

**REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
June 18, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Sheldon Town Board held June 18, 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, Mike Armbrust, Jim Fontaine
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 Vince Kirsch that the minutes from the May 21, 2025 regular meeting be approved.

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

Communications

The Town Clerk, Carol Zittel, reported the following:

Town of Bennington Solar Energy Law

Notice was received from the Town of Bennington of their intent to pass a Solar Energy Law.

Town of Sheldon Equalization Rate

The NYS Department of Taxation and Finance notified the Town that the 2025 equalization rate for the Town of Sheldon is 100%. It was 100% in 2024 as well.

FOIL Request

The Town Clerk fulfilled a FOIL (Freedom of Information Law) submission requesting a copy of all the zoning postcards that were mailed to the Town offices. This is in reference to the postcards that resident Deanne Siemer mailed.

Reports

The Town Supervisor financial reports, Town Clerk monthly report and Town Justice report from Justice Kirsch were distributed. Justice Janes did not submit a May report.

Wyoming County Zoning Report

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

Highway Superintendent Report

Highway Superintendent Luke Metz reported the following:

Paving North Sheldon Road

The paving project on North Sheldon Road is complete. Due to frequent rain, the project had to be stopped on and off several times. Councilman Kirsch asked when the sealing will take place.

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Superintendent Metz replied that sealing should take place two weeks after the 4th of July. Councilman Kirsch asked if this new system of paving has been successful. Superintendent Metz replied that other towns across NYS have used it and they like the results and that the paving holds up well. Superintendent Metz noted that North Sheldon Road has high, heavy traffic, making it a good road to test it on.

Hyundai Excavator

The excavator went to George & Swede again and this time a hydraulic pump was replaced. This work was covered under warranty. A Hyundai representative will be coming out to Sheldon on Tuesday to discuss the issues we are having with the equipment. Hyundai has offered to extend the warranty by one year. Supt. Metz is not certain if this is enough and reported:

- The down time on this excavator has been ridiculous
- It has been to George & Swede three times
- The mechanic has come to the department three times
- All of this has been documented

Damage to Vehicle – Valley View Road

While the department was mowing ditches on Valley View on Monday, a stone was thrown from the mower hitting a car window. The Town insurance company has been notified.

Supervisor Report

Supervisor Brian Becker reported the following:

Town Loan to Varysburg Water District

The Town may need to loan the water district money until the EFC funding becomes available. The Town has done this in the past. The water district would pay the Town back with interest.

Varysburg Water Update

Supervisor Becker reported that Carol Zittel, Katie Chmura, Catherine Rees, Dave DiMatteo, Jeff Smith, Tim McGill and Steve Mountain met via teleconference on June 11th at 3pm to review financing of the water project. The project is ready to go to bid. Councilman Kirsch asked if there was an alternate on the bid specs. Supervisor Becker replied that the only alternate was School Street. Supervisor Becker also reported that the new pipes will be PVC and fire hydrants and shut offs will be added. Supervisor Becker reported that the pipes will be moved to run along the street on School Street and not behind the houses. The project will be removing approximately one mile of old 2-inch plastic line.

From Supervisor Becker:

- While the amount of water we are pumping has decreased after some leaks have been fixed; we are hoping to see another drastic decrease after the project is complete
- WIIA Grant will pay 60% of the projected project cost
- The last water project was in 2016
- The \$200 water fee on tax bills is used for repairs to the system

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- Supervisor Becker hopes to use \$150 of that \$200 fee to help repay the new loan to help offset the costs to owners
- The oldest lines in the system will be 10 years old after this project is complete

Acceptance of Reports

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

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

Old Business:

Open Sheldon Fire Contract Public Hearing

At 7:10 p.m. a motion was made by Joe Meyer and seconded by Mike Armbrust to open the public hearing for the Sheldon Fire Department contract.

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

Discussion – Sheldon Fire Contract

Chris George, President of the Sheldon Fire Company presented the following:

- The Fire Dept. is requesting a five-year contract of \$160,000 for 2026 and a 2% each year after.
- The cost of a new truck is \$478,000
- They just put \$150,000 into their #5 truck which is a 2007
- The cost of being in business keeps going up
- Patient Care Reports (PCR) need to be done electronically now and require the department to have tablets
- Mandatory OSHA, CPR training is time consuming
- Medical supplies need to be refreshed consistently
- Insurance costs keep increasing
- \$13,000 to gear up one person and that does not include radios or flashlights
- They will need a new truck in 10 years
- They have 20 active firefighters
- Supervisor Becker comments that the fire department was at a \$40,000 contract sixteen years ago
- Ron George states: we used all of the Town's payment last year to repair the truck
- Councilman Meyer asks how many years the loan will be. Ron George, Treasurer, replies that they will do a 10-year payback and that hopefully the department will qualify for a 2.5% interest rate and if they do not, the rate could be 6.5%.
- The department's class A pumper is a 2016

Close Sheldon Fire Contract Public Hearing

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At 7:20 p.m. a motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch to close the public hearing for the Sheldon Fire Department contract.

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

Approve Sheldon Fire Contract

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Joe Meyer to approve the five-year Sheldon Fire contract as follows: \$160,000 in 2026 with a 2% increase each year through 2030.

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

Attorney Wind Negotiations

Attorney DiMatteo reviewed the Invenergy community host agreement and confirms that the agreement had no specific term end and that it is in full force until either the project is decommissioned or either party terminates the agreement. Supervisor Becker spoke with Drew from Invenergy corporate and was told that there is no need to renegotiate at this time and that payments will continue with consumer price index increases. Supervisor Becker inquired with Drew regarding speculation that the towers would be switched out to 600 feet and Drew replied, no, as far as he knows, these current windmills will be here 5-10 years. Councilman Fontaine suggested that the Board readdress decommissioning. Supervisor Becker will inquire as to the last time the bond was renewed. Councilman Armbrust asked who pays for the bond.

Supervisor Becker replied that Invenergy does.

Mills Zoning Violation

Attorney DiMatteo's office reached out to four vendors to remove the Mills equipment and no interest was received. Supervisor Becker is waiting for his contact to respond to him.

Schoolhouse Museum Repairs

Clarence Conrad still intends to repair the railing.

Summer Swim Program – Appoint Swim Director

At 4:00 p.m. today, Supervisor Becker, Town Clerk Zittel and Bookkeeper Katie Chmura met with the five young women interested in working the summer swim program. Kimberley Piorun has been a lifeguard for the program the past two years and is willing to take on the youth director position this year. Two of the potential lifeguards need to get their recertification classes complete in the next few weeks. Bennington has supplied the AED to the Byrnclyff pool. The program begins July 7th.

A motion was made by Joe Meyer and seconded by Vince Kirsch to appoint Kimberley Piorun as Sheldon Youth Director for the 2025 season.

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

Pioneer Cemetery Trees

Councilmen Fontaine and Kirsch updated the board on the Pioneer Cemetery tree situation.

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There are three trees in a cluster and another tree that should be cut down. The trees will need to be dropped on a neighbor's property and at this time, she is not giving her permission. They will reach back out to her.

NYMIR Inspection Update

Highway Superintendent Metz is still waiting for Wyoming County Building & Codes to give a weight load for the mezzanine. Attorney DiMatteo is working on a draft version of a prior written notice law as recommended by NYMIR.

Harris Corners Fire Department Contract

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Mike Armbrust to schedule a public hearing for the Harris Corners Fire contract on July 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Strykersville Ambulance Contract (Harris Corners Portion of Town)

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Mike Armbrust to schedule a public hearing for the Strykersville Ambulance contract (Sheldon portion of Harris Corners District) on July 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

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

New Business:

Budget Transfer

A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to authorize the transfer of \$150,000 from A1083 Wind Power Payments Due to Highway to DA1083 Wind Power Payments Due to Highway.

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

Assessor Re-Appointment

The Board has until the end of September to re-appoint the assessor.

A motion was made Vince Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to table the assessor appointment until next month.

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

Appoint Jenison Wright as Laborer - Varysburg Water

A motion was made by Joe Meyer and seconded by Mike Armbrust to appoint Jenison Wright as a laborer for the Varysburg Water District and to set a pay rate of \$15.50 per hour.

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

Bills:

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

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Joe Meyer that the General Bills #94 to #129 for a Total of \$47,993.83, the

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Highway Bills #82 to #95 for a Total of \$151,143.11, the
Lighting District bills #6 to #6 for a Total of \$716.66, the
Trust & Agency bills #9 to #10 for a Total of \$260.35, the
Varysburg Water District bills #28 to #33 for a Total of \$2,298.69, the
Varysburg Water System Improvement bills #7 to #7 for a Total of \$396.61 be paid.
Ayes: (5) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch, Armbrust, Fontaine Nays: (0) Motion Carried.

Comments from the Floor

At 7:57 p.m. Supervisor Becker opened the floor to comments.
Thomas Jorgenson inquired about wind payments. Supervisor Becker replied that the Town receives a 2% increase each year. Luke Metz asked if the Town of Sheldon would get paid if Bennington gets windmills that tie into ours. Supervisor Becker replied yes, and that wires would have to be in the ground. Councilman Fontaine asked if Kieler is doing the paving on Route 20A. Superintendent Metz replied that yes, Kieler is doing the job for Route 77 and Route 20A. Superintendent Metz will talk to Suit-Kote about paving the town hall lot. Missy Kehl thanked the board for approving the contract increase for the Sheldon Fire Department.

Adjournment

At 8:05 p.m. a motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Jim Fontaine to adjourn the June 18, 2025 meeting of the Sheldon Town Board.
Ayes: (5) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch, Armbrust, Fontaine Nays: (0) Motion Carried.