

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF SHERMAN
January 8, 2026

A regular meeting of the town of Sherman Board was held on January 8, 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
	James V. Weise	Council Member
	Annette Swan	Town Clerk

There were no guests present.

Absent: Brant Henning , Council Member.

Ben Nickerson, Council Member.

Michael Courtney, Highway Superintendent.

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

Resolution #1

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman James Higginbotham made the motion, seconded by Councilman James Weise to approve the minutes from the December 18 board meeting.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons-AYE

Councilman James Weise – AYE

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION# 2

ABSTRACTS/CLAIMS

Councilman James Higginbotham made the motion, seconded by Councilman James Weise to approve General Claims #1through #14 in the amount of \$30,823.39 and Highway Claims #1 through #7 in the amount of \$10,501.85.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons-AYE

Councilman James Weise – AYE

MOTION CARRIED

JUDGE'S REPORT

Judge Denis Cooper submitted a check in the amount of \$842.00 for November fines. The share for the Town of Sherman is \$363.75 and \$478.25 was remitted to Albany.

CLERK/REGISTRAR'S REPORT

- There were 17 dog license renewals for the month totaling \$210.00. The town's share is \$168.00.00 and \$42.00 was remitted to New York State Ag and Markets.
- There were 0 marriage licenses purchased for the month.
- Registrar report: 7 birth and death certificate copies were requested for a total of \$100.
- Hunting Licenses: 20 were sold, 2 of which were Lifetime Licenses. Total sales = \$1696.00. The town collected \$6.00 in print fees and \$25.65 in vendor commission. \$1664.35 was remitted to NYS.

ASSESSOR REPORT

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

- There were 7 deeds recorded in the month of November.
- Renewal applications are being mailed to all property owners with exemptions that require annual renewal. March 1, 2026 is deadline to file all applications with the Assessor's Office.
- Governor Hochul has signed a bill (S.01183 / A.00074) that allows for local adoption of a disability exemption for Veterans with 100% disability rating. The Town of Sherman has not adopted Veterans exemptions prior to this addition. Currently the town has 5- 100% disabled veterans. IF all of them were to qualify for the exemption the tax revenue implication would be \$2,100.40 lost in tax collected. However, the CRITERIA is not only to be 100% service connection disability but MUST meet the following: Have a qualifying condition under the NYS Veterans' Services Law, defined as:
 - Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), OR
 - Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), OR
 - Military Sexual Trauma (MST), OR
 - Be discharged LGBT Veteran with an other-than-dishonorable or bad conduct discharge;AND
 - Have a 100% disability rating with a PERMANENT AND TOTAL designation from the VA AND
 - Have a TOTAL Disability based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU) designation from the VA ANDAND
 - Qualify for the VA's Specifically adapted housing grant.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

No Report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

No Report.

SUPERVISOR REPORT

- Heather Ramsey has spoken with Town Clerk Annette Swan and stated that she does not want to be the Director of the Youth Baseball Program for 2026. Supervisor Mark Persons asked Town Clerk Annette Swan to post the vacancy on the Town Facebook page and to also post a flyer at the Sherman Post Office.

Resolution #3

Councilman James Higginbotham made the motion, seconded by Councilman James Weise to amend line item DA9030.8 (Social Security) in the Highway Account from \$0 to \$6500.00. This amount will come out of remaining fund balance and will have no effect on the budget.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons-AYE

Councilman James Weise – AYE

MOTION CARRIED

- Grievance Board member Larry Jackson’s term expired on September 30, 2025.

Resolution #4

Councilman James Weise made the motion, seconded by Town Supervisor Mark Persons to appoint Larry Jackson for another 5-year term on the Grievance Board.

- Current building permit fees were reviewed and after a short discussion:

Resolution #5

Town Supervisor Mark Persons made the motion, seconded by Councilman James Weise to update building permit fees with the following changes:
Residential and Commercial permit fees will be 5 cents/square foot, with a minimum charge of \$50.00. Renewable building permit fees will remain at \$5000.00/megawatt.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons-AYE

Councilman James Weise – AYE

MOTION CARRIED

REORGANIZATION 2026

Resolution #6

A blanket motion was offered by Councilman James Higginbotham, seconded by Councilman James Weise to approve the following appointments, rates and designations for the Town of Sherman in 2026:

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons-AYE

Councilman James Weise – AYE

MOTION CARRIED

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.

*2026 Meetings January 8th, February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3.

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 2026. 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 the Town Justice, Court Clerk and Dog Control Officer will be paid monthly. The Cemetery workers 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, 2026 through September 30, 2030). 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. She will be paid \$100.00 per month.

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 2026 will be a maximum of \$8.00 a ton.

The Highway Superintendent was authorized to advertise 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 2026 Court Clerk will be Janae Ryan at a rate of pay of \$7000.00 annually.

\$25,000 Employee Dishonesty including forgery and alteration coverage are included on the 2026 insurance policy. Excess limit of Employee Dishonesty coverage scheduled for Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Town Supervisor at \$100,000 each.

The 2026 Fire Contract with the Stanley Hose Co. is \$46,511.00 as set in the 2026 budget. This amount will be paid to the Village on June 1, 2026.

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 2026 and will be paid \$17.10 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, and \$7400.00 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 Zemcik \$25.16/hour, Andrew Miller \$24.00/hour, and James Parnell Jr. \$24.75/hour. James Parnell'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 \$17.70 per hour, and the assistant will be paid \$16.00 per hour.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons-AYE

Councilman James Weise – 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

