

**REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
September 15, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Sheldon Town Board held September 15, 2021 at the Sheldon Town Hall, 1380 Centerline Rd., Strykersville, NY 14145 was called to order by Town Supervisor Brian Becker at 7:30 p.m. A zoom meeting was also held per a request from resident Keith Wahl.

Present: Supervisor Brian Becker
Councilmen: Mike Armbrust, Joe Meyer, Vince Kirsch, Jim Fontaine
Recording Secretary: Town Clerk Carol Zittel
Also present: Highway Superintendent David Ricketson; Deputy Highway Superintendent John Herrmann; Deputy Town Clerk Whitney Kehl; Spectrum Government Representative Mark Meyerhofer; Andrew Hope, President of the Strykersville Fire Company; Dustin Colkitt, Chief of the Strykersville Fire Company; Nick Kirsch, president of the Harris Corners Fire Department. 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 August 18, 2021 regular meeting be approved.

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

Communications

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

High-Speed Internet Access

Three residents contacted the Town Clerk in the past month regarding lack of access to Spectrum internet coverage.

Hunting License Sales

The Town Clerk has been busy issuing hunting licenses.

Reports

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

Highway Superintendent Report

Deputy Highway Superintendent John Herrmann reported on the following:

Shoulder Work

The Highway Department has been busy doing shoulder work.

Highway Superintendent David Ricketson reported on the following:

**REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
September 15, 2021**

Surplus Equipment – 2007 Snow Blower/Thrower

Superintendent Ricketson asked the Board for authorization to declare the 2007 Snow Blower/Thrower as surplus equipment stating that the Department does not use it often.

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Mike Armbrust to declare the 2007 snow blower/thrower as surplus equipment.

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

Surplus Equipment – 1965 Paver

Superintendent Ricketson asked the Board for authorization to declare the 1965 paver as surplus equipment. Supt. Ricketson stated that the Department does not have a need for the paver as the company that they use for road work also levels the road and then paves it much faster than the Town could.

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Mike Armbrust to declare the 1965 paver as surplus equipment.

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

Traffic Safety Board Meeting

Supt. Ricketson stated that he will be attending the County Traffic Safety Board meeting tomorrow night.

Spectrum Broadband

Spectrum Government Representative, Mark Meyerhofer, was present at tonight's meeting to give an update on broadband installation plans for the Town. Mr. Meyerhofer noted that plans discussed when he last presented to the Board in 2016 did not work out as planned and unfortunately, broadband coverage did not reach the levels they had hoped for in the Town. Mr. Meyerhofer noted that pole license fees and the cost of replacing poles in rural areas cut into their budget more than anticipated. He also noted that NYS began charging a fiber fee on state roads. Mr. Meyerhofer stated that he has met with Wyoming County Planner, James Bragg, regarding the broadband needs in the County. ARPA funding can be used for expanding broadband and discussions on how to implement this have been had.

Mr. Meyerhofer recommends contacting our State legislator, Senator Gallivan, regarding the Town's concerns with expanding coverage in the Town. Per the Town Board's request, Mr. Meyerhofer will conduct a town-wide survey to determine the cost of expanding coverage to every resident in the Town. The Town Clerk asked if letters from residents would help in pursuit of high-speed internet. Mr. Meyerhofer encouraged residents to write letters.

Supervisor Becker wanted it noted in the minutes that the Town Board does not have any influence on the areas that receive broadband coverage. Supervisor Becker brought this issue up as he was contacted by a resident who accused the Town Board of giving preferential treatment to certain residents on certain roads. Mr. Meyerhofer confirmed that the Town Board has not had any influence on decisions made to broadband expansion areas. Resident Keith Wahl, from

**REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
September 15, 2021**

Route 20A communicated via Zoom with Mr. Meyerhofer.

Town Hall Internet

Supervisor Becker asked Mr. Meyerhofer if he could provide assistance with improving internet speed at the Town Hall. The Town Hall's internet is at 2007 speed. The last quote we received from Spectrum would have doubled our monthly bill. Mr. Meyerhofer will be in touch with Supervisor Becker regarding this.

Open Public Hearing – Harris Corners Fire Contract

At 7:40 p.m. a motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Vince Kirsch to open the public hearing on the Harris Corners Fire Contract.

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

Open Public Hearing – Strykersville Fire Contract

At 7:40 p.m. a motion was made by Joe Meyer and seconded by Jim Fontaine to open the public hearing on the Strykersville Fire Contract.

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

Open Public Hearing – Strykersville Ambulance Contract for Harris Corners

At 7:40 p.m. a motion was made by Mike Armbrust and seconded by Jim Fontaine to open the public hearing on the Strykersville Ambulance Contract for the Sheldon portion of Harris Corners Fire District.

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

Public Hearing – Harris Corners Fire Contract

President of the Harris Corners Fire Company, Nick Kirsch, was present at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Kirsch, on behalf of the Harris Corners Fire Company, requested a two-year contract with a 2% increase each year.

Close Public Hearing – Harris Corners Fire Contract

At 8:15 p.m. a motion was made by Joe Meyer and seconded by Mike Armbrust to close the public hearing on the Harris Corners Fire Contract.

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

Approval of Harris Corners Fire Contract

A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Joe Meyer to approve a two-year contract with the Harris Corners Fire Department with a 2% increase each year.

2022: 32,448.94

**REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
September 15, 2021**

2023: 33,097.92

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

Public Hearing – Strykersville Ambulance Contract for Harris Corners

Andrew Hope, president of the Strykersville Fire Company, was unaware that the ambulance contract was up for renewal. Treasurer, Bob Gibson, was not present at tonight's meeting and had been in contact with the Town Clerk regarding the contract. Town Clerk, Carol Zittel, explained that the ambulance contract has been kept at the same rate for several years and it was explained to her by past Treasurer of the Strykersville Fire Department, Russ Reisdorf, that the company was agreeable to keeping the rate the same these past years because Medic One was taking the majority of the ambulance calls. At tonight's meeting, the members of the fire company were not in agreement with this reasoning stating that their ambulance goes out to all calls in addition to Medic One. Mr. Hope stated that he was agreeable to keeping the contract at the same rate of \$1,010 considering the fact that they are requesting an increase in their fire contract which is also up for renewal.

Close Public Hearing – Strykersville Ambulance Contract for Harris Corners

At 8:22 p.m. a motion was made by Mike Armbrust and seconded by Jim Fontaine to close the public hearing for the Strykersville Ambulance contract for the Sheldon portion of the Harris Corners fire district.

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

Approval of Strykersville Ambulance Contract for Harris Corners

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Joe Meyer to approve a two-year contract with the Strykersville Fire Department to provide ambulance services to the Sheldon portion of the Harris Corners Fire District with a 2% increase each year.

2022: \$1030.00

2023: \$1050.00

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

Public Hearing – Strykersville Fire Contract

Chief of the Strykersville Fire Department, Dustin Colkitt, gave a presentation on the department's current equipment, reports on calls since 2017 and the rationale for the request in increased funding. President of the fire company, Andrew Hope, gave a presentation on current funding levels and requested funding levels. Mr. Hope distributed a report on monthly and yearly expenses for the Department. The fire company received \$36,814.27 from the Town of Sheldon in 2021. The department is requesting \$63,719.63 for 2022 and the next five years. Supervisor Becker remarked that it is an 80% increase. Mr. Hope stated that he realizes it is quite an increase but it is what the company needs to be responsive. Councilman Fontaine asked if there are grants available to the department. Mr. Hope responded that there are grants and they are hit and miss and unfortunately more miss. Bill Streicher noted that FEMA grants are

**REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
September 15, 2021**

competitive and that they hired a grant writer at one time but that was not successful as well. Mr. Colkitt responded that they have a grant submitted for 30 sets of protective fire gear and that the cost to outfit one firefighter is \$5,500.00. Mr. Hope stated that the Town fire tax levy would be 81.839 cents per \$1,000 assessed value. For example, a home assessed at \$100,000.00 in the Town of Sheldon would see their Strykersville Fire tax levy go from \$81.84 per year to \$141.58 per year if this contract proposal is approved. The Town Board asked the fire company regarding the Town of Holland's decision on whether to renew a contract with their department. The Strykersville Fire Department currently services three Towns: Java, Sheldon and Holland. The Board had heard speculation that the Town of Holland would like to withdraw from the contract. Mr. Hope and the Strykersville Fire Department had heard the same speculation and have nothing official to report. The Town of Java has tabled contract discussion as they wanted the input from the Town of Sheldon. Councilman Fontaine commented that if I'm in an accident and need emergency response, I would want Strykersville to respond. Councilman Kirsch seconded the sentiment and the whole board was in agreement. Supervisor Becker noted that while we have several fire companies in the Town, there is a need for all of them, further stating that if we lose our volunteers and have to provide a paid service, the cost would be 5 to 10 times higher. Supervisor Becker stated that the Board should wait until it is determined what the Town of Holland's intentions are before proceeding.

Table Discussion – Strykersville Fire Contract

A motion was made by Mike Armbrust and seconded by Vince Kirsch to table discussion on the Strykersville Fire contract.

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

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Brian Becker reported on the following:

NYMIR

The Town received \$905.70 from NYMIR.

Town Hall Parking Lot Striping

The Town Hall parking lot now has painted parking lot stripes.

Resignation of Town Justice Paul Romesser

Town Justice Paul Romesser submitted a letter of resignation effective October 15, 2021.

Supervisor Becker noted that there is not time to put someone on the ballot at this late date. A replacement appointment will need to be made until the November 2022 election.

County Sales Tax Revenue

The County has seen a 26% increase in sales tax revenue this year.

Bill in Last Month's Varysburg Water Bills – Billed to Boxlers

**REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
September 15, 2021**

The Town had paid a bill to MRB Engineering last month. The Town has been reimbursed by Boxlers. This was for water line work to their new building on Route 20A in Varysburg.

Acceptance of Reports

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

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

Judicial Consolidation

Nothing new to report.

Varysburg Water Update

Supervisor Becker reported that Varysburg Water Operator, Thane Wright will coordinate with HMR Inc. to get the repairs to the chlorinator completed by the end of the month.

CDBG Community Development Block Grant

Paperwork submitted. Nothing new to report.

Town Hall Generator

M&M Holland will fix the Town Hall generator soon. Their quote increased by \$75.00.

ARPA Funding

Supervisor Becker explained the various ways the ARPA funding can and cannot be used. It cannot be used to pay off existing BANs or labor or retirement. It could be used for broadband expansion but he does not feel that extending broadband to the sections of the Town that do not have it would come under \$233,000 (ARPA funding). The Town could purchase a new generator, blacktop the highway department section of the parking lot, etc...

Adoption of Wyoming County Hazard Mitigation Plan

A motion was made by Jim Fontaine and seconded by Mike Armbrust to adopt the 2021 Wyoming County Mitigation Plan

A Resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Sheldon Authorizing the Adoption of the 2021 Wyoming County, NY Hazard Mitigation Plan

WHEREAS, all jurisdictions within Wyoming County have exposure to hazards that increase the risk to life, property, environment, and the County and local economy; and

WHEREAS; pro-active mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and

WHEREAS, The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) established new requirements for pre- and post-disaster hazard mitigation programs; and

WHEREAS; a coalition of Wyoming County municipalities with like planning objectives has been formed to pool resources and create consistent mitigation strategies within Wyoming County; and

**REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
September 15, 2021**

WHEREAS, the coalition has completed a planning process that engages the public, assesses the risk and vulnerability to the impacts of hazards, develops a mitigation strategy consistent with a set of uniform goals and objectives, and creates a plan for implementing, evaluating and revising this strategy;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Sheldon:

- 1.) Adopts in its entirety, the 2021 Wyoming County Hazard Mitigation Plan (the “Plan”) as the jurisdiction’s Hazard Mitigation Plan, and resolves to execute the actions identified in the Plan that pertain to this jurisdiction.
- 2.) Will use the adopted and approved portions of the Plan to guide pre- and post-disaster mitigation of the hazards identified.
- 3.) Will coordinate the strategies identified in the Plan with other planning programs and mechanisms under its jurisdictional authority.
- 4.) Will continue its support of the Planning Partnership as described within the Plan.
- 5.) Will help to promote and support the mitigation successes of all participants in this Plan.
- 6.) Will incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of government and partner operations.
- 7.) Will provide an update of the Plan in conjunction with the County no less than every five years.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 15TH of September, 2021

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

NYS Cannabis Opt-Out

NYS has given Towns the option to opt-out of permitting retail sales and on-site consumption of cannabis. The Town Board is not interested in opting out.

Budget Transfer

A motion was made by Joe Meyer and seconded by Jim Fontaine to transfer \$100,000.00 from General Money Market to Highway Money Market.

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

Schedule Budget Workshop

A motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Jim Fontaine to schedule a budget workshop meeting on September 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sheldon Town Hall.

Ayes: (5) Becker, Kirsch, Armbrust, Meyer, Fontaine 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 Vince Kirsch that the General Bills #210 to #236 for a Total of \$11,494.88, the Highway Bills #101 to #112 for a Total of \$50,069.15, the Trust & Agency Bills #28 to #30 for a Total of \$549.20, the Varysburg Water District Bills #49 to #55 for a Total of \$4,068.93, and the Lighting District Bills for a Total of \$450.10, be paid.

**REGULAR MEETING
SHELDON TOWN BOARD
September 15, 2021**

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

Comments from the Floor

At 9:35 p.m. Supervisor Becker opened the floor to comments.

Adjournment

At 9:40 p.m. a motion was made by Vince Kirsch and seconded by Jim Fontaine to adjourn the September 15, 2021 meeting of the Sheldon Town Board.

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