

**Village of Sherman –Regular Board Meeting**  
**Village Office-111 Mill St**  
**June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Present: Deputy Mayor Gratto, Trustees: Reyda, Higginbotham and Fisher  
 Others: Jay Irwin, Doug Crane, Clerk Ramm, Todd Thomas, Janet Dawley, and Matt Zarbo  
 Apologies: David Prenatt

Deputy Mayor Gratto called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Matt Zarbo introduced himself and gave an overview of what Barton & Loguidice could offer the Village of Sherman's water and wastewater departments. They are a municipal engineering firm focusing on smaller towns and villages that also assist in finding funding.

**RESOLUTION #1:** On motion made by Trustee Reyda and seconded by Trustee Higginbotham to accept the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 Board meeting minutes as submitted.

AYES: All

NAYES: 0

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** The Broadway group has purchased the properties and aims to have the Dollar General up and running some time in November. Mr. Irwin noted that they need to move the sewer lines and a new manhole will be placed on the west side of Morris Street. The Broadway Group will have a contractor come do this and he will oversee this part of the project.

**JAY IRWIN:**

- **DIP SYSTEM:** This system is new to the USA, although it is widely used in Europe. The engineer from Laberge suggested finding someone in the USA with operating experience before moving forward with this system. Mr. Irwin has only found one user in the States, in Kansas, who he has emailed but hasn't had a response back yet.
- **WWTP:** As discussed at the last meeting, because we didn't score high enough to qualify for the EFC and NYS wastewater grants, we decided to have the SEQR done so we can apply for the 25% grant. The engineer from Laberge went through the plant with Mr. Irwin and couldn't believe we didn't score high enough to qualify for the grants. We plan to use our last engineering report along with a supplemental report that Laberge will be compiling for the Village. Tonight we need to make a motion of our intention to be the lead agency for the SEQR, which is a State Environmental Quality Review. Then we will have a public hearing to make a bond resolution which is planned for June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Mr. Thomas clarified that the bond resolution is the Village's intent to incur debt up to the amount of \$3,396,487 if the grant comes through. Deputy Mayor Gratto asked whether the approval of the 25% grant will lock us into this debt even if we are unable to find other supplemental funding, to which Mr. Thomas indicated no. Mr. Zarbo added that once we make the bond resolution we can always take out a bond for a smaller amount, but we cannot exceed the amount of the resolution. Mr. Zarbo also expressed concern that we may not meet the deadline for the bond resolution or permissive referendum. In response to Trustee Gratto's query, Mr. Zarbo stated that being the lead agency on SEQR basically means that we will

inform all the relevant and interested agencies about our project and what environmental impacts it may have. The letter will ask if any of the agencies have an issue with us being the lead agency and any concerns they have with the proposed project. Mr. Thomas explained that the law puts the duty on the municipalities and out of state agencies to do the environmental assessment and therefore there are sometimes many agencies involved in a project but someone (usually the local municipality) has to be the lead agency. If we don't meet the current deadline or the project is delayed, the SEQR will still be valid and necessary so it isn't a waste of resources.

**RESOLUTION #2:** On motion made by Trustee Higginbotham and seconded by Trustee Reyda to be the SEQR Lead Agency for the Sherman WWTP Improvements Project.

- AYES: 3 Higginbotham, Reyda, Fisher
- NAYES: 0

**DOUG CRANE:**

- **STREETS:** Mr. Crane stated that four intersections really need attention, he's considering using the County's milling machine or renting one to mill them down then lay the new black top. He plans to start the sidewalks on East Street next week. Trustee Higginbotham pointed out that there have always only been sidewalks on one side of the street. Mr. Crane added that we cannot maintain sidewalks on both sides at this time, and it becomes a liability issue if they are not maintained and something happens.
- **WATER:** Mr. Crane has a partial list for the water line but explained that he gets a better price if he orders a full truck, so he is working on the County's requirements as well.
- **ACCOUNTS:** Bill Brocius had queried why he received a bill for the last quarter since he was away in Florida. The Clerk had explained to him that there is a minimum charge per quarter, as set up by the original Board of Trustees at the start of the WWTP. We cannot change it right now as it is part of the local law. Mr. Crane added that he wanted to change the fee structure once the new water meters are installed. The new meters will be on a different system and users will get monthly bills so we can make the necessary changes at that time. Trustee Gratto asked if Mr. Brocius had paid the minimum previously and the clerk said she would check.
- **SATELLITE DISH:** While working between the Deering property and the B&B, we couldn't lift the DI so we had the Town bring down their big excavator. At some stage Mrs. Deering's satellite dish, which was set on the fence line, was damaged. The cost of the repair is \$161.68.
- **PIPE TONGS:** Recently we needed the pipe tongs, which are kept inside the Town office. The office is always locked and considered a safe place. Mr. Crane and Mr. Meeder have searched everywhere and agree that they are missing. Clerk Ramm will contact Mr. Niezgodia at WNY Insurance and see what course of action is needed in order to make a claim.
- **WAGES:** With regards to the utility worker's wages, Mr. Crane brought forward further information and wage comparisons resulting in a request for a \$0.50 hourly increase.

**RESOLUTION #3:** On motion made by Trustee Reyda and seconded by Trustee Higginbotham to approve paying the invoice of \$161.68 for the repairs to Mrs. Deering's satellite dish.

AYES: 3 Reyda, Higginbotham, Fisher  
NAYES: 0

**RESOLUTION #4:** On motion made by Trustee Reyda and seconded by Trustee Fisher to approve increasing Mr. Meeder's hourly wage by \$0.50.

AYES: 3 Reyda, Fisher, Gratto

NAYES: 1 Higginbotham

**RESOLUTION #5:** On motion made by Trustee Higginbotham and seconded by Trustee Reyda to approve Voucher #1 submitted for \$22,393.02 for June 2017.

AYES: 3 Higginbotham, Reyda, Fisher

NAYES: 0

### **CLERK**

Checking Account (06/07/2017) - \$88,088.09

CD Balance - \$133,535.26

- **YOUTH FUND:** The Town sent a bill for \$3,750.00 for the Sherman Youth Fund, of which \$1250 is due from the Sherman Central School. The Board was under the impression that the School is responsible for the bigger portion. The clerk will check this out before paying the bill.
- **CALENDAR:** The Board agreed to add the regular Board Meetings to the Community Church calendar, as has been done in previous years.
- **ICC:** The International Code Council sent an invoice for \$135.00 for membership. NYS subscribes to international codes that are proprietary. Clerk Ramm will confirm the benefits of said membership before paying.
- **CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:** Sent their annual bill of \$180.00 for membership. Clerk Ramm will confirm the benefits of this membership as well before paying.
- **COMPLIANCE REVIEW:** The USDA has requested a list of five community contacts for our upcoming compliance review. The Board replaced Mary Reyda with Bob Crane because as a Trustee of the Board she cannot serve as a reference.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**RAVEN AGREEMENT:** The payment of the ready to serve bill serves as confirmation that both parties are in agreement. This item will be removed from the agenda.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**TAX INCREASE:** Trustee Higginbotham asked the Clerk what she found out about the 3.3% change from last year on the Village taxes. Clerk Ramm explained that the Village tax bill also includes the assessed value which we have no control over. Last year the assessed value was 90% and this year it is 100% so her bill shows an increase although the actual tax rate decreased from 11.42% in 2016-2017 to 10.75% for 2017-2018. The overall value we taxed included an unused portion carried over from last year, which the County recommended we use so as not to lose it. The overall effect was a \$5,000 dollar increase in the tax levy which is spread out over all the tax payers according to their assessed value. The 3.3% change is in fact the tax levy divided by the tax value, although the actual tax rate decreased.

**RESOLUTION #6** On motion made by Trustee Reyda and seconded by Trustee Higginbotham to have a special meeting regarding the bond resolution on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 in the Village office at 7pm.

AYES: 3 Reyda, Higginbotham, Fisher

NAYES: 0

**RESOLUTION #7** On motion made by Trustee Higginbotham and seconded by Trustee Fisher to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM.

AYES: 3 Higginbotham, Fisher, Reyda

NAYES: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Ramm

Clerk/Treasurer