REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF SHERMAN
April 9, 2026

A regular meeting of the town of Sherman Board was held on April 9, 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 Weise	Council Member
	Brant Henning	Council Member
	Annette Swan	Town Clerk
	Michael Courtney	Highway Superintendent

Guests: Kelly Thornton-Dog Control Officer
Greg Rater- Sherman Resident

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

DCO, Kelly Thornton, addressed the board about the letter that she had sent to the town a week before. This letter stated that Small Town Shelter was terminating its municipal dog holding services contract with the Town of Sherman, effective May 1, 2026.
Her decision was based in part to ongoing demands that housing dogs place on her facility and recent changes in New York State regulations, which will put a financial and operational burden on her organization.
She also mentioned that it would be helpful for her to have a deputy Dog Control Officer.
She further recommended to the town board that the township conduct a new dog census, proposing it be carried out door-to-door.

RESOLUTION # 17
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Councilman James Higginbotham made the motion, seconded by Councilman James Weise to approve the board minutes from the March 5th meeting.

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

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION# 18
ABSTRACTS/CLAIMS *
Councilman James Weise made the motion, seconded by Councilman Ben Nickerson to approve General Claims # 42 through #55 in the amount of $7475.55 and Highway Claims #33 through #43 in the amount of $9786.22

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 $1261.00 for March fines.

CLERK/REGISTRAR'S REPORT*
Dog Licenses: There were 11 dog license renewals for the month totaling $180.00. The town's share is $159.00 and $21.00 was remitted to New York State Ag and Markets.

Registrar report: 12 copies of Marriage and Death certificates were issued totaling $120.00

Hunting Licenses:2 licenses sold. Town commission was $2.76, print fee $2.00 and amount sent to Albany $47.24.
Marriage Licenses: No Marriage Licenses sold**.**

- Cory Emory, Saturday Morning Basketball Director turned in his report at the end of March for the season. He signed a voucher for payment and was paid through payroll #6. His report reads as follows:

Town of Sherman Saturday Morning Basketball Report- Cory Emory
Schedule: December 13th-February 13th (2025-2026)

Grades (4-5): Approximately 21 students each week.
Grades (4-7): Approximately 21 students each week.
Grades (8-12) Approximately 10 coaches, regs, helpers each week

We had the Saturday Morning Championships at the end of the school day on Friday, February 13th. The school was buzzing for the entire week about the games. It was a great experience for everybody involved. The majority of the elementary and high school students were in attendance. There were also around 70 family members in the crowd.

I am hoping that the school will be having a basketball camp again this summer. This is not to replace Saturday Morning Basketball. It is just for enrichment of the students at SCS.

Students both young and old (high school students) look forward to Saturday Morning hoops. That is what it is all about. Getting the young student/athletes interested in basketball and making a connection between the younger and older players. Thank you for continuing to have this program. It is the feeder system for the JV/Varsity programs at SCS. The past and present success of our teams on both the boys' and girls' sides speaks for itself.

- Clerk/Historian Annette Swan reported to the board that she has submitted a brief history of the Town of Sherman to the New York State Association of Towns. This organization, in which the Town of Sherman is a member, is collecting town histories from all over the state and putting them in a book that will be published to commemorate the United States 250th anniversary. The town will receive a free copy of the book for participating.

ASSESSOR REPORT

• There were 3 deeds recorded in the month of February.
• Inspections of new construction and demolition will continue through April.

Revaluation Update
• Assessment change notices have been mailed are there have been many phone calls. Most people are trying to
navigate the website and need assistance. My best advice is to be as general as possible.
• A vacant land sales spreadsheet will be added to the PROS website to help vacant land property owners
understand what the price per acres for sales have been since the last reassessment.
• 2nd notices will be mailed in early May for all new construction/demolition and all that participated in the informal review process.
• Due to my limited office availability, it is advised to email with questions.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT
Included in the Supervisor Report.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Highway Superintendent Michael Courtney read a list of upcoming blacktop road projects for the Town of Sherman. They include Bailey Hill Road between the Clymer Rd and Rt. 76, and Freeman Road.

- The new 2026 Volvo Truck and chassis was picked up by representatives from Henderson Trucking and will be heading to New Jersey to be completed with a dump box and other components. It should be ready for the upcoming 2026-27 snowplow season.
- Highway Superintendent Michael Courtney has received bids for blacktop from Jamestown Macadam Inc. and H H Rauh Paving Inc. After a short discussion,

RESOLUTION # 19
Supervisor Mark Persons made the motion, seconded by Councilman James Weise to accept the blacktop bid from H H Rauh Paving Inc.

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

MOTION CARRIED

SUPERVISOR REPORT

- Town Supervisor Mark Persons discussed with the town board the items that Dog Control Officer Kelly Thornton mentioned during her report at the beginning of the meeting. The board agreed to post a notice for a Deputy Dog Control Officer. And after further discussion about a door-to-door census,

RESOLUTION #20
Councilman James Weise made the motion, seconded by Councilman Ben Nickerson to have a door-to-door dog census and set the enumeration rate to be paid to Dog Control Officer, Kelly Thornton at $2.00 for each dog that is counted.

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

MOTION CARRIED

- A local Sherman family would like to have a family burial plot on their private property. As long as the family follows New York State regulations and works with a funeral director, the only thing the town would require is the family give the location of the burial plot so that the town can have a record of it.

- The town has received complaints on the following properties that Code Enforcement Officer will be looking into starting next week.
    1. Bement Rd. for abandoned camp trailers.
    2. 3385 Armenian Rd. for burning wood slabs that is creating nuisance smoke.
    3. 2731 Route 76 for excessive garbage.

With nothing further to discuss,

Councilman James Higginbotham made a motion to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.
Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Swan
Sherman Town Clerk