiatives to upgrade local systems. Letters of interest have been submitted. Councilperson Tinney has contacted W.H. Lane for structural data needed for the grant application. Window information is expected to be included. The grant application will be submitted by June 27, 2025.

4. NYS DOS Community Smart Growth Planning & Zoning

Discussion ongoing regarding related planning and zoning efforts.

5. Community Bank Credit Card Payment Services

After a brief discussion, the board determined it was not advantageous to pursue credit card payment services through Community Bank.

6. Interfund transfer for Highway Department

- A motion was to authorize a transfer from: AA9901.900 to DA5031.200 for \$274,000 to cover purchase of new truck.
- **Motion by:** Supervisor E. Woods
- **Seconded by:** Councilperson, J. Ladd Yost
- Vote: -5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent
- Motion carried

7. Resolution #15– SEQRA – Cady Library – Resolution (Approved with edits).

- A motion was made to approve Resolution #15, authorizing the Type II SEQRA for Cady Library/Carriage House improvements
- **Motion by:** Supervisor E Woods
- **Seconded by:** Councilperson, B. Fay-Pelotte
- Vote: -5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent
- Motion carried.

8. Resolution #16– NYS DOS Smart Growth Community

- A motion was made to approve Resolution #16, authorizing the NYS DOC SGCPZ
- Grant Application
- **Motion by:** Supervisor E Woods
- **Seconded by:** Councilperson, Lee Ann Tinney
- Vote: -5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent
- Motion carried.

9. Resolution #17 – Purchase of 3681 E. River Road, Nichols, NY

- A motion was made to approve Resolution #17, authorizing the purchase of FEMA properties located at 3681 E. River Road
- **Motion by:** Councilperson J. Ladd Yost
- **Seconded by:** Councilperson, Rose Cole
- Vote: -5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent
- Motion carried.

10. Resolution #18 – Shared Services – Town of Owego Dog Control

- A motion was made to approve Resolution #18, authorizing the Town of Nichols to enter a shared services agreement with the Town of Owego for Dog Control Services
- **Motion by:** Supervisor E Woods
- **Seconded by:** Councilperson, Rose Cole
- Vote: -5 Ayes, 0-No, 0-astain, 0 absent
- Motion carried.

10. Old Home Days – Town Board Advertisement

A letter was received requesting the town board's support for Old Home Days. Each town board member will participate, and Supervisor Woods will collect a \$10 contribution from each member.

11. Excellus Insurance Letter

Excellus notified the town that premiums may increase by 16.5%. This rate increase has been requested from New York State. Last year, a similar request was made, and only about half of the proposed increase was approved

Old Business:

1. FEMA Properties

Reviewed as noted previously in the meeting.

2. Town Hall Room #2 Renovations

Councilperson L. Tinney has requested written quotes from three local contractors. She will compile and submit the quotes once received.

3. Design Connect Fishing Access – Waterfront Revitalization Plan

The project is scheduled to start in the fall. Design Connect will provide the design work. The board will explore additional grants to support the project.

4. Fall Clean-up

Taylor Garbage will no longer accept tires. Rose contacted Best Haulers, who will pick up tires after the collection period ends. They will not collect tires during the collection, but will load them during the pickup. Tires must not be stored near the building during the collection.

Department Reports

• Highway – Jeff Blow

Jeff reported plans to seek quotes for road repairs in 2026, focusing on roads in critical condition such as Moore Hill. Oil & Stone treatment was completed on 10 miles earlier this month.

The new truck is operating well. Roadside mowing is ongoing.

Recently crushed gravel did not pack well on a steep hill so gravel was purchased from Cole Construction to finish the job. Jeff suggested evaluating whether to crush gravel in-house versus purchasing stone in the future. He will contact the insurance company about having trucks participate in the Labor Day parade.

• Building & Grounds – Ray Thetga Jr. Not present.

• Sewer & Water – Bob Nugent Not present.

• Code Officer – D. Chrzanowski Not present.

• Library – E. Deretz - Requested rekeying of the library back door.

Councilperson R. Cole has requested purchase of new fire extinguishers for the library

• Nichols Fire Commissioners – B. Cole

Board Commissioners meet on Mondays; all are welcome.

Cooling center planning is preliminary; no permanent plan yet. The community room can accommodate 100 people. Staffing requires at least one fire department member present.

The budget process is underway. Paid EMS coverage is currently Monday–Friday, 6 AM to 6 PM, with options being considered for 24/7 or 7 days a week 6–6 coverage. The commissioners are also exploring “soft billing” insurance options.

Committee Reports

- **REAP**
Councilperson Ladd will attend the next meeting.
- **LEPC**
The July meeting will focus on cooling centers.

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- A motion to approve vouchers and pay bills by Councilperson J. Ladd Yost, seconded by Councilperson B. Fay Pelotte
Vote: 5-Ayes, 0-Naye 0-abstain Motion carried

Public Comment

- No public comments were received.

Executive Session (if needed)

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. **Motion by:** Supervisor Esther Woods
Seconded by: Councilperson B, Fay-Pelotte

Vote: All in favor – Motion carried.
