

**REGULAR MEETING  
SHELDON TOWN BOARD  
FEBRUARY 15, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of the Sheldon Town Board held February 15, 2017 at the Sheldon Town Hall was called to order by Town Supervisor Brian Becker at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Brian Becker  
Councilmen: Vince Kirsch, Joe Meyer, Mike Armbrust, Jim Fontaine  
Recording Secretary: Town Clerk Carol Zittel  
Also Present: Highway Supt. David Ricketson  
A signed list of those present is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Joe Meyer and seconded by Jim Fontaine that the minutes from the January 18, 2017 regular meeting and the January 25, 2017 audit meeting be approved.  
Ayes: (5) Becker, Kirsch, Fontaine, Meyer, Armbrust      Nays: (0)      Motion Carried.

**Communications**

Town Clerk Carol Zittel reported on the following:

**#5 Credit Card Set Up – Town Clerk's Office**

A motion was made by Mike Armbrust and seconded by Jim Fontaine to authorize the Town Clerk to set up credit card acceptance online through Williamson Law Book Co. at a cost of a one-time \$50 set up fee and \$60 per year maintenance fee.  
Ayes: (5) Becker, Kirsch, Fontaine, Meyer, Armbrust      Nays: (0)      Motion Carried.

**#6 Fire Company Reports**

Financial reports and list of officers were received from the following fire companies: Strykersville, Sheldon, and North Java.

**#7 Varysburg Hotel – Liquor License Renewal**

A motion was made by Mike Armbrust and seconded by Joe Meyer to accept, without objection, the notification from Keith Fioretti, owner of the Varysburg Hotel, of intent to renew his liquor license with New York State.  
Ayes: (5) Becker, Kirsch, Fontaine, Meyer, Armbrust      Nays: (0)      Motion Carried.

**#8 NYS Ag & Market Letter Re: Spay/Neuter Fees**

The NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets sent a letter to the Town requesting submittal of spay/neuter fees. The sixteen Towns in Wyoming County have been submitting these fees to the Wyoming County Treasurer in the hopes that Wyoming County would institute a spay/neuter program. Supervisor Becker stated that the Supervisors from Wyoming County do not want to send this money to NYS until confirmation is given that the money will be used in Wyoming County.

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**#9 Internet Service in the Town**

The Town Clerk received calls from residents to extend broadband internet service in the Town. Supervisor Becker responded that Governor Cuomo has announced an initiative to get broadband to all parts of NYS.

**#10 Zoning Violation**

A property on Route 20A that is in violation of Town Zoning law was recently listed for sale on auction. The Town Clerk was notified that the property was not sold. The Town will have to once again take action to resolve the Zoning violation.

**Reports**

Financial Reports were presented for the month of January 2017 from the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk and the Town Justices.

**Highway Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent of Highways, David Ricketson, reported on the following:

**Highway Dept.**

Sand and salt use is up but man-hours are down for the year.

**Surplus Equipment – Rex Roller**

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Mike Armbrust to declare the 15 ton, 1 drum rex roller as surplus equipment and authorize the Highway Superintendent to list it on Roy Teitsworth Inc. auction site.

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

**Surplus Equipment – Brine Tank**

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Mike Armbrust to declare the brine tank as surplus equipment and authorize the Highway Superintendent to give the tank to the Town of Bennington.

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

The tank was purchased in 2010 for \$225.00.

**Caterpillar High Lift**

There was a short discussion on whether the Town should trade in the high lift and whether to purchase another Caterpillar or go with a lower priced Hyundai. The Highway Supt. circulated a worksheet with prices and buy back numbers.

A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Mike Armbrust to table discussion on the high lift until the March meeting.

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

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**Feuz Road Abandonment**

A motion was made by Mike Armbrust and seconded by Joe Meyer to authorize the Town Highway Superintendent to meet with Town Attorney David DiMatteo to begin the process of abandoning Feuz Road.

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

**Open Public Hearing – Change to Comprehensive Plan – Affordable Housing**

At 8:12 p.m. a motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to open the public hearing for the proposed change to the comprehensive plan regarding affordable housing.

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

As there were no comments regarding the comprehensive plan, the Board continued with their meeting agenda.

**2005 Peterbilt**

Supt. Ricketson clarified that the Peterbilt that has consistently been referred to as a 2006 isn't really a 2006, but rather, a 2005 model. If the Town would like to continue with a 12 year plan on the trucks, now it would be time to consider purchasing a new truck.

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Mike Armbrust to authorize the Highway Superintendent to draw up specifications on a new truck to replace the 2005 Peterbilt.

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

**Town Hall Front Door**

Councilman Meyer asked the Highway Superintendent to take a look at the front door to the Town Hall. The door is not closing properly. Supt. Ricketson said he will take a look at it.

**Supervisor's Report**

Supervisor Brian Becker reported the following.

**County Bills**

County bills were \$3,615,344.79.

**Varysburg Fire Dept. ISO Rating**

The Varysburg Fire Dept. received a classification of 05/5Y from ISO.

**Wyoming County Transit Report**

Supervisor Becker shared a report from the Wyoming County Transit System. The report indicated 64,000 rides for 2016.

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**Proposed Dollar General Store in Varysburg**

Dollar General is interested in building a store in Varysburg on the Kenneth Blair property. The Dollar General would need additional land currently owned by the Varysburg Fire Department and offered \$56,000.00 for that land. The Fire Department held a vote and the proposition was voted down. The Department will hold a re-vote on Thursday, February 16, 2017. Approximately 20 jobs could be needed at the store. Supervisor Becker stated that he will continue to monitor the situation.

**Sheldon Elementary School Building**

The School Board may hold a vote on the sale of the elementary building next Thursday, February 23, 2017. Supervisor Becker expressed his hopes that the building will be added to the tax rolls and a company that can provide jobs to the community will buy it.

**Wyoming County Treatment Court**

Supervisor Becker received a copy of the Wyoming County Treatment Court Report. The Town Clerk will email a copy to the Board.

**Invenergy Meeting**

The Town Planning Board sent a letter to the CEO of Invenergy inquiring as to any future wind projects. Supervisor Becker met with local Invenergy officials and assured them that future correspondence will begin with our local Invenergy contacts.

**National Fuel Proposed Metering Station – Varysburg Pumphouse**

National Fuel is interested in placing a metering station at the Varysburg Pumphouse. They have offered \$200.00/year for the rights to do so. Supervisor Becker is going to reach out to National Fuel to see if there is a way to guarantee an increase in future years. Councilman Kirsch suggested asking for a photo of the proposed meter.

**County Roads**

The Wyoming County Committee of the Whole has approved \$12 million in road reconstruction. It is the intention to have every Wyoming County Road reconstructed by the end of 2018

**Acceptance of Reports**

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

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

**Old Business**

**Election Hall Locations**

Elaine Almeter, Election Site Coordinator at the Sheldon site for the recent Presidential election was present to express her concerns on using the Town hall for all Town voting. Ms. Almeter gave an overview of the issues that occurred during the last election. Most notably, Ms. Almeter described how voters had lined up to insert their ballot in the machine directly behind the backs

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of people filling out their ballots. This lack of privacy was a concern to many voters. St. John Neumann Parish is willing to let the Town use Weber Hall for elections for a minimal donation. The Town Clerk was asked to order two 6 ft. folding tables from Staples.

A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Mike Armbrust to table further discussion of election hall locations until next month.

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

**Varysburg Water – Senator Gallivan Funding**

Supervisor Becker will call DAFSNY tomorrow for an update on the funding.

**Streicher Land Donation**

The Town is still waiting for the title to arrive.

**Court Grant 2017**

Councilman Kirsch has been reviewing the proposal from DFT Security and will meet with Justice Kirsch to work on obtaining more proposals.

**Close Public Hearing – Change to Comprehensive Plan – Affordable Housing**

At 9:20 p.m. a motion was made by Mike Armbrust and seconded by Vince Kirsch to close the public hearing on the proposed changes to the comprehensive plan regarding affordable housing.

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

**Letter from Town Attorney Re: Change to Comprehensive Plan**

The Town Planning Board has asked for an amendment to the Town comprehensive plan pursuant to NY Executive Law Article 21-B. Attorney DiMatteo explained in his February 15, 2017 letter that he is not sure that it applies to the Town of Sheldon. If the Board decides to proceed with making the proposed change he does suggest that the Town follow amend the plan in the proper fashion which would require submitting the amendment to the County Planning Board.

**Authorization to Send Comprehensive Plan Change to Wyoming County Planning Board**

A motion was made by Brian Becker and seconded by Vince Kirsch to authorize sending a referral form to the Wyoming County Planning Board for the proposed change to the Comprehensive Plan.

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

**Youth Director**

The Town still needs to appoint a youth director. The item will be on the March agenda.

**NYSERDA Clean Energy Policy**

The Town Clerk distributed a sample energy policy written by the Town Planning Board. The item will be on next month's agenda. There were some concerns as to whether the policy is

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practical and to whether the Town has someone qualified to submit the required information into the NYSERDA platform for tracking energy consumption at Town owned buildings.

**Alternate Planning Board Member**

No names have been recommended for the alternate member position. The Town Clerk will again ask the Planning Board if they have any recommendations.

**New Business**

**Hiring of CPA – USDA Loan Requirement for Varysburg Water**

The Town has contacted a few CPA firms but has not received any quotes yet.

**Town Hall & Town Park Landscaping**

A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to obtain three quotes for landscaping services at the Town Hall and the Town Park.

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

The Board asked that the quotes show the cost per each location. It was also asked that special attention be made before summer holidays to have the park mowed and weeds trimmed. Weed trimming should occur at least monthly and include along the fences, flag poles, playground and buildings. The Town flagpole flowers must be planted by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Payment from the Town will be broken into three payments.

**Bills:**

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

The only question was in regards to the overhead door bill in the highway garage. Supt.

Ricketson had already left the meeting so he was not available to answer the question.

A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Jim Fontaine that the

General Bills #23 to #52 for a Total of \$22,567.83, the

Highway Bills #15 to #35 for a Total of \$28,485.59, the

Trust & Agency Bills #4 to #6 for a Total of \$503.00, the

Varysburg Water District Bills #4 to #7 for a Total of \$3,031.82 the

Lighting District Bills for a Total of \$899.06, and the

Fire District Bills #1 to #7 for a Total of \$232,282.53 be paid.

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

**Comments from the Floor**

At 9:57 p.m. Supervisor Becker opened the floor to comments.

**Historical Society Doors**

Mike Almeter on behalf of the Historical Society, asked the Board for their input on replacing the two Historical Society Schoolhouse doors. Quotes on hardwood doors that are more historically accurate are approximately \$4,000.00. The board would prefer that the Society look at fiberglass doors with solid plastic jambs. If the Society decides to purchase the hardwood doors then the Society would have to contribute the difference in cost from fiberglass doors.

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**Adjournment**

At 9:59 p.m. a motion was made by Joe Meyer and seconded by Vince Kirsch to adjourn the February 15, 2017 meeting of the Sheldon Town Board.

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