

**REGULAR MEETING  
SHELDON TOWN BOARD  
February 18, 2014**

The Regular Meeting of the Sheldon Town Board held February 18, 2014 at the Sheldon Town Hall, was called to order by Town Supervisor John Knab at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor John Knab  
Councilpersons: Brian Becker, Mike Armbrust, Lynne Metz  
Absent: Vince Kirsch  
Recording Secretary: Town Clerk Carol Zittel  
Attorney David DiMatteo

Also Present: Arcade Herald reporter Brianna Naughton, Zoning Officer Ken Martin, ZBA Chairman George Knab. A signed list of all present is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Brian Becker and seconded by Mike Armbrust that the minutes from the January 21, 2014 regular meeting, the February 14, 2014 special meeting and the February 14, 2014 planning board meeting be approved.

Ayes: (4) Knab, Becker, Armbrust, Metz Absent: (1) Kirsch, Nays: (0) Motion Carried.

**Communications**

The Town Clerk reported on the following:

**#6 Change in January Abstracts**

Change in January 2014 highway abstracts: Vouchers #12 and #16 were voided. Voucher #12 to Java Farm Supply was voided because it was paid on the Town credit card. Voucher #16 was voided because the Highway Superintendent's copays should come out of the General Fund. Voucher #16 was pre-paid in February out of the General Fund. New January abstract amounts for highway fund: \$32,970.19 not \$33,205.47.

**#7 Energy Cost & Consumption Report**

The Town Clerk distributed energy cost & consumption reports as prepared by the Town bookkeeper.

**#8 Fire Department Reports**

Financial reports and lists of 2014 officers received from Strykersville Volunteer Fire Company and Sheldon Volunteer Fire Company.

**#9 Senior Citizen Groups**

Thank you's received from Tri-Town Seniors and Strykersville Seniors.

**#10 Solicitation to Varysburg Water residents**

The Town Clerk made the Town Board aware of solicitation material that was sent to residents in Varysburg. The company sending the mailing was soliciting insurance on water lines. This solicitation has nothing to do with the water project upgrades that will be taking place this year.

### **#11 Hunting License Sales**

The Town Clerk reported that that the old court computer is up and running for hunting and fishing licenses.

### **#12 Resolution – Referrals to Wyoming County Planning Board**

The Town Clerk distributed a resolution received from the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors Planning Committee. The resolution outlines the actions subject to referral and review by the Wyoming County Planning Board.

### **#13 2014 Emergency Contact List**

The Town Clerk distributed an updated emergency contact list.

### **#14 Request to Erect Small Wind Turbines – Almeter Farm**

The Town Clerk informed the Board that she was contacted by a salesperson from CEC Energy. This company would like to install two small wind turbines on the Almeter farm. The tower height of the proposed turbines is higher than what the Town's local law permits. The Town Board had questions regarding the principal use of the turbines. For example, will the power generated be used at the farm or sold to the grid? The Town Clerk will contact CEC Energy and relay the Board's question. The Town Clerk advised CEC Energy to send a representative to the next Town Planning Board meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>. The appropriate SEQR forms and permit applications were sent to CEC Energy by the Town Clerk.

### **#15 Town Justice Position**

Councilman Armbrust asked the Town Clerk to distribute a letter from Dave Heitzhaus. In the letter Mr. Heitzhaus expressed his interest in the Town Justice position that will be available due to Justice Robert Jae's resignation in March. The Town Board had previously received a letter and resume from Laura Kirsch who is also interested in the position.

### **Reports**

Financial Reports were presented for the month of January 2014 from the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk and the Town Justices.

### **Highway Superintendent's Report**

Highway Superintendent Ricketson reported on the following:

#### **Plowing & Sanding**

The Dept. has been busy plowing and sanding.

#### **2002 Peterbilt**

The Peterbilt needed rear and front suspension work.

**Supervisor Report** – Supervisor John Knab reported on the following:

### **Purchase of Francis Property – Varysburg Water District**

The purchase of the Francis property is complete. The site was purchased as the site of the new water storage tank. The total cost of the purchase including search, survey and attorney fees was \$7,567.81. A copy of the deed is attached to the minutes.

### **Java Soccer Program**

Supervisor Knab talked to the Java Town Supervisor regarding problems coordinating the Java Soccer program. Java Councilman Trace George emailed concerns to Supervisor Knab regarding the Java recreation director requesting more help than provided in past years to coordinate the program. Supervisor Knab will keep the Board updated.

### **Solar Panels on Town Hall**

While attending the NYSAC conference Supervisor Knab talked to a company called Solar City about installing solar panels on the highway garage roof. Installing solar panels could result in 50% savings on electric costs. Supervisor Knab will contact the Strykersville Fire Company to inquire as to whether the panels they installed have resulted in cost savings. Supervisor Knab asked the Board's permission to have the company come out and give a price quote. The Board gave their unanimous support.

### **Wyoming County Bills**

Wyoming County bills for January 2014 were \$2,367,315.48.

### **Varysburg Water Bills**

Supervisor Knab informed the Board that all water bills are paid in full. The district collected \$28,000 on Town tax bills.

### **Acceptance of Reports**

A motion was made by Brian Becker and seconded by Lynne Metz to accept all reports as presented.

Ayes: (4) Knab, Becker, Armbrust, Metz Absent: (1) Kirsch, Nays: (0) Motion Carried.

### **Old Business**

#### **Town Hall Addition**

The Board met on February 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss proposed plans to add on to the town hall. Councilman Kirsch presented a drawing that would move the Court office adjacent to the Court room. Moving the court office would allow the Justices to enter from their office directly into the court room and onto the bench. The Court bench would have to be moved from its current location to the other side of the court room to accommodate this change. This proposed renovation would not make the hall any larger; it would utilize existing space and reconfigure it to be closer to compliance with Justice court safety concerns. Supervisor Knab stated that he would rather purchase a truck and loader rather than add on to the town hall if he had to choose between one option and or the other. He also stated that the proposed plans would not change the current location of the Assessor's office on the second floor of the building. Councilman Becker responded that the decision to pursue the renovations will not affect the decision to purchase a new truck and/or loader. The hall renovations would be done in stages and hopefully eligible for a Justice Court grant. Supervisor Knab asked the Board if they wanted to proceed

with the renovations as Councilman Kirsch drew up. The Town Board unanimously agreed that the grant paperwork should move forward with the drawing that Councilman Kirsch submitted. Councilman Becker stated that he sees no reason not to proceed.

A motion was made by Mike Armbrust and seconded by Lynne Metz to authorize Vince Kirsch to proceed in preparing grant paperwork for the renovations of the Town Court offices and Court Room.

Ayes: (4) Knab, Becker, Armbrust, Metz Absent: (1) Kirsch, Nays: (0) Motion Carried.

#### **Authorization to Purchase a Caterpillar High Lift**

A motion was made by Mike Armbrust and seconded by Brian Becker to authorize the Town Highway Superintendent to purchase a 2014 or newer Caterpillar high lift as per the bid award specifications and pricing negotiated by the Wyoming County Highway Department.

Ayes: (4) Knab, Becker, Armbrust, Metz Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Kirsch Motion Carried.

#### **New Plow Truck to Replace 2003 Peterbilt**

The Highway Supt. and Town Board discussed the possibility of purchasing a new plow truck. Hwy. Supt. Ricketson will put specs together and do some research on trucks/pricing available. He will report back at the March meeting.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Town Assessor**

The Town Assessor has switched his office hours from Wednesday 5-9pm to Thursday 3-7pm. Attorney DiMatteo will prepare an agreement that outlines the Town Board's expectations of the position.

##### **Special Meeting – Town Policies**

A motion was made by Brian Becker and seconded by Mike Armbrust to schedule a special meeting for Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. to review town policies on sexual harassment/workplace violence, credit card use, computer and technology use and other town policies.

Ayes: (4) Knab, Becker, Armbrust, Metz Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Kirsch Motion Carried.

##### **Advertise Town Park Rental**

A motion was made by Lynne Metz and seconded by Mike Armbrust to authorize the publication of Town park rental information in the East Aurora and Attica Pennysavers.

Ayes: (4) Knab, Becker, Armbrust, Metz Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Kirsch Motion Carried.

##### **Fingerprinting – Court Employees**

A motion was made by Lynne Metz and seconded by Mike Armbrust to authorize the fingerprinting of the Court Clerk and the Town Justices per NYS mandate at an approximate cost of \$85.75 per person.

Ayes: (4) Knab, Becker, Armbrust, Metz Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Kirsch Motion Carried.

##### **Fuel Bid Contract Extension**

A motion was made by Brian Becker and seconded by Lynne Metz to extend the contract for

diesel and unleaded gasoline with Reisdorf Oil & Propane for an additional year.

Ayes: (4) Knab, Becker, Armbrust, Metz Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Kirsch Motion Carried.

\*The contract will have to be re-bid in January 2015.

### **Liquid Bituminous Materials**

A motion was made by Lynne Metz and seconded by Mike Armbrust to extend the contract for the furnishing of liquid asphalt, liquid calcium chloride, highway maintenance materials and services with Suit Kote Inc. and Midland Asphalt Materials Inc. for an additional year.

Ayes: (4) Knab, Becker, Armbrust, Metz Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Kirsch Motion Carried.

\*The contract will have to be re-bid in January 2015

### **Funds Transfer**

A motion was made by Brian Becker and seconded by Lynne Metz to authorize the transfer of \$70,000.00 from General Money Market A9901.9 to Highway Money Market DA5031 for February bills and payroll.

Ayes: (4) Knab, Becker, Armbrust, Metz Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Kirsch Motion Carried.

### **Bills:**

Supervisor Knab confirmed that the Board had a chance to review the bills.

A motion was made by Lynne Metz and seconded by Mike Armbrust that the

General Bills #36 to #63 for a Total of \$5,737.14, the

Highway Bills #23 to #48 for a Total of \$46,376.32, the

Trust & Agency Bills #4 to #8 for a Total of \$2,306.60 the

Varysburg Water District Bills #9 to #13 for a Total of \$8,001.94 and the

Lighting District Bills for a Total of \$842.73 be paid.

Ayes: (4) Knab, Becker, Armbrust, Metz Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Kirsch Motion Carried.

### **Comments from the Floor**

Supervisor Knab opened the floor to comments.

### **Tax Exemptions**

Attorney DiMatteo distributed three samples of Local Laws providing real property tax exemptions for the following:

- 1<sup>st</sup> time home buyers of newly constructed homes
- Capital improvements to residential buildings reconstructed, altered or improved
- Certain new or substantially rehabilitated multiple dwellings

Each Board member was given a copy of the three proposed laws for review.

### **Thank You to Town Clerks and Bookkeeper**

Supervisor Knab took a moment to thank the Town Clerk, Town Bookkeeper and Town Court Clerk stating that the Town is lucky to have them.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Lynne Metz and seconded by Brian Becker to adjourn the February 18, 2014 meeting of the Sheldon Town Board.

Ayes: (4) Knab, Becker, Armbrust, Metz Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Kirsch Motion Carried.