REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
October 15, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Sheldon Town Board held October 15, 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 Joe Meyer that the minutes from the September 17, 2025 regular meeting and October 1, 2025 budget workshop be approved.
Ayes: (5) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch, Armbrust, Fontaine Nays: (0) Motion Carried.

Communications
The Town Clerk, Carol Zittel, reported the following:

Local Law Filings
The NYS Department of State sent notification that Local Laws 1 and 2 of 2025 were filed in their office.

Planning Board Vacancies
The Planning Board asked the Town Clerk to notify the Town Board that new planning board members are needed.

.gov Website
The Town Clerk has updated the Town website to a .gov domain as required by NYS law.

Reports
The Town Supervisor financial reports, Town Clerk monthly 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. Supervisor Becker read portions of the report.

Highway Superintendent Report
Highway Superintendent Luke Metz reported the following:

Highway Shoulders
The Department has been repairing shoulders across the Town.

Humphrey Road

The Department has been busy on Humphrey Road installing cross-pipes, laying drain tile and stone. The Superintendent hopes to pave the road next year if the budget allows. Supervisor Becker notes that the road was last paved in 2016.

New Highway Pick Up Truck

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Joe Meyer to authorize the Town Highway Superintendent to trade in the 2024 Ford F-150 and purchase a 2026 Chevy Silverado 2500 per the Van Bortel quote #37495.
Ayes: (5) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch, Armbrust, Fontaine Nays: (0) Motion Carried.
The truck will be priced with state bid pricing.

Supervisor Report

Supervisor Brian Becker reported the following:

Real Property Exempt Property List

Wyoming County Real Property submitted the list of exempt properties in the Town.

Workers Comp Meeting

Supervisor Becker reported that Wyoming County runs their own workers comp department. The Town of Sheldon still has a claim from 1986 that is being paid. The County is 96% funded at this point in time.

Wyoming County Community Hospital

The hospital continues to do well. Patient satisfaction is good.

2026 Wyoming County Budget

The cost of health insurance for Wyoming County employees is expected to significantly increase in 2026. Supervisor Becker noted that when Blue Cross/Blue Shield was bought out by Highmark, customer service dropped significantly. The County then switched to Univera and now Univera is reporting that there will be a 27% increase which will have a big effect on the County 2026 budget. Supervisor Becker noted that the County has stayed under the 2% tax cap the past five years. Supervisor Becker also reported that there are two inmates in mental health facilities and that the County pays that bill until they are well enough to go to trial. $400,000 has been budgeted for one individual until the end of the year.

Sales Tax Revenue

$17,283,078.38 which is up by 1.8% of the budgeted amount, however, it is a lesser than amount than hoped for.

Real Property Senior Exemption – Raise in Income Level

The County is looking to increase the income level for seniors to qualify for the exemption.

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Wyoming County Internet
As mentioned at the last meeting, Wyoming County will become an internet service provider. A company out of Geneva that has done work in Syracuse, Rochester and the Fingerlakes will be taking on the project. Existing County towers will be utilized and tower rentals for others. Supervisor Becker explains that an antenna will be affixed to resident's houses to grab reception from the towers.

.gov Email address for Town Employees
Historian Jeanne Mest inquired as to whether she can receive a .gov email address. The Town Clerk has a .gov email address and will inquire with GoDaddy on how to obtain .gov addresses for other Town employees.

Old Business:

Sheldon Celebrates the 250th (250th anniversary of signing of Declaration of Independence)
Jeanne Mest notified the Board of potential funding from Wyoming County for 250th celebrations. Towns will be able to apply for funds from the County Historian. Ms. Mest will facilitate the paperwork submission.

Veterans Memorial Rock
Jeanne Mest asked if the Board would allow for the memorial rock across the street from the Town Hall to be moved onto the town hall property. After a lengthy discussion, the Board would like the rock to stay in its current location. Ms. Mest asked if the area could be spruced up with benches and landscaping and the Board was agreeable. Ms. Mest notes that there are five additional Revolutionary War veteran's names that need to be added to the existing plaque. She inquires as to whether the Town will pay for the cost of refurbishing. Debbie Almeter asks who is responsible for mowing the area around the rock. It was unclear as to who maintains the upkeep of the lawn in front of the rock with speculation that it may be Wally Bohlen or perhaps the owner of the house next to the rock. Ms. Almeter also asks what happened to the columns on the town hall façade, noting that it used to look so nice and professional. Councilman Kirsch replied that it had something to do with the damage to the brick on that side of the building. It remained unclear as to what happened to the columns and why the columns weren't reaffixed. It was estimated that it has been over 18 years since the columns were up.

Varysburg Water Update
Supervisor Becker reported that the water project is underway.
He also noted that the project began with the installation of new water lines as this was the most important part of the project. Replacing the old lines that were continuing to break and cause leaks had to be addressed first. Once this portion of the project is complete, the Board needs to decide if they want to try to complete the entire project as proposed which would include a new pumphouse. The WIIA grant could be in jeopardy if the Town does not proceed with completion of the project as proposed. The Town Board is in agreement that the Town should use all of the WIIA grant funds available to complete as much of the project as possible. The WIIA grant provides 60% of the project cost. Total projected cost: $2,619,000.00 WIIA grant portion = $1,571,400.00 Water District portion = $1,047,600

Supervisor Becker distributed the spreadsheets prepared by Municipal Solutions detailing how the $1,047,600 loan would affect Varysburg Water customers. If the Water District takes out a $1,047,600.00 loan, the cost per EDU would be approximately $370. This would be in addition to the loan payment already billed on tax bills to customers. Supervisor Becker noted that he would like to reduce the water maintenance fee (currently $200) to $50 and take the $150 to use towards the new loan payment. This would reduce the $370 amount to $220. In summary, customers of the district would see an increase of approximately $220 per year per EDU on their tax bills to account for the new loan of $1,047,600.

Mills Zoning Violation

Supervisor Becker asked the Board for their approval to hire Twin Village Recycling to pick up the items on Mr. Mills property. The Board gave their approval.

Harris Corners Fire Contract

Supervisor Becker confirmed with Supervisor of Bennington, Ellen Grant, that their Board had approved the Harris Corners Fire contract in proportion to the Town of Sheldon's portion of the contract. The Town Clerk was directed to type up the Harris Corners Fire contract and the Strykersville ambulance contract (Harris Corners portion) and to obtain signatures.

New Business:

Accept Tentative Budget as Preliminary Budget

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch to accept the tentative budget as the 2026 preliminary budget and to schedule a public hearing on November 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sheldon Town Hall.
Ayes: (5) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch, Armbrust, Fontaine Nays: (0) Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING $67,065.40 INTERFUND LOAN FROM GENERAL FUND TO THE VARYSBURG WATER IMPROVEMENT CAPITAL FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Sheldon desires to provide temporary financing for expenditures related to the Varysburg Water Improvement Capital Project; and

WHEREAS, it is permissible under Section 9-a of the New York State General Municipal Law for the Town to make an interfund advance from the General Fund to the Water Capital Project Fund, provided it is repaid in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Town's General Fund has available cash balances to temporarily advance $67,065.40 to the Water Capital Project Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to transfer the sum of **$67,065.40** from the **General Fund** to the **Water Capital Project Fund** as an interfund loan to carry a 3.80% interest rate, to be repaid upon receipt of NYS EFC interim loan financing or other available funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said interfund loan shall be recorded in the financial records of the Town with the following entries, consistent with the NYS Office of the State Comptroller's Accounting and Reporting Manual:

General Fund – A

- **Debit:** 391 Due from Other Funds $67,065.40
- **Credit:** 200 Cash $67,065.40

Water Capital Project Fund – H

- **Debit:** 200 Cash $67,065.40
- **Credit:** 630 Due to Other Funds $67,065.40

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion made by: Vince Kirsch
Seconded by: Jim Fontaine

Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 Becker, Kirsch, Armbrust, Fontaine, Meyer NAYS: 0 Abstain: 0

New Town Clerk Training

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Mike Amrbust to authorize Kate Bulera to attend newly elected town clerk training hosted by the NYS Association of Towns in Corning, NY on 1/21/25-1/23/2025.
Ayes: (4) Becker, Kirsch, Armbrust, Fontaine Nays: (0) Abstain: (1) Meyer Motion Carried.

Bills:

Town Supervisor Becker confirmed that the Board had a chance to review the abstracts.
Supervisor Becker will hand deliver the check to Fineline Pipeline.
A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Mike Armbrust that the
General Bills #192 to #213 for a Total of $40,979.28, the
Highway Bills #136 to #151 for a Total of $41,948.64, the
Lighting District bills #10 to #10 for a Total of $686.35, the
Trust & Agency bills #14 to #14 for a Total of $247.00, the
Varysburg Water District bills #50 to #54 for a Total of $3,568.81, the
Varysburg Water System Improvement bills #19 to #21 for a Total of $322,238.70 be paid.
Ayes: (5) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch, Armbrust, Fontaine Nays: (0) Motion Carried.

Comments from the Floor

REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
October 15, 2025

No comments from the floor.

Adjournment

At 8:09 p.m. a motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch to adjourn the October 15, 2025 meeting of the Sheldon Town Board.
Ayes: (5) Becker, Meyer, Kirsch, Armbrust, Fontaine Nays: (0) Motion Carried.