REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF SHERMAN
August 7, 2025

A regular meeting of the town of Sherman Board was held on August 7, 2025 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
	Howard E. Crump	Council Member
	Brant Henning	Council Member
	Annette Swan	Town Clerk
	Dennis Sweatman	Highway

Absent: Ben Nickerson, Council Member

Guests: Greg Rater, Sherman resident.
Marty Proctor, County Legislator.
Michael Courtney, Deputy Highway Superintendent.
Tom McNinch, Code Enforcement Officer.

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

Chautauqua County Legislator, Marty Proctor, informed the town board that the county is currently working on their budget for the upcoming fiscal year.
Greg Rater, a resident of Sherman, informed the town board about the status of his new building intended for his compost business. He stated that he will store the compost inside the building in accordance with Department of Environmental Conservation requirements.

Resolution # 36
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Councilman Howard Crump made the motion, seconded by Councilman Brant Henning to approve the minutes from the July 7th board meeting.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE
Councilman Howard Crump – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons--AYE
Councilman Brant Henning – AYE
MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION# 37
ABSTRACTS/CLAIMS
Councilman James Higginbotham made the motion, seconded by Councilman Brant Henning to approve General Claims #100 through #119 in the amount of $3650.89 and Highway Claims #66 through #82 in the amount of $208,508.24.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE Councilman Howard Crump – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons--AYE Councilman Brant Henning – AYE
MOTION CARRIED

JUDGE'S REPORT

Judge Denis Cooper submitted a check in the amount of $2098.00 for July fines. The amount to be remitted to NYS is $1140.50. The Town of Sherman retains $957.50.

CLERK/REGISTRAR'S REPORT

There were 22 dog license renewals for the month totaling $160.00. The town's share is $128.00 and $32.00 was remitted to New York State Ag and Markets.
There were 4 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: 5 death certificate copies were requested for a total of $50.00.
And 2 Marriage certificate copies for a total of $20.00.

ASSESSOR REPORT

- There were 6 deeds recorded in the month of June.
- Sales Verifications are going to take place through August. This includes physical inspection from the road right-of-way.
- Upon completion of the sales verifications, analysis and creation of documents used to complete the 2026 Reassessment will begin.
- Assessor Young-Deyell expressed her appreciation for the Town Board's continued support.
- She also received her yearly bonus of $1200.00.

Resolution #38

Councilman Brant Henning made the motion, seconded by Councilman Jim Higginbotham to appoint Assessor Heather Young-Deyell to another six-year term as Assessor to take effect on October 1st.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE Councilman Howard Crump – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons--AYE Councilman Brant Henning – AYE
MOTION CARRIED

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Tom McNinch, Code Enforcement Officer, reported the following building permits:

- 8273 Bailey Hill Rd., new house.
- 2935 Stebbins Rd. for a new roof.
- 8653 Route 430 for a new house.

- 7963 Bailey Hill Rd., new barn.
- 3709 Route 430, new salt barn.
- 132 Kendrick St., new porch.
- 2086 Waits Corners Rd., new house.
- 3054 Mannison Rd., chicken barn.

CEO McNinch informed the board that building permit fees in other townships are higher than those currently set in the Town of Sherman. He noted that increasing fees for larger projects exceeding a certain square footage could generate additional revenue for the Town.

The situation on Bement Road continues to be under careful observation. CEO McNinch has conducted an on-site visit and reported that cleanup efforts remain ongoing. No indication of occupancy within the barn has been found. The matter will continue to receive ongoing monitoring.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- The new highway truck is being delivered on Friday, August 8th. It will be put in storage until next year when the remaining components are delivered.
- Superintendent Dennis Sweatman asks the board if he could keep his phone and number after he retires. He will move the phone to his own plan in November when the phone contract is up. He will reimburse the town for 3 months of phone bills until the contract ends.
- Superintendent Dennis Sweatman informed the town board his final workday is Monday, August 25, 2025.

SUPERVISOR REPORT

Supervisor Mark Persons informed the board that eligible town employees are now permitted to enroll in vision and dental insurance following last month's approval. These deductions must be categorized under Section 125 to ensure they are taken out as pre-tax contributions for each employee.

Resolution #39
Supervisor Mark Persons made the motion, seconded by Councilman Brant Henning to classify the vision and dental insurance deductions under Section 125, so that these deductions could be taken out pretax.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution #40
Councilman Brant Henning made the motion, seconded by Councilman Howard Crump to except the resignation of Superintendent Dennis Sweatman, effective August 25, 2025, and appoint Deputy Superintendent Michael Courtney to Highway Superintendent on August 26, 2025.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE Councilman Howard Crump – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons--AYE Councilman Brant Henning – AYE
MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Mark Persons updated the board on a joint dog meeting with Mina, Clymer, French Creek, and DCO Kelly Thornton. Key topics included increasing spayed/neutered dog license fees from $5 to $10, doubling unlicensed dog fines from $25 to $50, discussing a barking noise ordinance, and breeder kennel inspections by DCO Thornton.
After a short discussion,

Resolution #41
Councilman James Higginbotham made the motion, which was seconded by Councilman Howard Crump, to amend existing dog regulations. The amendment includes increasing the license fee for spayed or neutered dogs to $10.00, raising the court fine for unlicensed dogs to $50.00, providing dog owners one warning for a delinquent license prior to issuing a ticket, and notifying landlords if tenants are not properly licensing or caring for their dogs.

Councilman James Higginbotham – AYE Councilman Howard Crump – AYE
Supervisor Mark D. Persons--AYE Councilman Brant Henning – AYE
MOTION CARRIED

A public hearing will be held for Local Law No. 2 of 2025" A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE DOG LICENSING LAW "at the next regularly scheduled board meeting, September 4, 2025, at 7:00PM.

With nothing further to discuss,
Councilman Brant Henning made the motion to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.
Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Swan
Sherman Town Clerk