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

A regular meeting of the town of Sherman Board was held on November 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 |
| | Howard E. Crump | Council Member |
| | Ben Nickerson | Council Member |
| | Annette Swan | Town Clerk |
| | Michael Courtney | Highway Superintendent |

Guests: Marty Proctor, Chautauqua County Legislator
Absent: Brant Henning , Council Member

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

**Resolution #57**
Councilman James Higginbotham made the motion, seconded by Councilman Howard Crump to open the hearing for the Preliminary Budget.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE Councilman Howard Crump – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons--AYE Councilman Ben Nickerson – AYE
MOTION CARRIED

With no one present to discuss or ask questions about the Preliminary Budget,
**Resolution #58**
Councilman Ben Nickerson made the motion, seconded by Councilman James Higginbotham to close the hearing for the Preliminary Budget.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE Councilman Howard Crump – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons--AYE Councilman Ben Nickerson – AYE
MOTION CARRIED

**Resolution #59**
**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Councilman Howard Crump made the motion, seconded by Councilman James Higginbotham to approve the minutes from the October 2, 2025, town board meeting. One correction was noted that the word “accept” should be replaced with “adopt” when it pertains to new laws adopted.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE Councilman Howard Crump – AYE

Supervisor Mark D. Persons--AYE Councilman Ben Nickerson – AYE

MOTION CARRIED

**RESOLUTION# 60**

**ABSTRACTS/CLAIMS**

Councilman Howard Crump made the motion, seconded by Supervisor Mark Persons to approve General Claims # 150 through #165 in the amount of $15,711.55 and Highway Claims #100 through #107 in the amount of $30,206.59.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE Councilman Howard Crump – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons--AYE Councilman Ben Nickerson– AYE

MOTION CARRIED

**JUDGE'S REPORT**

Judge Denis Cooper submitted a check in the amount of $1201.00 for September fines. The share for the Town of Sherman is $873.75 and $327.25 was remitted to Albany.

**CLERK/REGISTRAR'S REPORT**

There were 19 dog license renewals for the month totaling $. The town's share is $156.00 and $39.00 was remitted to New York State Ag and Markets.
There were 3 marriage licenses purchased for the month totaling $160.00. The town's share is $70.00 and $90.00 was remitted to New York State.
Registrar report: 7 birth and death certificate copies were requested for a total of $100.00.

**ASSESSOR REPORT**

The following report was submitted by Sherman Town Assessor, Heather Young-Deyell:

- There were 2 deeds recorded in the month of September.
- The reassessment project for 2026 is progressing. The land table is complete and I have begun individual analysis in each neighborhood using residential sales in those areas.
- I have had several phone calls regarding how the solar panels will affect value in the upcoming reassessment. This is a great question, however we must wait years to see sales to analyze and determine if there has been a detriment or not. This is not considered for the 2026 revaluation.
- Property owners have also been calling to question the checks that are being sent by the state. These are "inflation refund checks" being issued by the NYS Dept of taxation and Finance. As you can imagine- this would
- be confusing to anyone who recently received a STAR CREDIT check and now this or has never seen anything like this before. The two are not related- however they ARE issued by the same department. I cannot help to discover if one was issued or when they are issued.
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**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Report will be included in the Supervisor report.

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

- Superintendent Michael Courtney shared that town dump trucks assisted in clearing top dirt and gravel for the Village of Sherman's stormwater project. As a result, the Town of Sherman received several loads of topsoil and gravel to use as needed for future projects.

**SUPERVISOR REPORT**

- Supervisor Mark Persons has spoken with Code Enforcement Officer Tom McNinch. CEO McNinch has condemned the barn on Bement Road and the people who were living there have vacated the property.
- Supervisor Mark Persons, along with the town board members held a short discussion and reviewed the 2026 Preliminary Budget. After all questions were answered,

**Resolution #61**

Councilman James Higginbotham made the motion, seconded by Councilman Ben Nickerson to adopt the 2026 Preliminary Budget as the 2026 Final Budget.

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| Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE | Councilman Howard Crump – AYE |
| Supervisor Mark D. Persons--AYE | Councilman Ben Nickerson– AYE |

MOTION CARRIED

- Supervisor Mark Persons relayed to the board that the December regular meeting and the December "end of the year" meeting can be combined into one meeting date. After a short discussion it was decided that the combined meeting will take place on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 9:30 AM.
- Supervisor Mark Persons read a proposed resolution from Chautauqua County Executive PJ Wendel. This proposal would establish a government efficiency fund for shared services, mergers, consolidations, and dissolutions. It would reduce redundancies, streamline operations, and eliminate duplicate efforts, ultimately leading to significant cost savings. The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY EXECUTIVE WENDEL'S
PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY FUND TO
ENCOURAGE SHARED SERVICES, MERGERS, CONSOLIDATIONS, AND DISSOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, the Town of Sherman recognizes the importance of maintaining fiscal responsibility and minimizing the financial burden on local taxpayers; and,

WHEREAS, increasing costs and the complexity of providing municipal services require innovative and cooperative approaches to governance at the local level; and,

WHEREAS, Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr. has proposed the creation of a Government Efficiency Fund to assist municipalities in covering the upfront costs associated with exploring shared services, consolidations, mergers, and dissolutions with the goal of this
fund being to reduce redundancies, streamline operations, and eliminate duplicate efforts, ultimately leading to significant cost savings; and,

WHEREAS, such a fund would provide critical financial support for feasibility studies, legal and
administrative costs, and other necessary steps that often present a barrier to initiating conversations about restructuring and collaboration; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Sherman believes that cooperation among neighboring municipalities is
essential in the pursuit of more efficient and cost-effective government operations, with the ultimate goal of improving service delivery and reducing costs to residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Sherman, New York,
hereby expresses its full support for County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr.'s proposal to establish
a Government Efficiency Fund to aid local governments in pursuing shared services and structural reform initiatives; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Sherman is committed to being an active and willing partner in future discussions and explorations of shared services, consolidations, mergers,
or dissolutions, where such actions may benefit taxpayers and enhance government effectiveness; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk will send a certified copy of this resolution to all neighboring municipalities within Chautauqua County, inviting them to consider whether there may be mutual interest in exploring opportunities for shared services, consolidations, mergers, or dissolutions. The Town of Sherman is open to engaging in discussions with any interested municipality and is committed to working cooperatively to identify ways we can improve efficiency, reduce costs, and better serve our residents. We extend this invitation in the spirit of collaboration and fiscal responsibility and welcome any communities who may wish to explore these possibilities together.

After a short discussion,

**Resolution#62**

Councilman James Higginbotham made the motion, seconded by Councilman Howard Crump to adopt the Shared Services agreement.

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| Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE | Councilman Howard Crump – AYE |
| Supervisor Mark D. Persons--AYE | Councilman Ben Nickerson– AYE |

MOTION CARRIED

With nothing further to discuss,
Councilman James Higginbotham made a motion to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.
Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Swan
Sherman Town Clerk