

**Regular Meeting
Sheldon Town Board
January 21, 2026**

The Regular Meeting of the Sheldon Town Board held January 21, 2026, at the Sheldon Town Hall, 1380 Centerline Rd., NY 14145 was called to order by Town Supervisor Brian Becker at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Brian Becker
Councilmen: Joe Meyer, Jim Fontaine, Vince Kirsch and Jim Kirsch
Also present: Highway Superintendent Luke Metz
Recording Secretary: Town Clerk Carol Zittel
A signed list of all present is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Minutes

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Joe Meyer that the minutes from December 17, 2025 regular meeting be approved.
Ayes: (5) Becker, Kirsch, Meyer, Fontaine, Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Motion Carried.

Communications

Varysburg Water Project Meeting Minutes

The minutes from January 09, 2026 Varysburg Water construction meeting were distributed to the town board.

Mary Kern

The Town received a letter from NYSLRS on December 17, 2025. Supervisor Becker reported that she will have a replacement for the Town. The Board will revisit this topic in the future.

Historical Society Letters

Town Historian Jeanne Mest has sent the Board three letters. One is about her year as the Town Historian. She attended a conference in October. The second letter is in regard to the activities happening with Sheldon Historical Society. The final letter was a request for a check for \$2,500.00 from the Board to jump start Semiquincentennial Celebrations. This amount was previously approved in the Budget for 2026. The request for a lump check will not be granted. For accounting purposes, vouchers will be submitted monthly when needed.

Fire Department Officers

Harris Corners Fire Department has submitted their list of 2026 Officers and Account Balance. A list of 2026 events was also included; it will be posted to the bulletin board and Facebook.

Verizon

The Town Clerk has switched the hall phone from a land line to a cell phone. The cost is \$30.00 a month. Highway Supervisor Metz has also upgraded his town cell phone for free.

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Emails

Making Board members aware that for some, Clerk emails have been going to spam. Just double check so you don't miss anything.

Training

The Town Clerk wants to inform the Board about the completion of two courses of zoom trainings. One was for Vital Records Management and the other was Transitioning to Town Clerk Position. Both have been very helpful.

Reports

The Town Supervisor financial reports, Town Clerk monthly, 2025 Clerk Annual Report and Town Justice report were distributed.

Wyoming County Zoning Report

The Wyoming County Zoning report was distributed and is on file in the Town Clerk's office. The ZBA will be holding a meeting on January 22 at 6pm in regard to Boxler Maple, LLC and Matthew Creps. The Town Clerk reported the date of January 20th is incorrect in the report. Zoning Officer Jenna Marley is no longer working with the Zoning Department. Our Officers are Nicole Grover and Don Roberts.

Highway Superintendent Report

Highway Superintendent Luke Metz reported the following:

Salt & Sand

The Highway Superintendent has ordered 300 tons each of salt and sand. Now all the sand just clumps up because it is getting wet. Council Vince Kirsch was under the impression that we had enough for the season. Superintendent Metz conveyed to the Board that the stacking in the barn was not as high. He is trying to work with a new option for a salt dealer, Java gets it from Egypt. It was asked what the state uses and he is unclear what they use, might be calcium. Council Vince Kirsch has contacts for a salt dealer in Egypt if Superintendent Metz would like the number.

Plowing

All is going well with the plowing. They have been extremely busy trying to keep up. Councilman Jim Fontaine asked if that tariff tax was waived on the plow truck? Superintendent Metz confirmed that it was waived.

New Truck

Highway Supervisor Metz reported his new work truck arrived last week on January 14th. It is a 2026, 2,500 V8 Chevy Silverado with towing capabilities. The cost of the new truck is \$11,143.40 after the trade in of the old truck. He traded in the old truck after only 18 months because cost of vehicles is rising and wanted to get a good trade in value.

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Supervisor Report

Supervisor Brian Becker reported the following:

Speedy Cow - County Broadband

Supervisor Becker reported that Speedy Cow will be available to all households. A NYS grant was obtained for \$14 million. The project must be in place by December 31, 2026. County Administrator, Scott Schrader gave a detailed report on the project. It will utilize 21 towers currently in use and in some places tall poles will be installed. Cost of equipment to homeowners was not known by Supervisor Becker. Superintendent Met asked if the hall would be able to get hard wired, that answer is unknown at this time. Customer Service for Speedy Cow will come from the County.

County Money 2025

Supervisor Becker reported that the County Treasurer paid the town a total of \$151,184.11 during the year of 2025. The breakdown is Mortgage Tax, \$43,413.90. County Snow Removal, \$94,170.21 and the Diversion Program, \$ 13,600.00.

Board Of Supervisors Chairman

James Brick has been elected the Chairman to the Board of Supervisors for Wyoming County. He will serve a one-year term. He was previously the supervisor for the Town of Perry since 2006.

Acceptance of Reports

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch to accept all reports as presented.

Ayes: (5) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch, Fontaine, Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Motion Carried.

Old Business:

Varysburg Water Update

Supervisor Becker gave a detailed update on the Varysburg Water.

- School Street and Route 98 all the hook ups are in. Some people replaced galvanized pipes.
- All lines are in on Route 20A and services will be done by the end of next week.
- The landscaping repairs won't be complete until spring.
- New pump house has been drafted by Mountain Engineering, PLLC. This pump house would have two rooms. One room would be for the chemicals. The other room would be for the equipment and piping.
- Mountain Engineering sent Supervisor Becker, Proposed Sheldon Varysburg Water System Improvements Amendment to Engineering Services Proposal/Agreement with pricing for the pump house. In total it will cost \$600,00.00 which would leave \$300,00.00 left in the budget of grant money.
- Municipal Solutions sent a new breakdown of the budget total.
 - \$316, 899.00 IJA/BIL Grant (recently awarded to the town in December)

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- \$786,801.00 33% subsidized interest loan
- \$1,515,300.00 WIIA Grant
- \$2,619,000.00 total project budget

A Motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to move forward with Mountain Engineering, PCCL for a new pump house.

Ayes: (5) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch, Fontaine, Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Motion Carried.

Mills Zoning Violation

Supervisor Becker has stated that he is having trouble getting anyone to come do this removal project in the snow.

Windmill Decommissioning

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Joe Meyer to authorize DiMatteo to write a letter to Invenergy to prove decommissioning costs.

Ayes: (5) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch, Fontaine, Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Motion Carried.

New Business:

Don Przbyl

A motion was made by Jim Kirsch and seconded by Vince Kirsch to hire Don Przbyl to audit town books.

Ayes: (5) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch, Fontaine, Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Motion Carried.

Ski Day

The town will be hosting a Cross-Country Ski Day on February 16, 2026, at Byrncliff. Town Clerk will advertise on Facebook.

Resolution in support of Congressman Nick Langworthy's Energy Choice Act

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSMAN NICK LANGWORTHY'S ENERGY CHOICE ACT (H.R. 3699, S. 1945) AND IN OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT-MANDATED NATURAL GAS BANS

WHEREAS, affordable and reliable energy is essential to the health, safety, and economic prosperity of New York families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, natural gas remains a dependable, cost-effective, and clean-burning energy source used by millions of New Yorkers to heat their homes, cook their food, and power their businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, New York State enacted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which mandates aggressive emissions reductions and serves as the foundation for sweeping energy restrictions, including efforts to phase out natural gas; and

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WHEREAS, building on the CLCPA, Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature in 2023 enacted provisions in the state budget banning natural gas and other fossil fuel hookups in most new residential and commercial buildings, effective 2026 for smaller buildings, and 2029 for larger buildings, thereby eliminating consumer choice and limiting access to affordable energy; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul has publicly supported these bans and related measures as part of her administration's climate and energy agenda, despite widespread concerns that such mandates will increase costs, strain grid reliability, and restrict energy diversity; and

WHEREAS, these top-down policies undermine affordability, threaten reliability during peak demand, and strip away the freedom of consumers and businesses to choose the energy sources that best meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Nick Langworthy of New York and Senator Jim Justice of West Virginia introduced the Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945), federal legislation that ensures state and local governments cannot restrict consumer access to natural gas and other affordable energy sources, thereby protecting freedom of choice for New Yorkers and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Choice Act would safeguard households, small businesses, hospitals, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and preserve access to an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy that strengthens reliability and affordability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Sheldon strongly supports the Energy Choice Act as introduced by Congressman Langworthy (H.R. 3699) and Senator Justice (S. 1945) and stands firmly opposed to New York State's natural gas bans, the CLCPA-driven restrictions, and other state energy mandates that eliminate consumer choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Sheldon urges Congress to pass the Energy Choice Act to defend consumer choice, protect energy affordability, and preserve reliable access to natural gas for New Yorkers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Nick Langworthy, Senator Jim Justice, the New York Congressional delegation, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, and leadership of the New York State Legislature.

A motion was made by Joe Meyer and seconded by Jim Kirsch to support Congressman Langworthy's Energy Choice Act.

Ayes: (5) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch, Fontaine, Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Motion Carried.

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Williamson Law

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch to have Supervisor Becker sign contract with Williamson Law Book for Software Support - \$575.00 for 2026. Last year it was \$548.00.

Ayes: (5) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch, Fontaine, Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Motion Carried.

Swim Lessons

The topic was brought up so we can begin the search for lifeguards. Thomas Jorgensen said that he knows someone who would be interested in it.

Organizational Meeting

**TOWN OF SHELDON ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 2026
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1.) A motion was made by Joe Meyer and seconded by Jim Kirsch to set the salaries for Town Officials both elected and appointed as stated in the 2026 Budget as adopted:

Town Board -----\$3,238.00 each
Supervisor -----\$9,046.00
Town Clerk -----\$22,383.00
Supt. Of Highways ----- \$71,665.50 plus \$500 per year max copay reimbursement
and max \$200 per year clothing & boot allowance & \$20/mt cell phone reimbursement
Justices (1) ----- \$24,679.00
Tax Collector -----\$3,084.00
Kate Bulera as Registrar of Vital Statistics \$375
Kate Bulera as Marriage Officer (no salary)
Kate Bulera as Records Management Officer (no salary)
Carol Zittel & Donna Almeter as Deputy Town Clerk
Carol Zittel as Deputy Registrar
Katie Chmura and Carol Zittel \$25.00/hr training duties
Lisa Perez and Jessica Merrill of Adminisolve as Bookkeepers \$25,504.00
Jeanne Mest as Town Historian \$1,250.00
Donna Almeter as Court Clerk \$27,687.00
Mary Kern as Town Assessor \$22,994.00
Wyoming County as Zoning Officer
Wyoming County as Dog Enumerator (\$1.50 per dog, plus mileage)
Carol Zittel as Water Rents Receiver \$1,200
Brian Becker as Certified Water Operator \$2,745 Water District Exceptional Duties
\$16.00 per hour
Part-time Laborer (wing person) NYS minimum wage \$16.00
~~Per diem Rate for Wally Bohlen \$27.55 per hour no fringe, no boots reimbursement,
no benefits and overtime paid for hours exceeding 40 hours a week~~ This portion was
incorrect and should of not been included in the meeting notes per Superintendent Metz
and the Town Board.

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Joyce Griffen as cleaner \$17.00/hr

Vacant as Youth Director \$1,425.00

Kate Bulera as Secretary to Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals & Board of Assessment Review at \$16.00 per hour

All the aforementioned terms of office for appointed positions will carry over to the Organizational Meeting, if said meeting is held after December 31st of the year in which the term expires.

The per diem salary for the Planning Board is \$30, Zoning Board of Appeals is \$25 and for the Board of Assessment Review the per diem is \$60.

The phone reimbursement for the highwaymen is \$10/month

The 2026 annual salary for cemetery maintenance is \$250.

2.) A motion was made by Jim Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to authorize all appointed and elected officials to attend, at town expense, applicable training in 2026.

3.) A motion was made by Jim Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to appoint the following people to the Varysburg Water District Board for 2-year terms 1/1/2026-12/31/2027:

Dave Thornton
Scott Almeter
Thane Wright
Bob Lakas
Dan Keicher

4.) A motion was made by Jim Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to appoint:
Joe Meyer as Deputy Supervisor and
Wally Bohlen as Deputy Highway Superintendent

5.) A motion was made by Jim Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to name as depository bank, the Five Star Bank, Bank of Castile, Steuben Trust and NYCLASS (plus one more possibly) for General, Highway, Trust & Agency Varysburg Water District, Capital Fund, Unemployment Insurance Reserve Fund and Lighting Districts.

6.) A motion was made by Jim Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer that the Rate of mileage for town business for 2026 be set at \$0.725 cents per mile.

7.) A motion was made by Jim Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to appoint David DiMatteo as the Town Attorney on an as needed basis, as outlined in the Attorney agreement signed on 12/17/25.

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8.) A motion was made by Jim Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to appoint the following people to designated Boards and positions for the terms listed after each name:

Zoning Board of Appeals: Vacant due to end of Walt Youngers resigning and Ken Belingers term ending. Reappoint Billy Harvey 01/01/2026-12/31/2030

Youth Recreation Board: will appoint as needed

Planning Board: Thomas Jorgensen- 5-year term 1/21/2026-12/31/2030

Park Committee: Don Neamon, Dave Thornton, Janet Bonner, Bob Graham, Darlene Janes 5 year term: 1/1/2023-12/31/2027

9.) A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch that the Regular Board Meeting be the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Sheldon Town Hall.

10) A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch that the Highway Superintendent be allowed to spend an amount not exceeding \$6,000.00 on the repair and maintenance of an individual piece of inventoried town equipment, without the Boards prior approval.

11.) A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch that the Highway Supt. is authorized to purchase, without the Town Boards prior approval, small tools in an amount not to exceed \$2,499 per purchase. Any purchase of an individual piece of equipment in excess of \$2,500 shall be deemed a capital purchase, all of which shall be subject to Town Board approval.

12.) A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch that the Town Board adopt the same Procurement Policy as was used in 2025 for the year 2026.

13.) A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch that the Town Board adopt the same Investment Policy that was used in 2025 for the year 2026.

14.) A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch that the Town Board adopt the same Fund Balance Policy that was used in 2025 for the year 2026. First adopted September 19, 2018.

15.) A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Jim Fontaine that the Town Board adopt the Internet, email & computer use policy, discrimination & harassment policy, credit card use policy, code of ethics, emergency plan and workplace violence policies that were adopted in March 2014 and the sexual harassment policy originally adopted October 2018.

16.) A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Jim Fontaine to adopt the scrap metal policy that was first adopted March 2011.

17) A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Jim Fontaine to adopt the town hall use agreement that was first adopted on January 18, 2017.

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18.) A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Jim Fontaine to adopt the travel and training policy that was first adopted on January 18, 2017.

19.) A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Jim Fontaine to designate the Batavia Daily as the Official Newspaper for 2026.

20.) A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Jim Fontaine to appoint the following committees:

2026 Assignments:

Street Lighting: Jim Kirsch & Joe Meyer

Building: Jim Kirsch, Vince Kirsch

Labor: Dan Farberman Wyoming Cty HR Dir, Vince Kirsch & Brian Becker

Highway: Entire Board

Planning/Zoning: Jim Kirsch & Jim Fontaine

Park Committee: Joe Meyer

Assessment Committee: Vince Kirsch & Jim Fontaine

Bills:

Town Supervisor Becker confirmed that the Board had a chance to review the abstracts.

A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer that the

General Bills #1 to #24 for a Total of \$18,457.15 the

Highway Bills #1 to #19 for a Total of \$239,013.88 the

Lighting District bills #1 to #4 for a Total of \$727.66 , the

Trust & Agency bills #1 to #2 for a Total of \$280.24, the

Varysburg Water District bills #1 to #3 for a Total of \$822.47 the

Varysburg Water System Improvement bills #1 to #4 for a Total of \$173,713.40 be paid

Ayes: (5) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch, Fontaine, Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Motion Carried.

Comments from the Floor

Supervisor Becker opened the floor to comments. No one had any comments.

Adjournment

At 8:00 p.m. a motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Jim Fontaine to adjourn the January 21, 2026 meeting of the Sheldon Town Board.

Ayes: (5) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch, Fontaine, Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (0) Motion Carried.

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