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## Sherman moving head with sewer treatment facility project

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**SHERMAN** — Plans to upgrade Sherman's sewer treatment facility can move forward now thanks to a \$50,000 grant, board members learned at their meeting on Jan. 3.

Sherman Mayor Colleen Meeder told trustees that the village received a New York State Community Development Block grant which was applied for through the consolidated funding application process.

"This will allow the village to conduct the comprehensive study required before the sewer project can proceed," Meeder said, adding that New York State Sen. Catharine Young was very supportive and helpful in the village's application for the grant.

The board approved a motion to accept the grant and authorized Meeder to sign the grant agreement. Trustees also approved the establishment of a non-interest bearing account at Community Bank for the \$50,000 from the grant and the recipient's (Village of Sherman) contribution of \$2,500.



Sherman's aging sewer plant will soon have a new Direct Inline Pumping system installed.

Photo by David Prenatt

Village Clerk Jeanette Ramm told board members that the next step for the village is to request proposals from engineering consultant firms. Ramm said she would like the request to go in the newspaper on Jan. 11.

The board voted to authorize Ramm to publish the request for proposals in the paper after the funding agency's approval, and to allow firms until Feb. 13 to prepare their proposals.

Trustees also approved the for-

mal establishment of a selection committee to review the proposals and choose an engineering firm. The committee will meet on Thursday, Feb. 15 for this purpose.

In other business, Meeder told

trustees she received a letter from James Fincher of Chautauqua Rails to Trails expressing appreciation for the assistance of Superintendent of Public Works Doug Crane.

"Doug has always been willing to talk with us, provide advice and assistance, if possible, in our efforts to make the trail better for all," Fincher wrote. "Please thank Doug for his assistance to us."

Crane noted that all employees should be commended because they enable him to care for the trails by filling in on other jobs.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator, Jay Irwin told trustees that the DIP (direct inline pump) system is here and "we're looking at Jan. 10 for installation."

Ramm presented the bill for the remaining \$47,868 due on the DIP system. It may be necessary to transfer funds from the CD, on a temporary basis, to pay this bill Ramm and Meeder told the board.

Meeder noted the Chautauqua County Department of Public Works will be issuing a payment of \$33,000 to the village.

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Also, the Village of Sherman was awarded \$13,000 in grant money for the dissolution study, "but we've not received the money," Meeder said. The trustees passed a resolution to transfer money from the CD if the village has to pay the bill to C & B Equipment of Kansas for the DIP system before the expected revenue arrives.

In other business, Greg Rater of Slab City Organics gave the board an update on the current status of his composting business and his state of affairs with the DEC. Rader, who lifted 13 pounds of paperwork from his bag, emphasizing the "extraordinary amount of paperwork"

that has been generated, said he has been working on this for about 10 years.

"The DEC supersedes all local power," Rater said, "and they don't want the private sector competing with the county landfill. There is no unbiased board, really no one to talk to."

Rater told trustees that the DEC gave the county Soil and Water Board jurisdiction over his facility.

Rater also read the mission statement of the DEC to board members, with emphasis on the word control: "To conserve, improve and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and

air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being."

"They absolutely have total control," Rater said of the DEC. "They looked at the big picture and said 'we don't want this (Rater's composting business) to happen,'" he added.

Several board members made known their concerns about getting involved in Rater's predicament. Deputy Mayor Isaac Grotto said just spreading the word is a very powerful tool and Trustee Donna Higginbotham suggested getting environmental groups involved.