

**REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
May 20, 2026**

The Regular Meeting of the Sheldon Town Board held May 20, 2026 at the Sheldon Town Hall, 1380 Centerline Rd., NY 14145 was called to order by Deputy Town Supervisor Joe Meyer at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilman Meyer will lead the meeting as Deputy Town Supervisor

Councilmen: Jim Fontaine, Jim Kirsch (arrives 7:06 p.m.), Vince Kirsch

Also present: Highway Superintendent Luke Metz

Absent: Supervisor Brian Becker and Town Clerk Kate Bulera

Recording Secretary: Deputy 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 April 15, 2026 regular meeting be approved.

Ayes: (3) Meyer, Fontaine, V. Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (2) Becker, J. Kirsch Motion Carried.

Communications

Deputy Town Clerk Zittel reported the following:

ZBA Meeting

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on 5/26/26 at 6:00 p.m. to hear the variance request of Tammy Dedoszak. The applicant requests to build a storage building on vacant land.

Planning Board Meeting

The Planning Board will meet on June 10th at 6:00 p.m. to review a site plan from Boxler Maple Farm. Warren Boxler installed a pond on the property without a permit.

Board of Assessment Review Meeting

The annual Board of Assessment Review meeting will be held on June 9, 2026 from 4-8pm at the town hall.

Varysburg Water Quality Report

The annual water quality report was mailed to all water customers. A copy will be emailed to the NYS Department of Health and posted to the Town website.

Historical Society – Event to Honor Revolutionary War Soldiers

The Historical Society will hold a special semi quincentennial celebration honoring Sheldon's Revolutionary War soldiers on May 30, 2026 at 1pm the Schoolhouse. A new monument bearing the names of Revolutionary War soldiers who lived in the Town of Sheldon will be unveiled.

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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.

Highway Superintendent Report

Highway Superintendent Luke Metz reported the following:

Paving North Sheldon Road

The highway department plans to pave a portion of North Sheldon Road on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. (weather pending)

At 7:06 p.m. Councilman Jim Kirsch arrives.

Shoulder Work in Strykersville

The department cut road shoulders on the side streets in Strykersville.

Sexual Harassment & Discrimination Training

The department completed the mandated sexual harassment and discrimination training in Warsaw at County offices.

Sealing Salt Building

The department plans to seal the salt building next week.

Road Sign Inventory

The road sign inventory is complete. There are still signs that need replacing and the department will handle these on an on-going basis.

Almeter Road Closing

Almeter Road between Humphrey and Route 98 will be closed due to construction work on the bridge. Work is expected to take up to six months.

Septic Tank at Hall

The septic tank at the Town Hall had to be pumped due to a back-up.

Acceptance of Reports

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

Ayes: (4) Meyer, Fontaine, V. Kirsch, J. Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (2) Becker Motion Carried.

Old Business:

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Varysburg Water

Lawn restoration has begun on the lawns that sustained damage from the water project.

Mills Zoning Violation

Nothing new to report.

Windmill Decommissioning

Councilman Vince Kirsch has taken the lead on the issue of windmill decommissioning and has reached out to two firms. Councilman Kirsch is in need of a contact at Invenergy. Highway Superintendent Metz will provide him with contact information for Invenergy. The Board is concerned that the bond value may be too low and would like an expert to determine appropriate costs if the need for decommissioning arises.

New Business:

Appointment of Bob Graham to Planning Board

A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Jim Kirsch to appoint Bob Graham to the Town Planning Board for a five-year term effective immediately.

Ayes: (4) Meyer, Fontaine, V. Kirsch, J. Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Becker Motion Carried.

Domestic and Gender Based Violence Policy

A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Jim Fontaine to adopt the same domestic and gender-based violence policy as Wyoming County.

Ayes: (4) Meyer, Fontaine, V. Kirsch, J. Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Becker Motion Carried. Town Clerk Bulera will type up the policy using the County's template.

Town Assessments

Town assessment values increased for 2026 due to the Town's equalization rate decreasing from 100% to 95%. Councilman Kirsch gave the example that a \$100,000 home would now be assessed for \$106,000.

Swim Program

Carol Zittel gave a brief update on the swim program situation. The Town is again working on hiring lifeguards this year. McKenna Almeter was a lifeguard last year and has agreed to take on the Director role. Kaylee Merrill is the daughter of bookkeeper Jess Merrill and has arts and crafts experience at youth camps so she will take on the role of arts and crafts director.

Lifeguard Certification Reimbursement

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch to reimburse any potential lifeguard hires for Red Cross certification training if the hire satisfactorily completes a full season of employment with the Town.

Ayes: (4) Meyer, Fontaine, V. Kirsch, J. Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Becker Motion Carried.

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Lifeguard and Director Pay

A motion was made by Jim Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to authorize the pay rate for lifeguards as \$18.00 per hour and the pay rate for work the Director provides prior to swim season kick off as \$20.00 per hour.

Ayes: (4) Meyer, Fontaine, V. Kirsch, J. Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Becker Motion Carried.

The Trillium Project

Notice of intent to act as lead agency was received from the Town of Java for the Trillium Project.

Description of Action: The Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc propose to build a nature education space.

NYS Retirement – Standard Work Day Reporting for Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Councilman

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Sheldon hereby establishes the following standard work days for these titles and will report the officials to the New York State and Local Retirement based on their record of activities:

Donna Almeter, Tax Collector, Term 1/1/24-12/31/27, Standard work day 6 hours, Record of Activities 4.41, pay bi-weekly

James Kirsch, Councilman, Term 1/1/26-12/31/28, Standard work day 6 hours, Record of Activities .81, pay bi-weekly

Donna Almeter, Court Clerk, Term 1/1/26-12/31/26, Standard work day 6 hours, Record of Activities 10.73, pay bi-weekly

Kate Bulera, Clerk, Term 1/1/26-12/31/28, Standard work day 6 hours, Record of Activities 10.47, pay bi-weekly

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

Resolution – Senator George Borrello – Williams’ Constitution Pipeline

The Board tabled discussion of the proposed resolution offered by Senator George Borrello regarding the Williams’ Constitution pipeline until next month’s meeting.

Budget Transfer

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch to authorize the transfer of \$400,000 from Highway Money Market to General Money Market.

Ayes: (4) Meyer, Fontaine, V. Kirsch, J. Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Becker Motion Carried.

Bills:

Councilman Fontaine found a spelling error on the company name on voucher #64. The bookkeepers will be notified of the need to correct.

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Jim Kirsch that the General Bills #79 to #102 for a Total of \$32,358.32, the

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Highway Bills #59 to #71 for a Total of \$35,490.99, the
Lighting District bills #8 to #8 for a Total of \$661.32, the
Trust & Agency bills #9 to #9 for a Total of \$258.00, the
Varysburg Water District bills #17 to #21 for a Total of \$1,086.36, be paid.
Ayes: (4) Meyer, Fontaine, V. Kirsch, J. Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Becker Motion Carried.

Comments from the Floor

Deputy Town Supervisor Meyer opened the floor to comments.

Need for Planning Board and ZBA Members

The Board needs to fill two open positions on the Planning Board and two open positions on the Zoning Board of Appeals as it is getting more difficult to have quorums.

Camp Wyomoco

The Board had a short discussion regarding Wyoming County's decision to purchase the 4-H camp.

Adjournment

At 7:47 p.m. a motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch to adjourn the May 20, 2026 meeting of the Sheldon Town Board.

Ayes: (4) Meyer, Fontaine, V. Kirsch, J. Kirsch Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Becker Motion Carried.