

**REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
April 21, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Sheldon Town Board held April 21, 2021 at the Sheldon Town Hall, 1380 Centerline Rd., Strykersville, NY 14145 and also held via Zoom teleconference was called to order by Town Supervisor Brian Becker at 7:30 p.m. The meeting took place at the Sheldon Town Hall and via Zoom teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Present: Supervisor Brian Becker (in-person)
Councilmen: Mike Armbrust (in-person), Joe Meyer (in-person), Vince Kirsch (via Zoom), Jim Fontaine (via Zoom)
Recording Secretary: Town Clerk Carol Zittel (via Zoom)
Also present: Highway Superintendent Dave Ricketson (in-person) AJ Dyrbala, Varysburg Water Operator

Minutes

A motion was made by Joe Meyer and seconded by Jim Fontaine that the minutes from the March 17, 2021 regular meeting be approved.

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

Communications

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

Solar Project Inquiries

Three residents reached out to the Town Clerk inquiring about a solar project they heard was planned for Route 77 and Perry Rd. Supervisor Becker responded via email with the following:

There have been no conversations between any solar company and the Town of Sheldon on a project in that area (Route 77 and Perry Rd.). I am aware of representatives exploring the leasing of land with property owners for a possible solar project, both to the east and to the west of Route 77 in the Town of Sheldon. I am also aware some land owners have signed a lease if a project were to develop. Again, there have been no conversations to the Town. When and if there are any, conversations will take place in a public forum following the laws of the State, County and Town.

Varysburg Water – Bill Complaints

Two Varysburg water customers contacted the Town Clerk regarding the higher than usual water usage on their bills. AJ Dyrbala, who was present at the meeting, responded that the meter reading only reads water usage from the meter inside the house. If there is a leak then it is the home owner's responsibility. The meter would not read a leak outside of the home. Supervisor Becker suggested that the Town Clerk direct these calls first to Janet Bonner and then she can forward them to AJ if needed. AJ suggested sending an informational flyer with the next water bill notifying residents of how much water is used when running a shower, watering the lawn, etc... The Town Clerk will reach out to Steve Perkins to ask if he can add such a flyer.

**REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
April 21, 2021**

Varysburg Water – Funding for Expansion of Project

Councilman Kirsch inquired as to whether there is funding available to expand the replacement of old pipes in the water district. Supervisor Becker responded that he will reach out to the engineering firm Barton & Loguidice to inquire on grant opportunities. Supervisor Becker also noted that he is working with Katie Chmura, Town Bookkeeper, on a report of the district's costs and will have it ready before budget time. Most likely an increase of \$16 per year per customer will be needed.

Water Main Break on Route 98

AJ reported on a water main break on Route 98 last week.

Reports

The Town Supervisor financial report, Town Clerk March report and Town Justice March reports were distributed prior to the meeting via email.

Highway Superintendent Report

Superintendent David Ricketson reported on the following:

Salt Building Full

The salt building is full.

LED Light Installation in Highway Department

He thanked Councilman Fontaine for the use of his equipment (lift) in installing LED lighting. The bill for the lighting is in tonight's bills.

CHIPS Funding

The Superintendent was notified by the County Highway Department and other Highway Departments about paperwork to submit to get back the 15-20% in funding that was taken away in 2021. Luckily, Superintendent Ricketson was able to get the paperwork submitted before the deadline.

Oil & Stone Projects for 2021

In 2019 the cost to oil and stone 11.4 miles of road was \$156,562. This year the cost would be \$277,784. Superintendent Ricketson gave a brief explanation on how CHIPS money can be spent. It should only be spent on projects that will last at least ten years. Councilman Armbrust stated that he is glad all Town roads were paved in 2016 considering the cost increase.

Gradall Excavator in Need of Replacement

Superintendent Ricketson stated that the gradall needs to be replaced. Sourcewell is on NYS bid and the cost is \$178,206. Wyoming County has one of them and the Towns of Attica and Warsaw have one each. Supervisor Becker responded that it is not in the budget for this year and will have to be considered during budget time.

**REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
April 21, 2021**

Superintendent Ricketson stated that “piggybacking” off of other municipal bids is no longer permitted or legal.

Supervisor’s Report

Supervisor Becker covered for AJ Dyrbala during AJ’s vacation time and subsequent 14 day quarantining. Supervisor Becker said that it was very enlightening to see how things run at the water district. He noted that they are having an electrical issue on the tank meter. In January 2020 AJ received a quote from HMR Inc., however, COVID subsequently hit and things came to a halt. Supervisor Becker will reach out to HMR to see if the quote is still valid or if they want to revise it. AJ stated that this repair is time sensitive and they are on “borrowed time” with the equipment. Councilman Kirsch offered to get names of companies that may be interested in providing quotes and will provide them to Supervisor Becker. Supervisor Becker will get three quotes for the next meeting. The Town’s procurement policy requires quotes for projects under \$10,000.00 not the full bid process.

Route 78 Speed Limit Request Denied

Supervisor Becker reported that the Town’s request to lower the speed limit at the site of the proposed new convenience store in Strykersville was denied. The Town of Java had submitted a speed limit request on a different road and it was approved.

4-H Camp

Supervisor Becker reported that 4-H camp is again cancelled this year due to the COVID pandemic.

Internet at Town Hall

The Town Hall internet is at 2009 pricing and 2009 speed. The County IT department lost its Director, Todd MacConnell to COVID this past year so the department has been too busy to assist the Town right now. A new director, Bill Sikes, has been hired. Supervisor Becker will meet with County IT to set up a time for them to assist the Town in improving internet speed at the hall.

Pioneer Cemetery Trees

The burl on the tree taken down at the Pioneer Cemetery is expected to value \$1,000. A logger driving by the cemetery almost took it. Supervisor Becker assisted Joe Yox in securing the tree and having it removed. Resident, Kyle Parmerter was driving by and also offered to assist. Supervisor Becker noted that residents are willing to volunteer to assist with the cemeteries.

Acceptance of Reports

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

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

**REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
April 21, 2021**

Old Business

Senior Group Funding

The senior groups were expecting full funding this year even though they did not use most of their funding from 2020 due to COVID. Attorney DiMatteo was consulted and he believes that money not used last year needs to be returned. Supervisor Becker will set up a meeting between Attorney DiMatteo and senior group representatives.

Judicial Consolidation with the Town of Wethersfield

Nothing new to report.

New Business

RFP's Lawn Services

An advertisement for bids was placed in the Town's legal newspaper, The Batavia Daily. Only one bid was received from Maple Tree Environmentalist. The bid was for two years, 2021 and 2022.

A motion was made by Joe Meyer and seconded by Mike Armbrust to accept the two-year bid from Maple Tree Environmentalist, 1369 Tooley Road Ext., Attica, NY 14011 for lawn services to the Vincent Almeter Memorial Park, the Sheldon Town Hall and the Varysburg water tank.

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

Williamson Law – Payroll Software Renewal

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Joe Meyer to authorize the renewal of the Williamson Law payroll software at a cost of \$791.00 per year.

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

Agreement to Spend Highway Funds

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Joe Meyer to authorize the agreement with Wyoming County Highway to spend highway funds and to authorize the Town Clerk to sign the names of the Councilmen on their behalf.

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

Varysburg Park Rental Agreement

A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Jim Fontaine to approve the revised park rental forms received from the Town Attorney.

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

Varysburg Park – Dog Waste in Park

A resident has placed dog waste bags and signage in the park. Flags have been placed where dog waste has not been picked up. Councilman Meyer will reach out to the resident about removing the flags so as to not interfere with lawn mowing.

**REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
April 21, 2021**

Internet – Town Historical Society

Historian Jeanne Mest has offered to use her MiFi device to provide internet service at the Schoolhouse. This will result in significant savings on internet costs compared to using Spectrum.

A motion was made by Mike Armbrust and seconded by Joe Meyer to approve the reimbursement to Town Historian, Jeanne Mest, for costs associated with internet service at the Historical Society.

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

Bills:

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

Correction on Highway Bill

Councilman Kirsch found a mistake on a highway bill – the wrong vendor was listed on the LED bill. The Town Clerk will correct the bill. Superintendent Ricketson noted that the change to LED should pay for itself. Supervisor Becker noted that the street lighting bills show a reduction in cost since LEDs have been installed.

A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Mike Armbrust that the General Bills #75 to #100 for a Total of \$20,059.89, the Highway Bills #38 to #56 for a Total of \$52,111.19, the Trust & Agency Bills #10 to #13 for a Total of \$592.70, the Varysburg Water District Bills #15 to #22 for a Total of \$1,236.15, and the Lighting District Bills for a Total of \$474.59, be paid.

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

Comments from the Floor

At 9:00 p.m. Supervisor Becker opened the floor to comments.

Factory Road Zoning Issue

Councilman Fontaine asked if there was any update on the former B. Johnson property on Factory Rd. Councilman Armbrust responded that he had made Don Roberts aware but has not heard anything back yet.

Adjournment

At 9:05 p.m. a motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Jim Fontaine to adjourn the April 21, 2021 meeting of the Sheldon Town Board.

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