

VILLAGE OF SHERMAN
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD
Wednesday, October 7th, 2020 at 6:00pm

The meeting was held remotely via videoconference. Mayor Meeder welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 6:00pm by leading everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Board members Colleen Meeder, Isaac Gratto, Donna Higginbotham, and Ryan Sanders, Clerk-Treasurer Jeanette Ramm, and resident Gary Emory were in attendance. Trustee Kirk Ayers was delayed at work.

RES 2020-10-07.1: PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion to accept the previous minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees held September 2nd, 2020. *(There was no special meeting called in September.)*

Moved by Trustee Higginbotham Seconded Trustee Sanders
Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Carried

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

Moved by Trustee Gratto Seconded by Trustee Sanders
Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Carried

MUNICIPAL ZONING BOARD MEETING:

Jim Chambers had inquired about turning the ground floor shop above the Cooler Café on Main Street into a 1st Floor Apartment. It was noted that for this “commercial” portion of Main Street you cannot have an apartment on the street level. Mayor Meeder would discuss this with our Code Enforcement Officer but believes that the ground floor is designated for commercial purposes only. The mayor said that the planning board members were expressed concern about permitting a residence on the ground floor and what it would mean for other commercial spaces in the “downtown” section along Main Street. Mr. Chambers would have to present this to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Emory brought up section 402 of the Village Zoning Codes stating that only a free-standing building could be used for residential purposes on the street level of Main Street. Some of our zoning is out of date, but changing the zoning takes many years. Many of us recently participated in a zoning webinar presented by John Steinmetz (Barton & Loguidice) and we are starting to examine our existing zoning laws to determine what needs to be updated.

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

Moved by Trustee Higginbotham Seconded by Trustee Gratto
Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Carried

REGULAR BOARD MEETING:

WATER AND STREETS REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Mayor Meeder said that Mr. Crane was helping Georgia Peck and volunteers from the Baptist Church plant trees this evening, she expressed how grateful we are for their help. She said that Mr. Crane would be flushing water lines in October and we have put a notice in the newsletter. We will put a notice up at the post office and on the website when the dates are decided. The mayor said that Mr. Crane was about to finish connecting the lateral lines on Kendrick and First Streets, with the help of the health department. Any old blue lines (lines connecting to the old mains) will be replaced with connections to the new mains. Black top for Kendrick and First Streets is planned for early next

week, and we are hoping to do one, if not both alleys as well. Mr. Crane's crew has also done sidewalks and cement work (including temporary cement work on Kipp Street) and finished the horse ties. They also plan to start doing leaf pick-up from next week.

STORMWATER

Stormwater issues are still being simultaneously addressed as they install the water lines.

SEWER REPORT FROM CHIEF SEWER OPERATOR

Mayor Meeder told everyone that Mr. Irwin was not in attendance because it is his birthday. She said that Mr. Irwin had seen the demonstration of the BDP and PW Tech dewatering systems. She had gone with Mr. Irwin to the Brocton plant to see their Trojan UV system, which is an "open line system". This is basically a trench with covered bulbs in the trench. The flow goes over the trench and sterilizes the water by neutralizing the bacteria. We are also looking at a "closed line system" where the effluent goes through a tube and the bulbs are on the outside of the tube. While in Brocton they also watched the SBR and Dupreen systems in action. The appointments to go to Saratoga Springs and Owego were cancelled, but the mayor is still going with Mr. Irwin to Watkins Glen's to look at their system. Most wastewater treatment plants in this area that have UV systems use Trojan. The Trojan lights are expensive, but last for 12,000 hours. We're investigating what works and what doesn't work, as well as additional costs for each system such as replacing UV lights, cleaning the lights, etc.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES:

SEWER

The sewer project's SRF (Short-term Revolving Fund) should go to the EFC committee in November, and then get approval in December. We will then sort out the short-term financing and close off the BAN by the end of December, or early January. The WIIA portion of the sewer project has been reinstated, and we have resubmitted the debt exclusion paperwork. The WIIA grant pays half their grant up front, so we won't need to worry about short-term financing (interest bearing debt) initially. So much is going on behind the scenes, and the COVID-19 delays are impacting our timeline. The delay in our CDBG grant can affect our USDA grant since the USDA also gives us a designated period of time to complete the sewer project from the time we are approved. We had planned to engineer the first year and complete construction over the following 2 years in line with the CDBG timeline. There may be a CFA application coming out in the first quarter of next year and we will have to file for an extension on our USDA requirements in the early part of next year.

WATER

We recently received the letter from the EFC regarding all their requirements for the water project, which we are submitting now. Due to the delay from the EFC, we are roughly 6 months behind on the water project which means we should now close in January or February 2021. The Covid-19 pandemic is simply adding layers of additional paperwork to each project. Closing the water project will be simpler than the sewer closing since there is no BAN or land purchase or "right of ways" to be concerned with. There is also no WIIA component to the water project.

STORMWATER

The USDA would like to back the loan portion of the Stormwater project. After all the grants are accounted for, we are hoping not to exceed \$250,000 as our final loan and we are in the process of applying for a USDA loan with the help of Barton & Loguidice. We are on track to get approval in the first quarter of 2021. The delays are only when we get involved with the state agencies. We will be able to apply to the CFA once our bond resolution, SEQRA and loan commitment from the USDA

we go ahead with the solar land lease, it may not be necessary to include the land in the sewer project at all, as the solar lease will cover the total cost of the land purchase. Currently we have paid for the land through the sewer BAN. When discussing the water project, the mayor said that we had already expended about \$80,000 (Fiscal Advisors, Engineers, Lock City, etc.), but will likely get our money back at the end of January – beginning of February. She also explained what the debt repayment was for the old loader and would be replaced with the new loader payment. There would be no duplicate payment. Mayor Meeder ended by highlighting the coming up annual payment for NYS Local Retirement System which will be paid either December or February, and then allowed people to ask questions.

RES 2020-10-07.3: CD TRANSFER

Motion to approve the transfer of \$110,000 from the CD accounts into the general checking account.

Moved by Trustee Sanders Seconded by Trustee Gratto

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

OLD BUSINESS:

RES 2020-10-07.4: ACCEPT DELIVERY OF THE LOADER

Motion to accept delivery of the 2020 Case 621G Loader from Monroe Tractor.

Moved by Trustee Gratto Seconded by Trustee Higginbotham

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

RES 2020-10-07.5: PURCHASE OF PLOW TRUCK *(amended 2020-11-04.7)*

Motion to approve the purchase of ~~either option A or B (depending on availability)~~

A) F550 Diesel Truck, 2020 6.7L Diesel with a 9' (4-5 yard) Dump by AirFlo for \$58,800

~~B) F350 Diesel Truck, 2019 6.7L Diesel and a Monroe 11' Dump with fenders and hitch for \$51,503~~

... for Warren Midtown Motors, on government bid.

Moved by Trustee Gratto Seconded by Trustee Ayers

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

RES 2020-10-07.6: SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Motion to declare the following streets equipment as surplus, to advertise equipment for bid, and accept bids by November 18th, 2020:

A.) 2015 Case 621F Loader

B.) 2014 F350 Dump Truck

Moved by Trustee Higginbotham Seconded by Trustee Gratto

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

RES 2020-10-07.7: WASTEWATER EMPLOYEE

Motion to accept the Mayor's recommended appointment of Kyle Rhebergen as a fulltime utility worker at \$14.50/ hour, starting 9/21/2020, accept the signed Educational Agreement for the NYS 2A Wastewater Operator Training and Certification, (and pending drug screening). After a sixth month successful probation, the utility worker will be eligible for a \$.50/ hour wage increase, and after completion of the NYS 2A Wastewater Operator Certification, the utility worker will be eligible for a \$2.00/ hour wage increase. *(RES 2019-02-06.14 & RES 2019-05-01.41)*

Moved by Trustee Gratto Seconded by Trustee Higginbotham

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

RES 2020-10-07.8: NYSLRS STANDARD WORK HOURS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Sherman (location code 40306), hereby establishes the following standard work days for these appointed and elected officials, and will report these officials to the New York State and Local Retirement System based on their record of activities: Mayor, Colleen Meeder (6 hours) Trustee, Kirk Ayers (6 hours) Enforcement Officer, Gregory Gormley (8 hours).

Moved by Trustee Higginbotham Seconded by Trustee Gratto

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

RES 2020-10-07.9: ANNUAL FIRE CONTRACTS

Motion to authorize the clerk-treasurer to draft and distribute the 2021 Fire Contracts with a 0% increase, as directed by the Stanley Hose Company; to authorize the mayor to sign acceptance of said contracts; and to authorize the June 2021 collection and July 2021 remittance of said funds.

Moved by Trustee Gratto Seconded by Trustee Higginbotham

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

RES 2020-10-07.10: HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT HOURS

Motion to approve setting the “trick or treat” hours from 5pm to 7pm on Saturday, Oct. 31st, 2020.

Moved by Trustee Gratto Seconded by Trustee Higginbotham

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

Motion to move into a brief Executive Session to discuss legal contract matters, no action will be taken.

Moved by Trustee Higginbotham Seconded by Trustee Gratto

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08pm.

Moved by Trustee Gratto Seconded by Trustee Higginbotham

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Ramm
Clerk-Treasurer

Next Meetings: Wednesday, November 4th, at 6pm Regular Meeting
 Wednesday, November 18th, at 6pm Special Meeting