

PRESENT: Mayor Acee, Trustees Casscles, Janitz, Tomaselli, and Westcott, Travis DuBois, Diane Scalzo, Ed Meyer, Travis Aikins, Leroy Burlingame, Jansen Casscles, Ryan Legacy, Chris Thompson, and Keith Van Althuis.

Mayor Acee opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 3:33 PM.

Ed Meyer gave an update on the Town of Sherburne board meeting for the month of December. Ed Meyer said the town had received a letter from the village regarding the EMS lack of funding. Ed Meyer said the town had paid for tires for the fire department, helped pay for a part of the fire station building upgrade construction costs, and the town of Sherburne had increased EMS spending an additional \$40,000 above the 2% annual increase. Ed Meyer said the town had requested a budget from the village for the EMS service and had not received the budget numbers. Mayor Acee said he disagreed. Mayor Acee said he had met with the board of the town of Sherburne in August and presented spreadsheets, and explained the financial situation that the Sherburne EMS is in. Ed Meyer said that the town was not presented with a formal budget for EMS. Diane Scalzo discussed the Columbus town board of trustees was also facing challenges with the escalating cost of EMS. Diane Scalzo said the Medicare and Medicaid levels of reimbursement were not able to cover the cost of providing services. Diane Scalzo said that EMS is not currently considered an essential service by New York State. Jansen Casscles said he was willing to look at the Sherburne EMS income and offer his help and experience on what was affecting the lack of income. Mayor Acee said Jansen Casscles could contact Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis to go over the financial records.

MOTION #137/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Westcott to approve the minutes of the last regular Board meeting. Motion supported by Trustee Casscles. Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION #138/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Westcott to authorize the Mayor to sign the abstracts below:

General	#127	\$ 28,148.54	General	#135	\$ 37,456.38
Electric	#128	\$ 46,058.05	Electric	#136	\$301,533.25
Water	#129	\$ 5,577.62	Water	#137	\$ 8,512.50
Sewer	#130	\$ 3,526.89	Sewer	#138	\$ 14,326.63
General	#131	\$ 26,305.23	Capital	#139	\$ 21,236.70
Electric	#132	\$ 38,816.18	Joint Activity	#140	\$ 148.08
Water	#133	\$ 3,524.51			
Sewer	#134	\$ 3,524.51			

Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Motion unanimously carried.

Officer Ryan Legacy read the police report for November 2024. Officer Ryan Legacy updated the board on the design of ID cards for Village Employees.

MOTION #139/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to accept the police reports for November 2024 as reported. Motion supported by Trustee Casscles. Motion unanimously carried.

Superintendent DuBois read the following report.

“DPW Water Sewer

Work is seasonal and includes preventative maintenance on vehicles.

We continue to meet weekly with Delaware on the WWTP upgrade. The focus continues to be the main processing building layout.

North Main drainage project – Attorney James Cushman has sent preliminary documents to the owners to make them aware that legal paperwork was being sent soon. Cushman was preparing the paperwork for the owners to approve the deed modifications.

Electric

Weather permitting, the crew is trimming trees and setting poles for the next phase of the fiber project.

The camera and key FOB project is almost complete. FES conducted administrator training. Ryan is working on the ID card and FOB issuance.

NYPA has announced an increase in the wholesale cost of hydropower. The proposed rate plan was presented to the NYPA Board of Trustees on 12/10/24. The wholesale rate from NYPA would go from the present \$12.88 per MWh to \$33.05 (combination of energy and demand). This would result in a cost increase for our customers expressed as two examples high and low usage months:

March bill: From \$165 To \$202 (\$37 increase) Average residential usage in January (March 1 billing) is 2300 kWh

September bill: From \$38 To \$55 (\$17 increase) Average residential usage in July (Sept 1 billing) is 850 kWh

Fiber

734 customers to date are taking SherburneConnect service. Another 125 installations have been completed to the NID and in some cases, into the home. These are households that signed up for service but never followed through or have moved out (such as apartments) or have been offered limited-time reduced rates by Spectrum.

Phase II fiber project

Permits for Sherburne and Columbus poles are under review at NYSEG. All of the fiber has been ordered. Once the “permits” come back from NYSEG and the scope of the work has been defined, a contractor or contractors will be selected from the pool of those that sent in proposals and the make-ready work can begin.”

Superintendent DuBois said he would like permission to attend and for the village to cover the cost to attend the APPA Legislative Meeting February 23-26, 2025 if he was able.

MOTION #140/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli for superintendent DuBois to attend, and have cost directly associated with attendance, including registration, travel and lodging, paid for by the village for the APPA Legislative Meeting February 23-26 2025. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Acee said that EMS financial model is broken. Mayor Acee said he was seeking a motion from the board to loan the village ambulance department from the village revolving loan fund. Mayor Acee said that after conferring with Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis he suggested a credit line not to exceed \$60,000(sixty-thousand dollars) at 0% interest rate for 3 months to get the EMS department to the next fiscal year. Mayor Acee said he was continuing to talk to the towns for increased funding, to alleviate the need for the line of credit. Mayor Acee said without increased funding the village of Sherburne ambulance department would have to cut back hours. Trustee Tomaselli said he would support a motion with the caveat that this would be the last time he would support that village funds would be used to cover shortfalls for the Ambulance department expenses. Trustee Tomaselli said that he did not think putting more village funds into EMS beyond this point would be doing the village taxpayers justice.

MOTION #141/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Casscles to make available a 90 day line of credit from the village of Sherburne UDAG revolving loan fund an amount not to exceed \$60,000(sixty-thousand dollars) at 0% to help cover shortfalls in the ambulance department payroll and equipment expenses. Motion supported by Trustees Janitz, Tomaselli. Mayor Acee voted affirmative. Trustee Westcott opposed. Motion approved.

Chris Thompson said he would like the village leadership to use the experience of Jansen Casscles and other EMS professionals to help inform them on the ambulance department challenges.

Mayor Acee said he wanted to look at the rates that the Sherburne EMS was charging for services. Mayor Acee said the rates that the village charges for EMS services had been reviewed and were in line with charges elsewhere in the county and in some cases slightly higher. Mayor Acee said the village had received a donation from Golden Artist Colors for \$500 to the Village of Sherburne Ambulance department. Mayor Acee said he

was seeking a motion for approval to sign the Fire and EMS contracts on behalf of the village.

MOTION #142/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Westcott to approve the mayor signing the fire and ambulance contracts with the towns of Sherburne, Columbus, Smyrna, and Brookfield, on behalf of the village of Sherburne. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Motion unanimously approved.

Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said he was looking for a resolution for the village election registration day, had some budget adjustments, final appropriation for ARPA monies to the ambulance department, a reimbursement for the electric department from the LDC for bills that were for the LDC, a park use request, a resolution to return property tax amounts to the county for reimbursement, and was seeking a motion for the board to approve the mayor to sign the firefighter cancer benefit Program Coverage. In addition, Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said he presented the board with the budget for the public hearing and that a resolution was needed to hold the public hearing. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said that the sewer rates per unit would see an increase from \$32/month to \$34/month or \$348 per unit annually to \$408 annually. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said this was necessary because of the Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said that he had adjusted the general fund budget since the last budget hearing to show the board's desire to not increase the real property tax rate for the coming fiscal year. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said he had increased the water budget with an expense for the decommissioning of Well #3 using Water Fund Capital Reserves for \$20,000. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said that the ambulance department was underfunded for the number of hours that the village would like to provide service for. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said that it would be impossible to run the ambulance department as it has been in the past with current funding. Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said that ARPA funds were no longer available to help mitigate the shortfalls in the ambulance department and that other solutions were needed.

MOTION #143/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Westcott to support the following resolution and publish it in the Sherburne News.

Resolution of the Village of Sherburne Board of Trustees

WHEREAS, the next Village General Election for the officers of the Village of Sherburne will be held on March 18, 2025 and

WHEREAS, no person shall be entitled to vote at any Village election whose name does not appear on the register of the election district in which he/she claims to be entitled to vote, and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the inspectors of election to prepare such register of qualified voters for the district which they are appointed, and

WHEREAS, Section 15-118 Subsection 4 of the Election Law of the State of New York provides that a Village may hold a registration day for the General Village Election,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The inspectors of election shall meet on the 8th day of March, 2025 at the Village Office, Canal Street, East Side Entrance, 15 West State Street, Sherburne, New York beginning at 12:00 o'clock noon until 5:00 p.m. to commence the preparation of the register for the forthcoming election.
2. Registration Day for the Village of Sherburne shall be on Saturday, March 8, 2025.
3. Registration shall be held at the Village Office, Canal Street, East Side Entrance, 15 West State Street, Sherburne, New York, from 12:00 o'clock noon until 5:00 p.m.
4. Voting for the forthcoming Village elections shall be conducted at the Town of Sherburne Building, Canal Street, Sherburne, New York. Voting shall take place on March 18, 2025 between the hours of 12:00 o'clock noon until 9:00 p.m.
5. At least ten days prior to registration day set forth in this resolution, a copy of said resolution shall be posted in at least one conspicuous public place in such election district.
6. The resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion supported by Trustee Tomaselli. Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION #144/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to approve the following budget adjustments for the current fiscal year.

To:	Amb EQ	AA04454002000	\$1,500	From:	Amb Rep.	AA04454004900	\$1,500	Ambulance Vehicle
	Amb Oxyg.	AA04454004700	\$1,500		Amb. Exp.	AA04454009000	\$1,500	Ambulance Vehicle
Total			\$3,000				\$3,000	

Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Motion unanimously approved.

MOTION #145/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Janitz to appropriate the remaining village of Sherburne ARPA funds in the amount of \$9,036.31 to the ambulance payroll account. Motion supported by Trustee Tomaselli. Motion unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said that Judy Prosser had paid off the remaining principal amount of \$1,268.22 remaining on the revolving loan fund. Mayor Acee said the village had been in negotiations with Judy Prosser about the current property since Covid began. Mayor Acee said that negotiations were no longer ongoing. Mayor Acee said he believed it was fair for the interest accrued during the negotiation period since Covid to be forgiven.

MOTION #146/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to forgive the interest accrued on the final payment of Judy Prosser revolving loan fund payment. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to recognize the loan in the amount of \$18,000 by Judy Prosser in February of 2014 to be paid in full and release all liens held in relation to said loan. Motion supported by Trustee Westcott. Motion unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said he had received a letter from Jill Nelson, owner of Natural Beauty Breast Prosthesis outlining a payment schedule of \$75 a month.

MOTION #147/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to approve the adjusted payment schedule on the Natural Beauty Breast Prosthesis revolving loan fund with a remaining balance of \$7,665.89 so that the new payment shall be \$75 a month until the principal and interest is paid in full. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Motion unanimously carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis said he had two bills that were for the LDC that had been paid for by the Electric Fund. Clerk-treasurer Van Althuis said the village electric fund would be reimbursed for these two bills in the amount of \$265.57 by the LDC.

MOTION #148/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to allow the United Church of Christ the use of Gaines Park for an Easter Egg hunt and other related activities on April 19th, 2025 pending proof of liability insurance. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION #149/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Westcott to authorize a public hearing to be held on the hearing of comments on the 2025-2026 annual budgets and usage of reserve fund money to fund some projects within the budgets on Monday, January 20, 2024 at 3:30PM Motion supported by Trustee Tomaselli. Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION #150/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to pass a resolution certifying that Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis return to the County the unpaid taxes and penalty for properties in the

Village of Sherburne, New York in the amount of \$42,143.94. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION #151/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Janitz for the mayor to sign the Firefighter Cancer Benefit Program Coverage on behalf of the village of Sherburne. Motion supported by Trustee Casscles. Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION #152/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Janitz to move into and out of executive session with the Board, Superintendent DuBois, and Clerk-Treasurer Van Althuis to discuss possible litigation, contract negotiation, and credit worthiness . Motion supported by Trustee Westcott. Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION #153/24-25

Motion made by Trustee Tomaselli to adjourn at 5:10 PM with there being no further business to conduct. Motion supported by Trustee Janitz. Motion unanimously carried.

Keith Van Althuis, Clerk-Treasurer

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