# REGULAR MEETING
# TOWN OF SHERMAN
# March 6, 2025

A regular meeting of the town of Sherman Board was held on March 6, 2025 at the Town Office Building, 111A Mill St., Sherman, NY, Chautauqua County, New York at 7:00PM.

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

Absent: Councilman Brant Henning, Councilman Howard E. Crump, Highway Superintendent Dennis Sweatman.

Guests: Legislator Marty Proctor and Code Enforcement Officer Tom McNinch.
Supervisor Persons called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and led the Pledge to the flag.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Permits issued:

- 8742 Sherman-Findley Lake Rd. for basement repair and room addition.
- 2430 Waits Corners Rd. for a small shed to be used as buggy storage.

Because this building will be less than 50 feet from the road, CEO Tom McNinch needed to ask the Sherman Town board for a variance for him to issue the permit.

**Resolution # 12**

Councilman James Higginbotham made the motion, seconded by Supervisor Mark Persons to grant a variance to Crist Hostetler, residing at 2430 Waits Corners Road and allow a small shed to be built 30 feet from the road.

Councilman James Higginbotham AYE
Councilman Ben Nickerson AYE

MOTION CARRIED

- The annual report for New York State is due on April 1, 2025. Code Enforcement Officer, Tom McNinch stated to the board that he would have that report completed and submitted to the state during the week of March 10, 2025.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Legislator Marty Proctor reported to the board the ongoing discussion about the 8% sales tax that is the current rate in Chautauqua County. The county legislature's discussion has been whether to leave the rate at 8% and share more with the towns or lower the rate to 7%. As of the date of this town board meeting, nothing had been decided.

**Resolution # 13**
**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Councilman Ben Nickerson made the motion, seconded by Councilman James Higginbotham to approve the minutes from the board meeting on February 6, 2025.

Councilman James Higginbotham AYE
Councilman Ben Nickerson AYE

MOTION CARRIED

**RESOLUTION #14**
**ABSTRACTS/CLAIMS**
Councilman James Higginbotham made the motion, seconded by Councilman Ben Nickerson to approve General Claims #23 – #39 in the amount of $8941.18 and Highway Claims #18 - #22 in the amount of $1631.13.

Councilman James Higginbotham AYE
Councilman Ben Nickerson AYE

MOTION CARRIED

**JUDGE'S REPORT**
No Report

**CLERK/REGISTRAR'S REPORT**

- Clerk Annette Swan reported to the board that there had been 10 dog license renewals for the month of February. The town share is $88.00.
- The Town of Sherman tax collection amount of $495,918.54 has been collected. The remaining amount of taxes to be collected is as follows:
    - $663,503.23 county taxes
    - $200,386.51 unpaid school and village taxes
    - $863,889.73 total due to the county

  The amount collected and submitted to the county so far is $410,000.00. Residents have until April 1st to pay their taxes at the Town Clerk's office. On April 2nd, they will have to pay taxes at the Chautauqua County office in Mayville, NY. Currently there are 226 unpaid parcels.

- New York State has enacted a new law requiring local governments to use .gov domains for their official websites and email communications. The state believes that this

mandate will improve cybersecurity and prevent phishing and fraud attempts. Jeanette Rahm, the Sherman village clerk, has submitted the application to update the town and village website that is shared by both municipalities. The process to change to a .gov domain could take 6 months to complete.

**ASSESSOR'S REPORT**

- There were 7 transfers for the month of February.
- The exemption renewal deadline has passed. The exemption will be terminated for any parcel that has not been renewed.
- Renewal applicants are continuing to file for their exemptions and have until March 1st to do so.
- Inspections of all properties with open building permits and requests for assessment review will take place from March 1 – April.
- Assessor Heather Young-Deyell will be requesting lists from each of our fire departments for the administration of the Firefighters Exemption.
- NYS ORPTS requires that all new Enhanced STAR apps be entered into the online database by March 14 to be considered for the exemption.

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

No Report

**SUPERVISOR REPORT**

- Supervisor Mark Persons relayed to the board that Jacob Ames, who was the Youth Program director for the 2024 season, will not be able to be the Director for the 2025 season due to a change with his work schedule. However, Heather Ramsey has agreed to be the Director for this season.
- Supervisor Mark Persons reported to the board an anticipated insurance invoice for the joint Youth/Baseball Program. After a brief discussion:

**Resolution #15**

Councilman James Higginbotham made the motion, seconded by Councilman Ben Nickerson to pay the upcoming invoice, once it is received.

Councilman James Higginbotham AYE
Councilman Ben Nickerson AYE

MOTION CARRIED

- Supervisor Mark Persons brought to the attention of the board an incorrect term start date for Board of Assessment member Paul Sears. This incorrect term start date was listed in the board meeting minutes from January 9, 2025, as "October 1, 2022".

**Resolution #16**

Councilman James Higginbotham made the motion, seconded by Councilman Ben Nickerson to correct the term start date in the January 9, 2025 minutes for Paul Sears as “October 1, 2023”.

Councilman James Higginbotham AYE
Councilman Ben Nickerson AYE

MOTION CARRIED

- Supervisor Mark Persons invited the board to inspect the progress of the dog kennels in the adjoining garage area. There are currently two dog kennels set up and the outside kennels will be completed once the weather improves. These kennels are for the NYS law requiring townships to have adequate facilities to house dangerous dogs, as needed.

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Swan
Sherman Town Clerk