

**REGULAR MEETING  
SHELDON TOWN BOARD  
AUGUST 24, 2022**

The Regular Meeting of the Sheldon Town Board held August 24, 2022 at the Sheldon Town Hall, 1380 Centerline Rd., Strykersville, NY 14145 was called to order by Town Supervisor Brian Becker at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Brian Becker  
Councilmen: Jim Fontaine, Joe Meyer, Mike Armbrust, Vince Kirsch  
Recording Secretary: Town Clerk Carol Zittel  
Absent: Highway Superintendent David Ricketson  
Also present: Several members of the Strykersville Volunteer Fire Company. A signed list of all present is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Jim Fontaine that the minutes from the July 20, 2022 regular meeting be approved.

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

Councilman Fontaine noted a typo in the adjournment motion – the wrong date was inserted.

**Communications**

The Town Clerk Carol Zittel reported the following:

**Wyoming County IDA – Use of Town Hall**

The Wyoming County IDA will be holding a public hearing at the Town Hall on August 31, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. regarding the project application from Farmcraft Brewery, LLC, 567 Route 20A, Strykersville, NY 14145.

**WYOMING COUNTY ZONING MONTHLY REPORT**

**Date:** August 1, 2022 – Report for July 2022

**Town:** Sheldon

**Open Projects:** None this month

**Permits Issued:**

**July: 6 permits**

- Larry Clement (64 Maple Lane) – permit issued for 12' x 12' storage shed
- David Ricketson (2011 French Road) – permit issued for 30' x 33.7' quonset building

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- Breezy Hill Dairy, LLC (2705 N. Sheldon) – permit issued for 126’ x 308’ dairy barn
- Kyle Parmerter II (383 Factory Road) – permit issued for 40’ x 60’ pole barn
- John Peterson (3660 Dutch Hollow Road) - permit issued for 24’ x 48’ pole barn
- Jordan Kirsch ( 1072 Perry Road) – permit issued for 35’ x 30’ cabin

**Violations:**

- Dennis Mills - 1907 Route 20A (SBL: 56.-2-26) – Violation Notice/Order to Remedy issued September 28, 2021. Property owner is to remove and dispose of, or place into storage any un-registered or inoperable motor vehicles, lawn mower or other miscellaneous vehicle parts and pieces. Original dates for corrections to be made was October 28, 2021; Mr. Mills is working with Don Roberts at Building Codes to start resolving this matter. Visual inspection performed by the Building Department on 11/22/2021 shows that progress is being made. David DiMatteo issued a 10 day attorney letter on January 3, 2022. Updated photos were taken by Don Roberts of the Wyoming County Building Department on April 15, 2022. On June 2, 2022, Mr. DiMatteo’s office received the signed resolution and drafted a summons and complaint to be approved by Mr. DiMatteo. **As of July 14, 2022, Mr. DiMatteo has approved of the summons and complaint and are awaiting the signed copy from the town. On 8/1/2022, Don Roberts conducted a visual inspection of the property and a copy of the finding will be sent to Mr. Mills with a copy to Mr. DiMatteo and Supervisor Becker.**
- Joshua Ennis and Anne Elliott – 2009 Thomas Road (SBL: 68.-1-12.112) – Violation Notice/Order to Remedy issued April 14, 2022. Property owner is to either remove the camper located on the vacant parcel, OR a parcel merge request must be filed and approved by the Town Assessor for 2009 Thomas Road and 1942 Thomas Road to become one parcel, OR a use variance application needs to be filed with the Wyoming County Zoning Department. **Proof of the parcel merge from Real Property has been received, however the owners need to apply for a camping permit. A letter was sent to the owners via certified mail on July 28, 2022.**

**Open Public Hearing – Strykersville Fire Contract**

At 7:05 p.m. a motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Joe Meyer to open the public hearing for the Strykersville Fire contract.

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

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**Highway Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Ricketson was absent from tonight's meeting.

**Highway Building Roof Leak**

Prior to the meeting, Superintendent Ricketson reported to Supervisor Becker that the roof is leaking between the cold storage building and the shop. The Superintendent will have it looked at.

**Supervisor's Report**

Supervisor Becker reported on the following:

**Wyoming County Community Hospital Funding**

The County Board of Supervisors approved \$7 million for the hospital.

**NYMIR Inspection**

Supervisor Becker and Superintendent Ricketson met with Michelle Leroux from the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR) for a building inspection. Ms. Leroux provided the Town with a report of recommendations. Included in the report: removal of old swing set and slide at the Historical Museum; new hooks on swings at Varysburg park; playground resurfacing at the Varysburg park; bleacher safety at the Varysburg park. NYMIR requests a response of measures taken within 60 days.

**County Ambulance Service**

Wyoming County is still discussing creating a County-wide ambulance service. It is expected that a minimum of 8-9 people would need to be hired.

**Acceptance of Reports**

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

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

**Strykersville Fire Contract Discussion**

The following Officers of the Strykersville Fire Department gave brief presentations to the Board:

Vickie Reisdorf, President

Eric Kirsch, Chief

Andrew Hope, Past-President

A summary of the presentations:

- In 2021 the company fielded 227 calls. In 2022 to date 148 calls
- They have 40 active members, 11 EMS, 7 EMT, 1 paramedic
- A new power stretcher at a cost of \$42,000 was purchased
- A grant of \$35,000 was received for street address signs

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- Applied for a grant through FEMA for bunker gear
- The 1991 Engine 3 truck is 31 years old and needs to be replaced. Pricing in 2021 was \$355,000 to replace it
- EMS gear is 18 years old. New gear is \$700 per gear
- Ms. Reisdorf distributed a letter, report and spreadsheet prior to the meeting for the Board's review. These documents were referred to during the meeting and are on-file in the Town Clerk's office
- The department has budgeted to use fundraising money to pay for the hall and grounds expenditures in the next five years (for example, the kitchen remodel)
- The department has \$300,000 in savings
- The department calculates that they will need \$321,000 combined from Java and Sheldon per year over the next five years (Sheldon portion: 2023 - \$113,321, 2024 - \$116,721, 2025 - \$120,222, 2026 - \$123,829, 2027 - \$127,544)

There was some discussion between the Town Board on whether there should be a joint meeting with Java or whether the Sheldon Board should wait to make a decision until Java meets with the fire company. The Board decided to vote on the matter tonight and not wait for Java.

**Close Public Hearing – Strykersville Fire Contract**

At 7:05 p.m. a motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch to close the public hearing on the Strykersville Fire Contract.

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

**Approve the Sheldon Portion of the Proposed Fire Contract**

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Mike Armbrust to approve a five-year contract with the Strykersville Fire Company with the following amounts to be collected in the Sheldon portion of the District:

2023 - \$113,321.00

2024 - \$116,721.00

2025 - \$120,222.00

2026 - \$123,829.00

2027 - \$127,544.00

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

**Old Business:**

**ARPA Funding**

At the July board meeting the Board approved using ARPA funding for the purchase of the excavator and to use the remaining ARPA funding for a new generator.

The excavator has arrived and is in the highway garage.

**Spectrum Update**

The billing issues for the Town Hall phones and internet are still being dealt with.

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**Veteran Banners**

Resident, Noelle Pitkin was present at tonight's meeting to give an update on the Veterans banners project. Below is a recap of her presentation:

- She is offering to coordinate the project and is asking for the Town Board's financial support.
- She has reached out to NYSEG and received an application form to hang banners on the utility poles. There are 200 poles in the Town. She asked the Board if the Town of Sheldon should be listed as an applicant. The Board replied that they suggest only using the Strykersville American Legion as the applicant.
- The Legion will hang and take down the banners and will store them.
- She does not yet have a cost for the banners. Banners will be 24x48 - same size as East Aurora's banners.

The Board did not commit any financial funds at this point.

**Historian Concerns**

The Town has not received an update on whether the Town Attorney has sent a letter to the former Town historian requesting she remove references online that still have her referred to as Historian for the Town.

**Varysburg Water Leaks Update**

Supervisor Becker gave an update on the water leak repair that was recently completed. Supervisor Becker had the broken pipes at tonight's meeting to show the Board. The cost to repair the leak was \$8,500.00. The State DOT assisted with the work zone set up.

**Varysburg Water Tank Cleaning**

After last month's meeting, the Town Clerk emailed a copy of the engineering report from 2018 for the water tank. The report showed 4-6 inches of sediment. In 2019, the Board approved to hire an engineer to clean the tank, however, the company could not do it until spring of 2020. COVID hit in 2020 and the tank cleaning was overlooked. Supervisor Becker has contacted Liquid Engineering and they have the tank cleaning on their schedule. Councilman Kirsch asked the Town Supervisor to make sure we have an insurance certificate that holds the Town harmless.

**Varysburg Water Public Meeting**

A motion was made by Joe Meyer and seconded by Mike Armbrust to schedule a public meeting on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Varysburg Fire Hall to discuss with the Varysburg Water Advisory Board and members of the public plans to upgrade the water lines on School Street and on Route 98 north of School Street and to also discuss a water rate increase. Ayes: (5) Becker, Fontaine, Armbrust, Meyer, Kirsch Nays: (0) Motion Carried.

**Zoom Teleconference Law**

There was a short discussion on the status of NYS law regarding the ability of municipalities to hold public meetings via Zoom teleconference. The Town Clerk will send the Board information

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on the new requirements. The Town would need to pass a Local Law in order to hold meetings via Zoom. Board members would only be permitted to join for emergency circumstances such as illness.

**Update to Fire District Maps**

Supervisor Becker explained that when the Town of Holland left the Strykersville Fire District new maps had to be drawn. This led to the County finding errors in how certain parcels are being billed for fire protection. Joanna Craigmile, GIS Coordinator for Wyoming County Planning Department put together an excel spreadsheet listing the discrepancies. The Town Clerk sent a copy to all the fire chiefs in the Town for their review. Supervisor Becker will meet with the respective fire companies to get this finalized.

**New Business:**

**Historical Society Requests**

Laury Lakas, on behalf of the Sheldon Historical Society, sent an email to the Town Clerk to share with the Town Supervisor.

In the email the Historical Society requests financial assistance for the following:

- A security/fire alarm system
- Porch decking
- Wheelchair ramp railing
- Gutters

Councilman Kirsch will stop down to the Schoolhouse to review the items. The Town Clerk will forward Ms. Lakas' email to the Board.

**Accounting Software**

A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the contract with Williamson Law Book Company for accounting software in the amount of \$1,108.00 effective 9/1/22-8/31/23.

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

**Funds Transfer**

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Joe Meyer to authorize the transfer of \$205,757.00 from A9901.9 (transfer to other funds) to DA5031 (Interfund Transfer) for the purpose of spending ARPA funds to purchase a 2022 Hyundai wheeled excavator.

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

**Funds Transfer**

A motion was made by Mike Armbrust and seconded by Joe Meyer to authorize the transfer of \$205,757.00 from DA5031 (interfund transfer) to DA5130.2 (machinery equipment) to pay George & Swede for the 2022 Hyundai wheeled excavator.

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

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**Budget Workshop**

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Joe Meyer to schedule a budget workshop meeting for September 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sheldon Town Hall to work on the 2023 budget.

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

**Bills:**

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

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch that the General Bills #162 to #184 for a Total of \$23,810.92, the Highway Bills #99 to #108 for a Total of \$223,935.44, the Trust & Agency Bills #24 to #28 for a Total of \$769.96, and the Varysburg Water District Bills #37 to #42 for a Total of \$9,775.88 be paid.

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

**Follow-Up Assessment Discussion**

Supervisor Becker distributed assessment cost information as a follow up to last month's discussion with resident Ray Kirsch. The Town Bookkeeper Katie Chmura put together a report detailing Town assessment expenses from 2016-2021.

2016: \$21,794.70 (Assessor Ken Pike from Jan-Oct, County Assessing Nov-Dec)

2017: \$26,444.52 (County Assessing)

2018: \$27,421.00 (County Assessing)

2019: \$26,402.24 (County Assessing)

2020: \$22,502.68 (County Assessing Jan-Mar, Mary Kern Apr-Dec)

2021: \$19,972.06 (Mary Kern)

**Mulch at Town Park**

Councilmen Armbrust and Meyer met with Darlene Janes at the Town Park to discuss park needs. Ms. Janes received a quote of \$1,500 for wood chip mulch. After Labor Day, the plan is to use the Highway Department to deliver the mulch to the park.

**Comments from the Floor**

At 9:05 p.m. Supervisor Becker opened the floor to comments. There were no comments.

**Adjournment**

At 9:05 p.m. a motion was made by Brian Becker and seconded by Jim Fontaine to adjourn the August 24, 2022 meeting of the Sheldon Town Board.

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