REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF SHERMAN
March 5, 2026

A regular meeting of the town of Sherman Board was held on March 5, 2026 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
	Brant Henning	Council Member
	Ben Nickerson	Council Member
	James Weise	Council Member
	Annette Swan	Town Clerk

Absent: Michael Courtney, Highway Supervisor

Guests:
CSP Youth Baseball Representatives- Heather Ramsey (Sherman), Jeness Legters (Clymer), Joshua Taylor (Sherman), Thomas Hearst (Panama), Josh Waid (Ashville), Nicole Hess (Ashville).
Todd Kolstee, Deputy Supervisor for the Town of Clymer.
Marty Proctor, Chautauqua County Legislator
Ted J.Pugh, Sherman resident.

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

The CSP Youth Baseball Representatives addressed the town board about the upcoming season. They described their plans for the program which included raising money, how funds will be handled, insurance coverage, fees per child, and having player agent representatives from each of the three townships, Sherman, Clymer and Panama on the CSP Youth board. They also described what kind of financial help they would need from each township. The board members asked questions and offered advice on going forward.

Chautauqua County Legislator Marty Proctor updated the town board about discussions that have been happening at the last County Legislature meeting, which include raising the tax exemption for senior citizens and eliminating the second privilege of the floor at legislature meetings.

RESOLUTION # 12
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
James Weise made the motion, seconded by Councilman Ben Nickerson to approve the meeting minutes from February 5, 2026.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE	Councilman James Weise – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons--AYE	Councilman Brant Henning – AYE

Councilman Ben Nickerson--AYE

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION #13

ABSTRACTS/CLAIMS

Councilman Brant Henning made the motion, seconded by Councilman James Weise to approve General Claims # 30 through #41 in the amount of $12,932.89 and Highway Claims #24 through #32 in the amount of $5294.43.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE
Councilman James Weise – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons--AYE
Councilman Brant Henning – AYE
Councilman Ben Nickerson--AYE

MOTION CARRIED

JUDGE'S REPORT

Judge Denis Cooper submitted a check in the amount of $901.00 in fines.

CLERK/REGISTRAR'S REPORT

There were 8 dog license renewals for the month totaling $98.00. The town's share is $84.00 and $14.00 was remitted to New York State Ag and Markets.
Registrar report: 6 Death certificates and one Marriage License copy totaling $70.00.
Hunting Licenses: No hunting licenses sold.
Marriage Licenses: No marriage licenses.

Town Clerk Annette Swan met with a representative from Charter Communications to discuss upgrading/changing the phone system at the clerk's office. The representative went over different changes that could be made and would save the township money on the monthly phone and internet charges. He will be emailing a proposal the following week.

ASSESSOR REPORT

- There were 6 deeds recorded in the month of January.
- The exemption renewal period has passed. Removal of exemptions and denial letters will be sent by the end of the month for those no longer qualified.
- The 2026 Revaluation is complete and change notices will be mailed on or around March 20th. Property owners will have until April 24th to appeal their assessment. The informal hearing process and challenging the preliminary assessment has been revised. Property owners can complete their appeal on-line through "Power Appeal." A website that allows property owners to type a narrative describing the nature of their challenge and upload any documents that they wish to be reviewed as well as documenting comparable sales to reinforce their claim that the assessment is excessive. We have also subscribed with GAR Appraisal with the creation of the PROS website. Within the site you are able to research property information, assessments and sales to help decide if your assessment is reasonable before committing to an appeal. Both "Power Appeal" and "PROS" will launch in the same time frame that notices are to be mailed.

- Low-Income Senior Exemption: I presented an analysis of the monetary impact of the proposed exemption income limit increase for the Senior Low-Income Exemption at the Chautauqua County Legislature Audit and Control Committee on February 19, 2026. During that meeting we discussed how the proposed increase would effect not only the county but all towns that follow the county limit. I implored the committee members to reconsider the increase from 30,000 to 38,000 as it would adversely distribute a higher tax to all other property owners. In 2024, the income limit was increased from 22,000 to 30,000. This increase was to make up for the significant cost of living adjustment to Social Security payments which caused many low income seniors to lose their exemption. Another increase of that magnitude is unfounded as we have had minimal inflation of COLA since then. Together we decided that an increase to 32,000 would be brought to the county legislature for vote. It was approved.

Thank you all for your continued support.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT
No Report.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
No report.

SUPERVISOR REPORT
Supervisor Mark Persons reviewed with the town board the presentation by the representatives of CSP Youth baseball, specifically concerning the insurance. After a short discussion,

RESOLUTION #14
Supervisor Mark Persons made the motion, seconded by Councilman James Weise to pay the Town of Shermans portion of insurance for the CSP Youth Baseball Program.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE
Councilman James Weise – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons--AYE
Councilman Brant Henning – AYE
Councilman Ben Nickerson--AYE

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Mark Persons reported to the board that he had recently met with Sherman Justice Denis Cooper and had completed the court audit for 2025. Each board member was given a copy of the audit and after a review of the audit by all board members,

RESOLUTION #15
Councilman James Weise made the motion, seconded by Councilman Ben Nickerson to accept the Court Justice audit that was completed by Supervisor Mark Persons.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons--AYE
Councilman Ben Nickerson--AYE
Councilman James Weise – AYE
Councilman Brant Henning – AYE

MOTION CARRIED

- Supervisor Mark Persons provided an overview of the functioning security cameras located both inside and outside the office building. This review was prompted by Dog Control Officer, Kelly Thornton, who asked if there was a camera monitoring the dangerous dog kennels in case she has to place a dog/dogs in those kennels. Supervisor Persons confirmed that there is a working camera in that area of the building where the dog kennels can be seen at all times. However, there is one camera that needs to be replaced in another area of the building because it is not working properly. Supervisor Persons consulted with the town board, who unanimously agreed that this camera must be repaired or replaced.

- Supervisor Mark Persons relayed to the town board that he recently went to the Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District office in Jamestown NY to obtain soil and water maps and information to satisfy the requirements from the renewable energy companies who require that these maps are available at the town office. He was able to get copies of these maps. Clerk Annette Swan has also requested aquafer maps of the Sherman Area from Chautauqua County, which she has not received yet.

- After reviewing the date for next month's scheduled board meeting,

  RESOLUTION #16

  Councilman James Weise made the motion, seconded by Councilman James Higginbotham to change the regularly scheduled April board meeting from Thursday, April 2, to Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 PM to accommodate schedule conflicts with some of the board members.

  Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE
  Supervisor Mark D. Persons--AYE
  Councilman Ben Nickerson--AYE
  Councilman James Weise – AYE
  Councilman Brant Henning – AYE

  MOTION CARRIED

Councilman James Higginbotham made a motion to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.
Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Swan
Sherman Town Clerk