

VILLAGE OF SHERMAN
MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD,
& MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL ZONING BOARD
Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 6:00pm

Mayor Colleen Meeder opened the meeting at 6pm and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members Colleen Meeder, Ryan Sanders, Dennis Watson, Gary Emory and Danielle Crane; and Clerk-Treasurer Jeanette Ramm were in attendance.

RES 2025-08-13.1: MINUTES

Motion to accept the previous minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees held Wednesday, July 9, 2025.

Moved by Trustee Emory Seconded by Trustee Watson
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

Motion to suspend the regular meeting and enter into the meeting of the Municipal Zoning Board.

Moved by Trustee Crane Seconded by Trustee Sanders
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

MUNICIPAL ZONING BOARD MEETING:

RES 2025-08-13.2: VILLAGE DRY POND IN 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN - PERMIT

Motion to acknowledge the Village of Sherman exemption under Article XIV of the Village of Sherman Zoning Law; as it pertains to local floodplain compliance, the Village Municipal Zoning Board moves to record and accept the proposed construction of the dry detention pond, northwest of the Nature Center along the creek, that is partially located within the mapped 100-year floodplain; the installation under the Upper Basins portion of the Village of Sherman Comprehensive Stormwater Improvement Project serves the purpose of detaining and slowing the flow of such stormwater events mitigating the impact of otherwise vulnerable aging residences.

Moved by Trustee Watson Seconded by Trustee Crane
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

Motion to close the Municipal Zoning Board Meeting and resume the regular meeting of the Board.

Moved by Trustee Crane Seconded by Trustee Emory
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

REGULAR BOARD MEETING:

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS FROM CHIEF OPERATOR

SEWER

- Jay Irwin is in discussion with Southern Tier Brewery regarding their multi month project and renting our screw press. They have an operator, which means it would only be the equipment being rented.

- The screw press is scheduled to go back to Palmyra again, and Gowanda is also considering renting the screw press in the fall.
- We received confirmation that the check for \$20,000 from Canisteo will be sent next week.

WATER

- The repairs to the watermain break (which occurred during the Sherman Days weekend) on Park Street is on hold as we are aligning the black top along Park Street with the work by Legend on Church Street, which is a scheduling matter. We've had delays with the concrete due to staffing and delivery issues. We wanted to be further ahead for the weekend's scrimmage, but we are working as fast as possible, without sacrificing quality.
- The watermain break on Park Street was problematic because the county paved over all our curb stops. The county made it clear that this is our problem, and unfortunately it isn't CHIPs worthy because it isn't our street. The County has offered us some millings which we will gladly take.

STREETS

- We've had a lot of calls about dead trees within the village, so we needed someone who is insured and well-priced. Tyler Shirley has given us extremely good prices. He will give each resident an individual quote, and if the property owner agrees, the village will pay Tyler upfront for the tree felling and give the property owner 30 days to repay the village. There is an official agreement with the property owner which must be signed before the trees are felled, and unpaid invoices will incur late charges and finally be relieved onto the property taxes. We will offer the same deal with stump removal through Jared Oehlbeck.
- Miller Street is complete, Upper Church Street is set for oil and stone, and realigning the center of the road, adding space for angled back-in parking along the Museum fence that was moved a couple of feet.
- Each year we get a lot of complaints from residents on Columbia Street during the annual scrimmage. For this weekend's scrimmage, parking will be prohibited on Columbia Street (Dead End). The village will put signs up warning that offenders will be towed.
- Millings from the county (depending on quantity received) may be applied at the Edmunds Park parking area, and along Creek Side Lane between the buildings and the black top (creating parking for the upstairs residents), the old Ford garage parking area, the extra space behind the EV Charging station, any areas in the old alley, the village office parking and wastewater treatment plant.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

STORMWATER

- CDBG - Main Street Project Update
 - West side of upper Franklin Street – finishing sidewalk and curbing
 - Church Street – engineering challenges in the field, working with Legend to resolve
 - Upper Church Street – milled and stoned, moved fence to allow more parking
 - Miller Street – once all expenses are turned in, submit work along the bank to CDBG
 - NON-CDBG – Parking lot off Franklin Street will hopefully be completed prior to the Paint CHQ festival, grading to be performed by Legend (contractor), Town of Sherman Highway Department will be applying the binder and black top pavement

- Upper Basins Project Update
 - Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District (CCSWCD), Soil & Water – Bid out the directional drilling (Aug 22) and signed Upper Basin Project Agreement

COMPLETE STREETS

- Miller Street and Church Street are to be painted with fog lines, center lines, and back-in parking spots which will provide a lot more parking spaces.

CHRIC – CDBG and MMHR

- Project updates: Meeting with Josh Freifeld was postponed.

FOOD PANTRY GRANT

- FeedMore WNY Grant was awarded for the rented space at 123 West Main Street, we're awaiting payment.

COMMITTEE & AGENCY UPDATES

STEERING COMMITTEE / STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTEE

- CCPEG's Paint CHQ project has been the main focus which should finish September 13th.
- After the Paint CHQ they will return to reviewing zoning and local laws to be updated.

PRESERVE NY GRANT

- The Technical Assistance Grant through Preserve NY for the Village of Sherman Cultural Resource Survey to begin steps toward seeking the downtown nomination for the National Historic Register, was denied.
- The mayor and Clinton Brown met with Janna Rudler of the Preservation League of New York State, and although the application was excellent and technically sound, the funders of the Preservation League grant require a very significant arts and cultural component to qualify, which we are lacking.

FRENCH CREEK YORKER MUSEUM

- Work on upgrading/replacement of the electric lines and French drains, leveling of the yard, and removal of trees at memorial park will make a big mess, so will happen after the season.
- We were looking at different grants to replace the entire fence around the museum and incorporate the sliding front gates to open the area up. We considered the Chautauqua County's 3% Occupancy Tax Grant, which is highly competitive. Sadly, it only offers up to \$20,000, and last year the predominant award was \$7,500 while our quote last year for the gate was \$56,000. We may work on sections of the fence and break the grant applications into smaller amounts.
- We did tear down and reinstall the one side of the fence to make it more secure.
- We are still trying to source an appropriate log for the Log Dwelling.

EDMUNDS PARK COMMITTEE

- Jasper Eschenbach did a beautiful job installing the Little Free Library in the park. See details below.

MINERVA FREE LIBRARY

- Jasper Eschenbach, Boy Scout with Life Rank, installed the Little Free Library at Edmunds Park, along with two benches and flower boxes.
- He, along with Director Cindy Sears and the library board, held a ribbon cutting ceremony opening the Little Free Library on Sherman Day.
- Monday, August 18th, the Village of Sherman is gifting an original commissioned painting to the Minerva Free Library of the **Oliver Willcox Norton painting by Susan Wolfe**, a depiction of O.W.N. at the Battle of Little Round Top, but with full honors and thoroughly researched historical detail. The dedication will be made with special speaker Jari Villanueva, known as the “Taps Bugler”, who is a Taps Historian and Professional Bugler. Jari will also be speaking on Tuesday, at Chautauqua Institution.
- Future project – the mayor spoke to Pam Brown, a historian and librarian who is responsible for many other historical markers, regarding our library applying for a Historical Marker.

The discussion of **Historical Markers** led to **146 East Main Street** being discussed. The property owner, Dustin Gifford, has been restoring the house to its former glory, and was interested in applying for a Historical Marker since the house will be 200 years old in 2027.

NY BRICKS & NYMS Anchor Project

- We are currently not in a position to apply for either grant as they require community input, committees, surveys, etc., which will be addressed for future applications.

CCPEG (Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth)

- Village of Sherman is being considered for NY Forward application assistance support. They have encouraged the village to reapply and not take a year off.

NY FORWARD

- \$4.5M NY Forward application for economic and community development initiatives is anticipated to be opened shortly. The Village will be reapplying, which will need some updates since we now have a mural, although we can do another wall strengthening the art component. The mayor has already reached out to Joel Brandon regarding updating the information and Square Engineering for an updated map to extend the target area to include the entire trail and the nature center.

PAINT CHQ

- **September 8th, 6pm, Cornerstone – meet the artists Justin Suarez and Emily Ding.**
- Logistics: Village coordination of the week-long festival (with speakers and demonstrators organized through the Paint CHQ initiative) that will end with the celebration on Saturday September 13th, at 1:30pm, held in cooperation with the Sherman Chamber of Commerce with the Annual Music Festival – also Saturday, September 13th, 2pm-11pm.
- Re-application for the closure of the NY-76/Franklin St eastside shoulder and sidewalk (only), following the denial of the Perm 33b to close the road; CHQ is providing the boom lift to be delivered August 18th, the artists will be arriving to begin preliminary work at the end of August.

TRAILS

- CR2T Meeting in September is planned for the Rosie Billquist Trailhead in Sherman.
- Removal of one – twice fallen tree across the trail.
- Working with Hinman's on gates to restrict motorized vehicles while permitting hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians.

SHERMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- Met Tuesday, August 12, discussed:
- **Annual Sherman Music Festival, Saturday, September 13th featuring:**
 - **2:00-4:00 Paul Hunter**
 - **4:00-5:30 Derek Davis**
 - **5:30-7:30 Shawn & Casey**
 - **8:00-11pm Black Widow**
- Working with Sherman Chamber on the layout of vendors along Creekside Lane connecting Edmunds Park and the Cooler Bar & Grille with The Cornerstone Restaurant (backside of 100-110 W Main Street) for the combined Paint CHQ Festival & Music Festival! ***Village staff will be asked to work through event days (& weekends) assisting with parking, restroom management, trash pick-up, and a host of logistical functions.***
- Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, at 9am at the Village Office.

SHERMAN DAYS COMMITTEE

- **Casella will donate an 8-yard dumpster for Sherman Days next year, arranged by Jay.**
- Village staff will be asked to work through event days (& weekends) assisting with parking, restroom management, trash pick-up, and a host of logistical functions.
- Next year: Friday – Sunday, July 31st – August 2nd, 2026, America's 250th Birthday.
- Raising funds for the possibility of Fireworks.
- Next meeting scheduled for September 30th, 2025.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public in attendance.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FROM CLERK-TREASURER:

Community Bank Accounts:

General Checking Account: Balance (08/13/2025) is \$19,949.94 & book balance (\$14,229.08)

NYS Fund Bank Account: Balance (08/13/2025) is \$0

Bldg/Wtr Project Bank Acct: Balance (08/13/2025) is \$3.13

Parks Fund Account: Balance (08/13/2025) is \$802.80

Stormwater Fund Account: Balance (08/13/2025) is \$1,644.16 & book balance (\$45,319.47)

Climate Smart Account: Balance (08/13/2025) is \$0

NYCLASS Account: Balance (08/13/2025) is \$709,761.25

Of which is: General Funds \$208,916.37

Capital Funds \$258,360.41

Contains Stormwater BAN proceeds and Bldg Proj. Balance

Debt Funds \$558.70

Repair Reserve Funds \$26,510.52

Receipts: Total \$82,053.27

RES 2025-08-13.3a: SHERMAN DAYS COMMITTEE DONATION - GAZETTE

Motion to approve the donation to the Sherman Days Committee in the amount of \$400; this donation is in support of the Sherman Days advertisement in the CHQ Gazette that showcased all things, Sherman.

Moved by Trustee Watson Seconded by Trustee Sanders

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Abstained: 1 (Trustee Crane) Carried

RES 2025-08-13.3b: VOUCHER #3 2026

Motion to accept Voucher #3 for \$107,305.12 for July 2025, of which \$0 is from the NYS Special Fund, \$0 is from the Water Project Fund, \$0 is from the Parks Fund, \$43,116.09 is from the Stormwater Project Fund, and \$0 is from the Climate Smart/Economic Development Fund.

Moved by Trustee Emory Seconded by Trustee Crane

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

OLD BUSINESS:

RES 2025-02-12.4: UPPER BASIN STORMWATER, AGREEMENT WITH CCSWCD

Motion to approve and authorize the mayor to execute the Agreement between the Village of Sherman and Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) for construction of the Upper Basins Project within the Comprehensive Stormwater Improvement Project.

Moved by Trustee Emory Seconded by Trustee Crane

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

Update: Final Design Plans have been provided by B&L to the Village of Sherman and CCSWCD. CCSWCD has bid out the directional drilling component of the project (bid deadline Aug 22) and is drafting budget figures for the Upper Basin portion of the Stormwater Improvement Project.

NEW BUSINESS:

RES 2025-08-13.4: CHQ COUNTY LAND BANK ASSISTANCE FOR 157 W MAIN ST

Motion to approve and request Chautauqua County Land Bank to assist the Village of Sherman in acquiring the 157 West Main Street parcel for redevelopment:

WHEREAS, real property located at 157 West Main Street in the Village of Sherman, is a significant part of the Village of Sherman's Main Street Revitalization Program.

WHEREAS, the house owned by Joshua Taylor at 157 West Main Street in Sherman, New York was destroyed by fire in January 2022; and

WHEREAS, said property is extremely important for the Village of Sherman's Main Street Revitalization; and under the Village's Local Laws, the property is now vacant and listed as abandoned and paperwork was sent to Mr. Taylor for the total sum of \$1,907.50 added to the taxes for property maintenance pursuant to the Local Law 02-2019. Currently it appears that there are additional outstanding taxes to the Village pursuant to the attached document.

NOW THEREFORE, the Village asks for the Chautauqua County Land Bank to assist the Village in acquiring the parcel for redevelopment.

WHEREFORE, on the motion of Trustee Emory, seconded by Trustee Watson, the foregoing Resolution was put to a vote of the members of the Village Board of the Village on August 13, 2025, the result of which vote was as follows:

Colleen Meeder, Mayor Aye

Ryan Sanders, Deputy Mayor	<u>Aye</u>
Dennis Watson, Trustee	<u>Aye</u>
Gary Emory, Trustee	<u>Aye</u>
Danielle Crane, Trustee	<u>Aye</u>

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted this 13th day of August 2025.

With the infestation and disease affecting a number of trees, particularly Ash and certain Pine varieties, along with having a large number of aged trees, there has been great interest and concern:

RES 2025-08-13.5: TREE REMOVAL AGREEMENT

Motion to approve and authorize the mayor, DPW director, and streets superintendent to distribute the Tree Removal Agreements to be executed this 2025 season, with terms as follows:

Tree Removal Agreement

In response to inquiries regarding the responsibility of maintenance of trees within the right-of-way and their removal, the Village of Sherman herein adopts the Resolution 2025-08-13.5 offering to organize and administrate the removal of trees and stumps at the request and financial responsibility of the property owner.

Whereas, properties deeded to the center of the road having trees in the Village of Sherman right-of-way of any village, county, or state streets are the responsibility of the property owner; and

Whereas, the Village of Sherman is contracting with an insured tree removal company for the collective purpose to provide an economic advantage by negotiating the safe and efficient removal of any trees within the right-of-way for the safety and beautification of the Village of Sherman community; and

Whereas, the tree removal company is to fell the tree(s); and

Whereas, the Village of Sherman Streets Department is to remove and clean up the right-of-way of tree debris at no cost to the property owner; and

Whereas, the stump removal company shall grind the stump(s) at the request of the property owner under the same terms as the tree removal; and

Whereas, the terms of the agreement require payment in full to the Village of Sherman within thirty days of invoice, late payments will incur a 10% penalty fee each month, and any balance remaining as of April 1, 2026, will incur an additional 10% re-levy processing fee over the entire balance and be added to the tax bill for June 1, 2026; and

Whereas, the property owner requests the following:

Initial _____ Tree removal of _____ (# of trees) at the total felling cost of \$ _____
 Initial _____ Stump removal of _____ (# of stumps) at the total grinding cost of \$ _____

Now therefore, the property owner named _____ of the physical address of _____, Sherman, Chautauqua County, New York, herein accepts and agrees to the terms of this agreement to reimburse the Village of Sherman for the tree removal and stump removal as indicated herein.

Moved by Trustee Crane Seconded by Trustee Emory
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

RES 2025-08-13.6: FIRE CONTRACTS

Motion to authorize the clerk-treasurer to draft and distribute the 2026 Fire Contracts with a 2% increase, as directed by Chief Matthew Oehlbeck; to authorize the mayor to sign acceptance of said contracts; and to authorize the June 2026 collection and July 2026 remittance of said funds.

Moved by Trustee Watson Seconded by Trustee Crane
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

RES 2025-08-13.7: STANLEY HOSE–VILLAGE OF SHERMAN 2026 FIRE CONTRACT

Motion to approve the annual fire contract reflecting a 2% increase over the previous year, totaling \$26,382.25 for the 2026 contract; and authorize the mayor to enter into the 2026 agreement between the Village of Sherman and the Stanley Hose Company.

Moved by Trustee Emory Seconded by Trustee Sanders
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

RES 2025-08-13.8: SPECIAL MEETING SCHEDULED

Motion to schedule a Special Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees on Tuesday, August 26th at 6am (MORNING), for the purpose of approving Stormwater Project and other timely items.

Moved by Trustee Emory Seconded by Trustee Crane
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

EVENT STAFF – TBD – plan to use previous occasional staff if available, or consider hiring day labor specific to the event.

No need for Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02pm.

Moved by Trustee Emory Seconded by Trustee Sanders
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Ramm
Clerk-Treasurer

Next Meeting: **Interim Special Meeting(s) may be held for the Stormwater Project.**
 Regular Meeting Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 6pm.