REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF SHERMAN
January 9, 2025

A regular meeting of the town of Sherman Board was held on
at the Town Office Building, 111A Mill St., Sherman, NY, Chautauqua County, New York at 7:00PM.

Present:	Mark D. Persons	Supervisor
	James L. Higginbotham	Council Member/Deputy Supervisor
	Howard E. Crump	Council Member
	Ben Nickerson	Council Member
	Annette Swan	Town Clerk

Absent: Dennis Sweatman - Highway Superintendent, Brant Henning -Council Member
Guests: Greg Rater- Town of Sherman Resident

Supervisor Persons called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and led the Pledge to the flag.

RESOLUTION # 1
Councilman James Higginbotham noted two corrections for the December minutes.
Change the photographer's name in the Historian Report from J.L. Thayer to Amos Thayer.
Change Clerk Swan to Clerk Annette Swan in future meeting minutes.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman James Higginbotham AYE Councilman Howard Crump AYE
Councilman Ben Nickerson AYE

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION# 2
ABSTRACTS/CLAIMS
Councilman Howard Crump made the motion, seconded by Councilman Ben Nickerson to approve General Claims #1 through #10 in the amount of $26,474.35 and Highway Claims #1 through #3 in the amount of $414.91.

Councilman James Higginbotham AYE Councilman Howard Crump AYE
Councilman Ben Nickerson AYE

MOTION CARRIED

JUDGE'S REPORT

The town's share of fines collected for the month of November were $508.75.

CLERK/REGISTRAR'S REPORT

There was a total of 18 dog licenses renewed for the month of December. The town's share of revenue was $160.00
To update the status of the dogs listed at 189 West Main Street. All dogs are now licensed.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

- There were 2 deed transfers for the month of November.
- The town/county tax bills have been mailed, and there have been many calls to the office regarding address changes.

- Exemption renewals have been mailed to property owners that require annual remittance. March 1, 2025 is the deadline for filing for any exemption.
- The new 2025 Enhanced STAR income limit is 107,300 for property owners 65 or older. People are asked to inquire about this exemption if they believe they now may qualify.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT
No Report given.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
No Report given.

SUPERVISOR REPORT

Town of Mina Supervisor, Rebecca Brumagin is going forward with a grant application for two new pieces of highway equipment that will be shared by the towns of Mina, Sherman, French Creek, and Clymer. Each town board needs to pass a resolution stating their agreement to share the equipment and how it will be used.

RESOLUTION #3
Councilman Howard Crump made the motion, seconded by Councilman James Higginbotham to approve the following resolution.

Councilman James Higginbotham AYE Councilman Howard Crump AYE
Councilman Ben Nickerson AYE

MOTION CARRIED

TOWN OF SHERMAN

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NEW YORK STATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

EFFICIENCY (LGE) GRANT PROGRAM SUBMISSION

RESOLUTION # 3
Date: January 9, 2025

WHEREAS, the Town of Mina has a history of working collaboratively with the Towns of French Creek and Sherman on a number of projects; and
WHEREAS, the Town of Mina entered into a Coordinated Assessment Program over 20 years ago with the Towns of French Creek and Sherman and continues to hire an assessor to serve as the assessor for all three towns as one assessing unit; and
WHEREAS, the Town of Mina entered into a Single Justice agreement with both the Towns of French Creek and Sherman as well as the Town of Clymer and operates courts for all four towns in a single courtroom at the Mina-Findley Lake Community Center; and
WHEREAS, the Town of Mina shares a dog control officer with the Towns of French Creek, Sherman and Clymer; and
WHEREAS, the highway departments from Mina, French Creek, and Sherman along with other surrounding towns, assist one another with highway maintenance projects including paving, ditch maintenance and sharing of highway equipment; and
WHEREAS, New York State Division of Local Government Services has released a Request for Applications for the 2024-25 Local Government Efficiency Grant Program; and
WHEREAS, the Towns of Mina, French Creek and Sherman are eligible municipalities to apply for the LGE Grant Program; and
WHEREAS, the Towns of Mina, French Creek and Sherman have identified highway equipment that meets the needs of all three towns; and
WHEREAS, the Towns of Mina, French Creek and Sherman are willing to enter into an intermunicipal cooperation agreement pursuant to Article 5-G of the General Municipal Law for the performance among themselves or one for the other(s) of their respective functions, powers

and duties on a contract or cooperative basis; and
WHEREAS, the Towns of Mina, French Creek and Sherman have a need for a 4 Ton Asphalt Hotbox Reclaimer that maintains hotmix or cold patch for up to 48 hours thereby increasing the amount of time for the highway crew to use the asphalt for maintaining paved roads, reducing product cost and reducing product waste; and
WHEREAS, the Towns of Mina, French Creek and Sherman also have a need for a Force Feed Loader for ditching and shoulder maintenance that will provide for a safer and more efficient method of transferring roadside debris to dump trucks; and

WHEREAS, operation of the Force Feed Loader will have a positive impact on the environment by controlling erosion and more effectively maintaining the side of roads near wetlands areas and
Findley Lake; and
WHEREAS, the Force Feed Loader will enhance the ability to implement elements of the Complete Streets program and will not only increase safety for the highway crew but will also increase safety for the general public including motor vehicle operators, pedestrians, and bicyclists; and
WHEREAS, the Towns of Mina, French Creek and Sherman each have limited funds available and are not in a position to purchase a 4 Ton Asphalt Hotbox Reclaimer and a Force Feed Loader
without grant support; and
WHEREAS, the Towns of Mina, French Creek and Sherman are aware that if the LGE grant is awarded, that there is a required 10% cash local match and that each Town must commit to provide one-third of the total local match; and
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Mina hereby supports the submission of a New York State Local Government Efficiency Grant in collaboration with the Towns of French Creek and Sherman to purchase and operate a 4 Ton Asphalt Hotbox and a Force Feed Loader that will be used by all three Towns and will result in more efficient use of resources for all three towns, will improve safe operation of equipment on town roads, and will be more cost effective than each town securing the equipment individually.

- Supervisor Mark Persons stated he had been in discussion with French Creek Supervisor, Dave White concerning Town Assessor, Heather Young- Deyell's current pay rate. She is the assessor for the towns of Sherman, French Creek and Mina. Her current wages are split between these 3 townships. Each contributes a percentage of her wages, Sherman 30%, French Creek 30% and Mina 40%. In order to match the current payrates that the towns of Mina and French Creek are paying Assessor Deyell, the Town of Sherman will raise her hourly rate from $46.71 to $50.00/hour and increase her pay hours from 8 hours weekly to 8.5 hours weekly starting January 1 st .

- Supervisor Mark Persons brought up a discussion about the town purchasing a new diesel truck within the next couple of years before electric vehicle mandates take effect. Superintendent Dennis Sweatman looked into prices and order dates for new diesel trucks. If a new truck was ordered within the next few months, the truck could be delivered Summer 2025 and would be a 2026 model. This truck would just be the cab and chassis only and the cost would be about $160,000. To split the cost between two years, the box, hydraulics, and plow equipment could be purchased in 2026.
Further information and pricing need to be looked into and will be discussed at the next meeting.

RESOLUTION #4
Councilman Howard Crump made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ben Nickerson to approve the following guidelines in the Youth Budget for 2025:

Saturday Morning Basketball Director, Cory Emory pay at $500.00/year.
Expenses $600.00/year.

Misc. $200.00/year.
T-Ball, Little League Program
Two Directors at $400.00 each
Expenses $800.00/year.

Councilman James Higginbotham AYE Councilman Howard Crump AYE
Councilman Ben Nickerson AYE

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Mark Persons presented the following:

REORGANIZATION for 2025

Agree to renew the Library Contract of $55, 000.00.

The Jamestown Post-Journal will be the official newspaper.

Review Local Law #2-1992 covering Public Officials. This law is still in place.
This is covered through Edwards Insurance.

Community Bank, N.A., Sherman Branch was designated as depository for the Town.
Community Bank will also be used for investment purposes.

The Town Board meetings will continue to be held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Meetings will be held at the Town Office Building. If the first Thursday falls on a holiday, then the meeting will be held the following Thursday.
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW, the Town of Sherman, Chautauqua County, New York, has set the following dates for the town's regular meetings in 2025: January 2, February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4. All regular meetings will be held in the Town Office Building at 7:00 P.M.

The Supervisor was authorized to invest any idle funds in accounts covered by FDIC or those which are backed by government agencies.

The salaries of town officials will be the same as stated on the approved budget for 2025. The Assessor, Highway Superintendent, Court Clerk, Town Clerk, Bookkeeper and Highway employees will be paid every two weeks. The Code Enforcement officer, Town Supervisor, Board Members and the Justice and Court Clerk will be paid monthly. The Cemetery workers, as well as the dog control officer, will be paid as their vouchers are turned-in.

The rate of pay for the Board of Reviews will be $220.00 for Chairman Paul Sears (term running from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2028), and $200.00 for Larry Jackson (term Oct. 1, 2020 through September 30, 2025). James Weise will be paid $200 (term being Oct. 1, 2022 through September 30, 2026).

Joel Seachrist will be the Town attorney.

It was agreed to authorize the Highway Superintendent to spend a maximum of $500.00 for the purchase of small tools and equipment without prior Board approval.

Kelly Thorton will be dog control officer, with a $16.50 per hour rate of pay.

PRIMARY – Small Town Shelter, 118 Franklin St, Sherman, NY 14781
$25.00 per day Boarding Fees for 5 Days and a one-time $15.00 DL-18 Processing Fee per dog.

SECONDARY - The Town will continue the contract with CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY to take care of boarding stray dogs in the Town of Sherman as follows: $25 per day board fee, $50 for each dog euthanized & cremated, $5 for each dog to cover administrative fees.

The purchase of gravel for 2025 will be a maximum of $8.00 a ton.

The Highway Superintendent was authorized to advertise for various road postings and necessary material bids.

All board members will serve on the Highway and Drainage Committee, Shared Services Committee, Ethics Board, and the Machinery and Building Committee.

Approval to continue shared services was given. The County Law Department will be notified of this.

Annette Swan was appointed as the Town Historian and be paid $300 annually.

The court clerk will be Jody D'Anthony at a rate of pay of $7,240.00 annually.

$25,000 Employee Dishonesty including forgery and alteration coverage are included on the 2025 insurance policy. Excess limit of Employee Dishonesty coverage scheduled for Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Town Supervisor at $100,000 each.

The Fire Contract for 2025 with the Stanley Hose Co., Inc. is $45,598.54 as set in the 2025 budget. This amount will be paid to the Village on June 1, 2025.

The code enforcement officer will be Tom McNinch. He is responsible for approving and delivering building permits.

Theresa Tallman will remain the deputy town clerk and deputy registrar for 2025 @ $16.60 per hour

James Higginbotham will remain the deputy supervisor. He will be paid $100.00 annually.

Cory Emory will be the Saturday morning basketball director; It is currently unknown who will be the director for the summer baseball program.

The Sherman Historical Society will be paid $400.00 for the regular annual contribution amount.

Mileage reimbursement will be set at .60 cents per mile.

The rate for the Towns contribution for health insurance will be $10,000.00 annually for a family policy, $7,000.00 annually for a single policy. The amount will be divided equally over the employees' scheduled pay periods.

The sexual harassment policy remains in place.

The drug and alcohol contract remains effective with Langford Testing & Consulting, LLC. Terms and conditions of employment will remain in effect.

Work Rules will remain in effect.
Highway employees' rates of pay are: Michael Courtney $24.63 per hour, Michael Zemcik $24.16 per hour, and Ryan Robson $23.84 per hour. Mr. Courtney's hourly rate includes a $.25 incentive for being the Deputy Superintendent.

Graves at Sherman Cemetery and Sherman Valley Cemetery will stay at $400.00 per grave. Wait Corners Cemetery will be $250.00 per grave (a baby lot will be $150.00). The cost of opening a grave is $400.00 per adult grave. Ashes or a baby grave opening will be $150.00. There will be an additional $100.00 charge for any burial that occurs on a weekend or holiday. Foundations will be $25.00 per cubic foot, with a minimum charge of $100.00.

The agreement to spend highway funds was approved and signed in duplicate by the board members, supervisor, and superintendent.

Marriage licenses will remain at $40.00.

The Cemetery Sexton will be paid $17.20 per hour and assistant will be paid $15.50 per hour.

RESOLUTION #5
A blanket motion was offered by Councilman James Higginbotham, seconded by Councilman Ben Nickerson to approve the following appointments, rates and designations for the Town in 2025.

Councilman James Higginbotham AYE Councilman Howard Crump AYE
Councilman Ben Nickerson AYE

MOTION CARRIED

With nothing further to discuss,
Councilman James Higginbotham made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Meeting adjourned at
Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Swan
Sherman Town Clerk