

**REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
April 16, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Sheldon Town Board held April 16, 2025 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, Vince Kirsch
Absent: Mike Armbrust, Jim Fontaine, 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 Joe Meyer and seconded by Vince Kirsch that the minutes from the March 19, 2024 regular meeting be approved.

Ayes: (3) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Armbrust, Fontaine Motion Carried.

Communications

The Town Clerk, Carol Zittel, reported the following:

ZBA Meeting

There is a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on April 22nd at 6pm with three variances on the agenda.

Wethersfield Windpark Project

The Town Clerk received a letter from WSP USA, collecting information for the proposed Wethersfield Windpark Repowering Project. The Town Clerk supplied our Zoning law and maps.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Program

The Town Clerk was contacted by Alex LesVeaux, Energy Advisor for Franklin Energy, NYSEG/RG&E Make-Ready programs regarding the possibility of EV charging stations on Town owned property. Supervisor Becker will give Alex a call to see if he could assist the resident in Varysburg who is interested in installing an EV charging station on Main Street.

Six Star Post Quarterly Report

The quarterly bell jar report was submitted by the Six Star Post.

Historical Society Use of Town Hall

The Historical Society will be using the town hall to host a speaker event on June 19th at 6pm.

Genesee Finger Lakes Training

The Town Clerk distributed upcoming training information taking place in Batavia.

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SEQR Notification

The Town of Wethersfield sent notification of seeking lead agency for Local Law 1-2025 Regulating & Siting Energy Systems.

Wyoming County Zoning Report

The Wyoming County zoning report was distributed and is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Highway Superintendent, Luke Metz, was absent from tonight's meeting. Supervisor Becker read his written report:

Maintenance of Trucks

The department has been working on maintenance of the trucks.

Salt Barn

The department has been restocking the salt barn with sand and salt.

Stocking Stone

We are stocking stone for the road work project slated for North Sheldon Road which will start before Memorial Day.

2012 Peterbilt

The 2012 Peterbilt will be listed on Auctions International this month. The last day for bids is May 20, 2025.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Brian Becker reported on the following:

USDA Varysburg Water Payment

The interest and principal payment for the USDA loan was made in the amount of \$28,987.50. Another interest payment will be due in October. Approximately \$40,000 in payments for the year.

Zoning Postcards

Supervisor Becker displays the postcards received from the recent postcard mailing sent out by resident Deanne Siemer. So far, there have been approximately half as many returned as there were from the last round. Supervisor Becker notes that one resident he spoke with thought the Town had sent the postcards. Supervisor Becker read some of the comments that were submitted that were quite insulting towards Supervisor Becker. Some postcard comments insinuated that deals were made behind closed doors.

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County Ethics Policy

The Wyoming County Board of Supervisors is revising their ethics policy. The original policy was adopted in 1970 and is a one-page document. The latest proposed version is 19 pages and deals mostly with relationships relative to contracting with the County. Once the policy is established at the County level, the County may ask the Towns to revisit their policies and utilize the County established policy.

Old Business:

Attorney for Wind Contract Negotiations

A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to schedule a meeting to interview potential law firms for wind contract negotiations on May 7, 2025 at 12:00p.m. via teleconference.

Ayes: (3) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Armbrust, Fontaine Motion Carried.

The meeting will immediately be called into executive session and the public will not be invited in to the executive session. Supervisor Becker will reach out to the attorneys to confirm their availability.

Varysburg Water Income Surveys

The Town needs at least one more survey to complete the necessary paperwork for the EFC funding.

Varysburg Water Project

Supervisor Becker met with Mark Wright from Mountain Engineering. Brian, Thane and Mark will meet with the Attica Water department to map out the shut offs using a GPS device (Diamond Mapping). Having this GPS mapped will be useful when bidding the project.

Varysburg Water – Swapped Meter Numbers

The water billing spreadsheet had a mistake occur at some point in the past year. The K&D Store and the Freedom Park meter numbers were swapped accidentally when the County was updating the spreadsheets. The owner of K&D caught the discrepancy when his water usage and water bills had increased. This mistake has also made us aware that there may be an issue with the way the electronic meter reader was set up for Freedom Park. Supervisor Becker said he will be looking into this issue.

Mills Zoning Violation

An RFP was sent out to towing & recycling companies for removal of vehicles/equipment on the Mills property. As of tonight, no bids have been received.

Schoolhouse Museum Repairs

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Councilman Kirsch asks about the roof leak issues at the Schoolhouse. Supervisor Becker replies that the Schoolhouse will be kept at a temperature lower than 55 during the winter which should remedy the issue.

Lifeguards & Youth Recreation Director

A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to appoint Justine Kurowski as the Sheldon Youth Recreation Director and to pay her the salary of \$1,425.00 for the season (July 7 – August 6) plus an additional \$17.50 per hour for any hours worked for pre-season work up to 20 hours. (additional hours may be requested with permission from the Board)

Ayes: (3) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Armbrust, Fontaine Motion Carried. The Town of Bennington would like to hire our lifeguards as well. The Town of Sheldon will reciprocally hire their lifeguards in order to make the position more appealing. The Town of Bennington will split the cost of lifeguard certification training for any potential hires.

Grant Opportunities – Youth Field Trip & Park Playground

Park committee member, Bob Graham, was in attendance tonight. The park committee has not held a meeting yet this year.

Fire Company Contracts

The Town Clerk reported that the fire companies have not submitted their contract requests yet. Harris Corners Fire & Ambulance and Sheldon Fire contracts expire at the end of 2025.

New Business:

There was no new business on the agenda.

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 #61 to #75 for a Total of \$22,787.21, the

Highway Bills #46 to #65 for a Total of \$50,073.39, the

Lighting District bills #4 to #4 for a Total of \$657.84, the

Trust & Agency bills #5 to #6 for a Total of \$280.18, the

Varysburg Water District bills #18 to #22 for a Total of \$29,600.57, the

Varysburg Water System Improvement bills #5 to #5 for a Total of \$8,180.00 be paid.

Ayes: (3) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Armbrust, Fontaine Motion Carried.

Comments from the Floor

At 7:45 p.m. Supervisor Becker opened the floor to comments.

Wyoming County Hospital

Councilman Meyer asked if the hospital is getting closer to being in the black. Supervisor Becker replied that yes, they are getting closer. Supervisor Becker noted that the new CEO has been on the job for 3 ½ months and that the hospital seems to be working on getting themselves

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into the black. Supervisor Becker also noted that the County took over hospital satellite offices which are losing money.

Harris Corners Fire Department

Councilman Meyer reported that the Harris Corners Fire Department purchased a new fire truck for approximately \$500,000.00.

Welcome to Strykersville Sign

Resident Thomas Jorgensen asked who was responsible for putting up the “Welcome to Strykersville” sign on Route 78. The Board was not certain if it was Dan Hyman or possibly Bill Streicher.

Zoning Law

Mr. Jorgensen also asked who wrote the proposed new zoning law. Supervisor Becker responded that the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council supplied the model zoning law templates. One version was drafted with larger towns/cities in mind and the other one was drafted for smaller, rural communities like ours.

Invenergy

Resident Deanne Siemer asked if there is anything other than money involved in the wind negotiations with Invenergy. Supervisor Becker replied that we would want to find out if Invenergy has any intentions of changing anything.

Varysburg Water Project

Varysburg resident Bob Graham asked when the water project would be complete. Supervisor Becker replied that the work should be done by the end of the year.

Bleacher for Town Park

Varysburg resident Bob Graham asked if the Town would provide specifications from our insurance company for bleachers if the park committee decides to pursue funding for new bleachers. The Board replied yes with Councilman Kirsch adding that new bleachers have to abide by certain requirements such as steps, handles, enclosures.

Adjournment

At 8:10 p.m. a motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to adjourn the April 16, 2025 meeting of the Sheldon Town Board.

Ayes: (3) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Armbrust, Fontaine Motion Carried.