

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, September 23, 2025.

Town Board Members present were Supervisor Patricia Hayles, Councilperson Tyler Sharpe, Councilperson Scott Maar, Councilperson Adam Staskiewicz, and Councilperson Gary Sullivan. Also present were Town Attorney Jim Bell and Town Clerk Karen Sweeting.

Visitors present – John and Sandra Cassin, Craig and Terry Muir, Julie Lercher, Don Davis, Lauren Williams, Bradley Webb, Joe Milizi, Michele and Russell Johnson, Julie Lapinski, Helen and Tim Russell, Michele Prince, Jamey Schwan, John Egan, Ken Cline, and Cody Johnson. Others were present but did not sign in.

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 for those in the armed services and our first responders.

PUBLIC HEARING:

At 6:05 p.m. Supervisor Hayles called the public hearing to order. The purpose of the public hearing was to hear all persons interested in the adoption of Local Law 4 of 2025 – authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law Section 3-C.

Supervisor Hayles explained that the board, at this time, does not know if they will have to go over the tax cap, it is the goal to stay within the cap, but by adopting this local law, it will allow the board to go over if necessary. Supervisor Hayles explained several of the challenges the board is facing with this budget.

Resident John Cassin reminded the board that issues such as this will impact whether people will want to remain in Sweden and encouraged the board to vote no.

Resident Sandra Cassin stated that 2% seems like a small amount but wonders how the Town can not function on this each year. Residents don't receive pay increases that offset tax increases and are required to adjust their budgets. New York State put the tax cap in place to address the constant increase in taxes. Sandra Cassin feels that it is the responsibility of the town, village, and school to cut their budgets down to basic needs and would appreciate the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers.

Resident Don Davis has been a taxpayer in this community for 40 years and noted the increase in assessments and suggested cutting programs and services instead of raising taxes.

Resident Lauren Williams stated we are feeling the stress of inflation and having to live within a budget. Assessments have increased dramatically. Supervisor Hayles explained that when assessments are increased there is the potential for a decrease in the tax rate and explained the reasons why the board insists on maintaining 100% valuation. Lauren Williams also feels that Village residents are paying for services they cannot use (spring cleanup). Supervisor Hayles explained there is a tax rate for Village residents and a tax rate for those outside the Village.

Resident Joe Milizia shared budget concerns of Brockport School District and assessment increases.

Resident John Egan asked if this local law applies only to 2026. Supervisor Hayles confirmed this local law only applies to the 2026 budget. John Egan suggested cutting “people” to reduce costs.

Resident Mark Rabjohn pointed out the median income and poverty level of the town and understands the challenges. Increasing tax rates has a much longer effect on the community. Suggested some ways to cut back.

Resident Michele Johnson thanked those that came prepared and said she wasn’t sure what to expect. Asked the board to make the adjustments necessary not to raise taxes.

Resident Michele Prince explained she is a single parent, adding it is difficult to make ends meet. The town may lose newer homeowners if it becomes unaffordable.

Resident Ken Cline asked how the public hearing was noticed. Supervisor Hayles explained that it was advertised in the local newspaper and on our website.

Resident Craig Muir asked where the 2% came from (New York State law) and how can you override NYS law. Supervisor Hayles explained that the law has provisions that allow towns to override the tax cap, there is a process to follow. Craig Muir asked if the Town Board sets aside funds for specific projects. Supervisor Hayles explained that the town has reserve funds set aside for specific projects. Craig Muir asked if the reserve information was public. Supervisor Hayles indicated that the information can be found on the website.

Resident Emily (?) asked for clarification on the tax cap, increase in assessments and how the town has not received more money. Supervisor Hayles explained the difference between assessed valuation and the rate of tax. Emily asked if the local law is passed, what happens to any funds you don’t use. Supervisor Hayles explained that we don’t tax to have funds left over, any funds remaining can be directed to reserve funds for special projects.

Supervisor Hayles explained that overriding the tax cap is not what the board wants to do, but they feel it necessary to have the option available. The town is still waiting for health insurance numbers to complete the budget.

Councilperson Sullivan reiterated that the town cannot control what the school does relative to taxes and hears what the residents are saying about cutting services. Supervisor Hayles added that many of the services are required by law. The town has reduced the number of employment positions.

No other comments. The public hearing was closed at 6:54 p.m.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

No other comments.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence noted.

REPORTS OF BOARD AND DEPARTMENTS:

Supervisor Hayles reported that she and Town Attorney Jim Bell spoke with NYS DEC to discuss the Ace Cleaners property on Lake Road. The property must be condemned before NYS DEC can begin the demolition and remediation of the property. The Town Board will propose a local law to enable this action.

Supervisor Hayles met with Mayor Ben Reed to open the conversation on potential joint services. The Swamp, LaDue, West Sweden proposed water district is moving along. Resident petitions and a public information meeting are forthcoming. Mrs. Hayles attended the free rabies

clinic where over 250 vaccinations were administered. The cemetery mausoleum grant application was submitted. Councilperson Sharpe pointed out that the structure is technically not a mausoleum, but a chapel which may make a difference with future grant applications.

Supervisor Hayles met with MRB Group to investigate grant funds to review the Park Master Plan and suggested postponing the timeline for review until any application for funds can be submitted. Further discussion to take place at an upcoming workshop. The same was suggested for the review of the Comprehensive Plan.

Supervisor Hayles reported that the Code Review Committee met to review the condemnation rules and will propose a local law for consideration. The new Building/Code Enforcement Officer Robert LaPoint brought forward several suggestions for the current code that will be reviewed for the update.

Supervisor Hayles attended a press conference regarding the Main Street bridge and County Legislator's suggestion to share the contractor's fines with the Main Street businesses. The 7 Brew grand opening is scheduled for September 24, 2025. Supervisor Hayles will meet with Chick-fil-A representatives and the Monroe County Sheriff to discuss traffic issues on opening day. Councilperson Sullivan to also attend.

Supervisor Hayles had an informal meeting with someone who would like to construct a solar farm. The Sweden Town Code contains an option for "incentive zoning". Mrs. Hayles would like to invite the Brighton Town Supervisor to attend a joint meeting with the Planning Board to explain incentive zoning and the process. Councilperson Sharpe had concerns with another solar farm but would like to move forward with the meeting to understand incentive zoning.

Councilperson Staskiewicz reported that senior programs are picking up, adult volleyball, fitness and dance classes have begun, the annual community health fair is scheduled for October 8, 2025, and the Halloween event is scheduled for October 23, 2025. The before and after school and instructional sports programs are doing well.

Councilperson Sullivan reported that Buildings and Grounds is laying topsoil at the Sweden Clarkson Community Center and the boy scout lean-to for the sledding hill is almost completed. They will be starting construction on a new storage shed. The skate park was power washed and sealed and the centerfield fence at Nietopski Field was washed and will be painted weather permitting.

Councilperson Sullivan shared an email from Supervisor Hayles to the Sweden Community Foundation and the foundation's response. Mr. Sullivan asked all board members to review the correspondence for discussion at a later date.

Councilperson Maar reported on the annual Seymour Library budget presentation held after the August 26, 2025 Town Board meeting and felt it went well. Summer reading program has ended, and surveys are available. Building usage is up 5 – 7%, but circulation is down due to people utilizing digital reading. The cost of ebooks is increasing and are leased, not owned. The library's server is being replaced. The Library Foundation After Hours event is scheduled for Saturday, October 4, 2025.

Councilperson Maar reported capital projects, to include carpeting. They are looking into a space utilization plan before other projects are determined.

Councilperson Sharpe reported they are catching up with several small cemetery projects and repairs. The Farmers Museum conducted cemetery tours that included tours of the house and barn. Highway crews trimmed and removed several bushes. Mr. Sharpe will meet with Sweden Dog Control at the kennel in Hamlin.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

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

VOTE BY ROLL CALL:

Councilperson Maar	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Sharpe	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Staskiewicz	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Sullivan	<u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Hayles	<u>Aye</u>

ADOPTED

- RESOLUTION NO. 124 Authorizing Supervisor to Sign Maintenance Agreement with Imperial Door Controls, Inc.

WHEREAS, the maintenance agreements between Imperial Door Controls, Inc. and the Town of Sweden will expire on October 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to enter into new agreements for the Town Hall and Community Center.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden does hereby authorize and direct the Supervisor to sign the Maintenance Agreement between the Town of Sweden and Imperial Door Controls, Inc.

Sec. 2. The term of this agreement shall be for a period of one (1) year, commencing on November 1, 2025 and ending on October 31, 2026 at an annual cost of \$195 per door: one at the Town Hall and four at the Community Center for a total cost of \$975.

Sec. 3. That the maintenance agreement will cover automatic door labor only to include travel time during business hours; special parts discounts; and two inspection visits per year to adjust, clean, lubricate and tune equipment.

Sec. 4. That this new agreement does hereby supersede the current agreement due to expire on October 31, 2025.

Sec. 5. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

- RESOLUTION NO. 125 Authorizing Grant Application Justice Court Assistance Program

WHEREAS, the Town of Sweden recognizes the importance of supporting its Justice Court in maintaining a safe, functional, and comfortable environment for court operations and the public it serves; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) provides grant funding to improve the operations and facilities of local justice courts; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Sweden Justice Court has identified a need for the purchase and installation of nine (9) window treatments and four (4) ceiling fans to enhance energy efficiency, lighting control, and overall working conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of hereby authorizes the Town of Sweden Justice Court to apply for a JCAP grant for the 2025–2026 cycle in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Seventeen Dollars and Ninety-Two Cents (\$1,517.92) for the purchase and installation of the above-referenced items.

Sec. 2. That the Town Supervisor and Town Justice(s) are authorized to take all actions necessary to prepare and submit the grant application and to execute any documents required to accept and administer the grant, if awarded.

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

NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of the minutes of the regular Town Board meeting held on September 9, 2025.

Motion made by Councilperson Maar and seconded by Councilperson Staskiewicz to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 9, 2025.

VOTE BY ROLL CALL:

Councilperson Maar	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Sharpe	<u>Abstain</u>
Councilperson Staskiewicz	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Sullivan	<u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Hayles	<u>Aye</u>

ADOPTED

- Approval for Payment of Bills

All the Board members reviewed the invoice audit journal. Councilperson Sullivan made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Maar authorizing payment of the bills in Abstract 9 dated September 23, 2025 in the amount of \$428,085.47.

General Fund: In the amount of \$87,804.35 as set forth in Abstract 9 dated September 23, 2025.

Highway Fund: In the amount of \$10,196.27 as set forth in Abstract 9 dated September 23, 2025.

Special Fund: In the amount of \$5,686.78 as set forth in Abstract 9 dated September 23, 2025.

Capital Fund: In the amount of \$324,398.07 as set forth in Abstract 9 dated September 23, 2025.

VOTE BY ROLL CALL AND RECORD:

Councilperson Maar	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Sharpe	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Staskiewicz	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Sullivan	<u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Hayles	<u>Aye</u>

ADOPTED

- RESOLUTION NO. 126 Adopt Local Law No. 4 of 2025 – Authorizing Tax Levy Increase in Excess of Limit Set Forth in Section 3-C of General Municipal Law

WHEREAS, Section 3-C of the General Municipal Law places a limit on the amount of real property taxes a local government can increase over the previous year's levy; and

WHEREAS, the limit on increases can be overridden by a 60% vote of the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Sweden's 2026 Budget exceeds the levy limit as defined in Section 3-C of the General Municipal Law; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 6:05 pm regarding a Local Law to override the Tax Levy Cap and that all persons desiring to be heard were heard.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden hereby adopts Local Law No. 4 of 2025 – Authorizing Tax Levy Increase in Excess of Limit Set Forth in Section 3-C of General Municipal Law.

Sec. 2. That the complete text of Local Law No. 4 of 2025 is attached as Exhibit A.

Sec. 3. That the Town Clerk is authorized and directed to file a complete copy of Local Law No. 4 of 2025 with the Secretary of State, as required by law.

Sec. 4. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

MOTION for adoption of the Resolution by Councilperson Sullivan
Seconded by Councilperson Staskiewicz

Discussion:

VOTE BY ROLL CALL AND RECORD:

Councilperson Maar	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Sharpe	<u>Nay</u>
Councilperson Staskiewicz	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Sullivan	<u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Hayles	<u>Aye</u>

ADOPTED

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The 2026 Tentative Budget was presented to the Town Clerk for filing. Supervisor Hayles reviewed the tentative budget with the board.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Councilperson Sharpe moved to adjourn the September 23, 2025 meeting of the Sweden Town Board at 7:33 p.m. Councilperson Maar seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Sweeting
Town Clerk