

**VILLAGE OF SHERMAN**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD,  
& PUBLIC HEARING of the 2023 CDBG APPLICATION for Housing Rehabilitation  
Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 6:00pm**

Mayor Meeder called the special meeting to order and lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members Colleen Meeder, Ryan Sanders, Dennis Watson, Gary Emory and Danielle Crane were in attendance.

Motion to suspend the special meeting and enter into the public hearing of the 2023 CDBG Application for Housing Rehabilitation.

Moved by Trustee Emory      Seconded by Trustee Crane  
Ayes: 5      Nays: 0      Carried

**PUBLIC HEARING - Proposed 2023 CDBG Program Application**

Mayor Meeder introduced Joshua Freifeld, the Executive Director of Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation & Improvement Corporation CHRIC, who reviewed the program details (*attached at the end of the minutes.*)

**The Community Development Block Grant Program is the award of Federal funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD that is administered by the New York State Office of Community Renewal NYSOCR, also known as the NYS Department of Homes & Community Renewal NYSHCR**

**This community funding provides resources to eligible local governments for housing, economic development, public facilities, public infrastructure, and planning activities, with the principal purpose of benefiting low/moderate income persons.**

**The 2023 CDBG Program Year will provide \$49M in funds for these purposes, of which \$10M will fund housing rehabilitation.**

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**CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Grant**

**For an estimated 7-8 single-family residences in the Village of Sherman**

**This estimated \$500,000 project is the second application. The Village of Sherman and CHRIC are wrapping up the first \$488,250 that was awarded under the 2020 CDBG Program year.**

The CDBG Housing Rehabilitation grant application is due on August 7, 2023. The anticipated CDBG award should be announced in October of 2023. Recent changes to the program involve asbestos testing and there is now a 5-year lien on property. The Village of Sherman has over twenty applicants on the waiting list with CHRIC, which anticipates a future third application for funding for Sherman.

This Community Development Block Grant is a housing rehabilitation grant for up to \$500,000 which will award 7-8 single family residents this grant cycle. CDBG has been very understanding of the increasing costs in construction, as well as the additional required testing. An average of

\$55,000-57,000 will be awarded to qualifying households. Mr. Freifeld emphasized that the focus is on the quality of the rehabilitation a home requires over the quantity of houses repaired within the grant award. This grant is administered by CHRIC (Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation), a non-profit organization that works in conjunction with CDBG. CHRIC does 99% of the administration for this rehabilitation grant. This project is not to improve houses aesthetically, but structurally; we are trying to repair homes and make residences safer. Funding will cover structural improvements such as foundations, furnaces, siding, roofing, windows, etc. The Village is not involved in the selection of who receives the grant or how the money is applied. Applicants must meet income criteria determined by CDBG parameters and CHRIC guidelines, *(the new income eligibility levels are attached at the end of the minutes)*. *Updated information will be available on the website*. We will send out information and pre-application forms with future water bills. Residents can send their applications directly to CHRIC or the Village Office.

The mayor asked about the declining 5-year lien, which Mr. Freifeld said he anticipated that the lien would be reduced by 20% each year. Trustee Watson asked if residents need to reapply to the waiting list, Mr. Freifeld said that the waiting list is typically updated yearly as the family income may have changed and has to be reviewed in line with the current income guidelines. If we are successfully awarded updated information will be sought from the pre-applicants on the waiting list. This involves current number of household members, income information; they must have a deed in their name and the taxes must be paid up to date. He reminded the board that this is for single-family owner-occupied homes not rental units.

Motion to close the public hearing of the 2023 CDBG Application for Housing Rehabilitation and resume the special meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:15pm.

Moved by Trustee Watson      Seconded by Trustee Sanders

Ayes: 5      Nays: 0      Carried

**RES 2023-07-25.1: CDBG HOUSING REHABILITATION APPLICATION FOR \$500,000**

Motion to approve the Community Development Online (CDOL) application to the NYS Department of Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) for the 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in an amount up to \$500,000, in coordination with Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation (CHRIC) for administration of the grant, for the purpose of rehabilitation of single-family dwellings; and to approve and authorize the mayor to sign all related documents and contractual agreements.

Moved by Trustee Crane      Seconded by Trustee Sanders

Ayes: 5      Nays: 0      Carried

**RES 2023-07-25.2: WWTP CHANGE ORDER #5– CONTRACT 1A - GENERAL**

Motion to approve and authorize the mayor to sign the fifth Change Order for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project with H&K Services, the general contractor, extending the duration of the project by 63 days and moving the substantial completion date to September 1, 2023, and the final completion date to October 6, 2023; with no change in scope and no change in contract price.

Moved by Trustee Watson      Seconded by Trustee Emory

Ayes: 5      Nays: 0      Carried

**RES 2023-07-25.3: WWTP CHANGE ORDER #4– CONTRACT 1B – ELECTRICAL**

Motion to approve and authorize the mayor to sign the fourth Change Order for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project with BECC Electric, the electrical contractor, extending the duration of the project by 63 days and moving the substantial completion date to September 1, 2023, and the final completion date to October 6, 2023; with no change in scope and no change in contract price.

Moved by Trustee Emory      Seconded by Trustee Crane  
Ayes: 5      Nays: 0      Carried

**RES 2023-07-25.4: WWTP CHANGE ORDER #4– CONTRACT 1C – MECHANICAL**

Motion to approve and authorize the mayor to sign the fourth Change Order for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project with Allied Mechanical, the mechanical contractor, extending the duration of the project by 63 days and moving the substantial completion date to September 1, 2023, and the final completion date to October 6, 2023; with no change in scope and no change in contract price.

Moved by Trustee Sanders      Seconded by Trustee Emory  
Ayes: 5      Nays: 0      Carried

**RES 2023-07-25.5: INTERFUND TRANSFER**

Motion to accept the interfund transfer of \$21,636.11 from the Water Fund to the Stormwater Capital Project to cover debt service expenditure.

Moved by Trustee Watson      Seconded by Trustee Emory  
Ayes: 5      Nays: 0      Carried

**RES 2023-07-25.6: CLERK CERTIFICATION OF BOND RESOLUTIONS**

Motion to accept the Clerk-Treasurer’s certification that no valid petition for a permissive referendum was submitted and filed with the Village and the period of time for such submission and filing had elapsed for:

May 17, 2023 - 10 yr bond for \$38,000 for Streets Equipment, certified June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

June 14, 2023 - 15 yr bond for \$61,000 for Streets Equipment, certified July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

June 14, 2023 - 15 yr bond for \$115,000 for Building Restoration, certified July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Moved by Trustee Emory      Seconded by Trustee Crane  
Ayes: 5      Nays: 0      Carried

**RES 2023-07-25.7: WWTP REVISION OF FORM E #10**

At a Meeting of the Village of Sherman, Chautauqua County, New York, held at the Village Hall, in Sherman, New York, on the 25th day of July, 2023, at 6:00 o'clock p.m., the following resolution was offered by Trustee Watson who moved its adoption, seconded by Trustee Sanders, to-wit:

**RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE BOARD, VILLAGE OF SHERMAN, CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY, NEW YORK**, accepting Revisions to the “Village of Sherman Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project”, Capital Project as administered through USDA Rural Development. The Village Board hereby modifies the following Administrative and Construction budget items to the upcoming Form E #10:

**A.8** Miscellaneous to be decreased by \$7,642.16

And

**C.2d** Rain for Rent to be increased by \$7,642.16

The reason for these modifications is to update the allocation of costs associated with the project and account for the temporary rental of tanks from Rain for Rent when the operational clarifier became inoperable, during the delays in SBR start-up schedule.

THIS BUDGETARY MODIFICATION RESULTED IN NO CHANGE TO THE TOTAL BUDGET.

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Sherman, Village Board has reviewed the Form E Capital Outlay Budget category and,

**WHEREFORE**, the foregoing Resolution was put to a vote of the members of the Village Board of the Village on July 25, 2023, the result of which vote was as follows:

Colleen Meeder, Mayor	<u>Aye</u>
Ryan Sanders, Deputy Mayor	<u>Aye</u>
Dennis Watson, Trustee	<u>Aye</u>
Gary Emory, Trustee	<u>Aye</u>
Danielle Crane, Trustee	<u>Aye</u>

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023.

**AWARDED: USDA RD – Community Facilities Program – Streets Equipment for \$61,000 Terms \$20,000 in Grant, \$3,100 Village commitment, \$37,900 Loan for 3.6250% for 15 yrs**

**RES 2023-07-25.8: USDA RD GRANT ACCEPTANCE**

Motion to accept the USDA RD Community Facilities Program Grant in the amount of \$20,000 for streets equipment.

Moved by Trustee Sanders    Seconded by Trustee Crane  
Ayes: 5    Nays: 0    Carried

**RES 2023-07-25.9: USDA RD LOAN RESOLUTION**

Motion to adopt the Loan Resolution form RD 1942-47 between the Village of Sherman and the United States Department of Agriculture, acting under the provisions of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act; whereas the Village of Sherman Board of Trustees agrees to the language therein with the USDA RD for the Village of Sherman in the amount of \$37,900 for streets equipment.

Moved by Trustee Watson    Seconded by Trustee Sanders  
Ayes: 5    Nays: 0    Carried

**RES 2023-07-25.10: CCDA STATEMENT**

Motion to approve mayor to respond to the request from the Chautauqua County District Attorney's Office for a statement on an open case coming to a close.

Moved by Trustee Emory    Seconded by Trustee Watson  
Ayes: 5    Nays: 0    Carried

*Approved following the executive session.*

**RES 2023-07-25.11: COMMUNICATIONS MR FOWLER OF 131 MILLER ST SHERMAN**

Motion to accept the mayor's letter dated July 21, 2023 as having satisfied the request made by Mr. Danny Fowler of 131 Miller Street Sherman for information on the Village bond resolutions, and to attach the communication at the end of the minutes; and approve the mayor to direct Mr. Fowler refrains from the ongoing communications creating a hostile and distracting environment both in the Village Office and on Village controlled work sites, and clearly express that the Village of Sherman

will no longer accept communications from him, or the Assembly of God Church, that are not directly related to the municipal business of the Village, understanding that may include returning checks with unrelated messages to Mr. Fowler with the possibility of delaying payment and incurring late fees. *Letter to be attached at the end of the minutes, subsequent to the Village Attorney's counsel:* "Any information extraneous to the matter of payment will make the check not acceptable."

Moved by Trustee Crane      Seconded by Trustee Watson

Ayes: 5      Nays: 0      Carried

***Approved following the executive session.***

**Motion to move into Executive Session** at 6:31pm to discuss legal and contractual issues, with action to be taken following the executive session.

Moved by Trustee Emory      Seconded by Trustee Crane

Ayes: 5      Nays: 0      Carried

**Returned to the regular meeting at 7:34pm.**

***Approved following the executive session:***

RES 2023-07-25.10 CCDA STATEMENT

RES 2023-07-25.11 COMMUNICATIONS MR FOWLER OF 131 MILLER ST SHERMAN

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm.**

Moved by Trustee Watson      Seconded by Trustee Emory

Ayes: 5      Nays: 0      Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Ramm

Clerk-Treasurer

**Next Meeting:            \*Regular Meeting August 16, 2023 at 6pm.**



**2023 OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RENEWAL  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
ANNUAL COMPETITIVE ROUND  
Village of Sherman Public Hearing July 25, 2023**

**What Is It?**

The New York State Office of Community Renewal Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) is a federally funded program authorized by Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 that is administered by the Office for Community Renewal (OCR).

- The CDBG Program provides funding to eligible communities for the development of **projects that provide** (1) decent and hazard-free affordable **housing**, (2) access to safe **drinking water**, (3) proper **disposal of household wastewater**, (4) **access to community-needed services** in local facilities, (5) foster **microenterprise activities** and economic opportunities through the support of projects that create and/or retain permanent employment opportunities that principally benefit low-and moderate-income persons.
- In New York State, the application process is separated by the type of activity, with requests for grants to assist with Community Planning, Microenterprise, Public Facilities, and Public Infrastructure proposals falling under the Consolidated Funding Application that is awarded through the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council. Funding Opportunities for Housing activities for 2023 **are due by August 7th**.

Activities funded under the CDBG Program must meet the **National Objectives** of (1) benefit low-and moderate- income persons, (2) aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight or (3) meet community development needs having a particular urgency.

**2023 Income limits are:**

Household Size	1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 People	6 People	7 People	8 People
<b>Maximum Income 80% Median for County</b>	<b>\$45,600</b>	<b>\$52,100</b>	<b>\$58,600</b>	<b>\$65,100</b>	<b>\$70,350</b>	<b>\$75,550</b>	<b>\$80,750</b>	<b>\$85,950</b>

**Who can apply?**

Cities/towns/villages with a population under 50,000 and counties with populations under 200,000 are eligible to apply

**How much is available?**

The total available for 2023 available for housing activities is approximately \$10 million. The maximum funding limits are as follows:

*Towns, Cities and Villages:* \$500,000

*Counties:* \$1,000,000

**What is the process?**

The Village is seeking public input, especially from low-income residents, on whether to apply for CDBG funding in 2023 and, if so, what type of program to pursue. Again, eligible uses of CDBG funding include (1) decent and hazard-free affordable **housing**, (2) access to safe **drinking water**, (3) proper **disposal of household wastewater**, (4) **access to community-needed services** in local facilities, (5) foster **microenterprise activities** and economic opportunities through the support of projects that create and/or retain permanent employment opportunities that principally benefit low-and moderate-income persons.

Citizen participation in the planning and implementation process is critical. There must be public interest in seeking funds and agreement on the proposed use of those funds.

*Open for questions/comments/input/discussion*

The applications are extremely competitive and there is no guarantee that we will be successful, although we will prepare and submit the strongest proposal possible. If Sherman is awarded money, the period of performance will be 24 months long with most construction occurring in the second twelve months. All assisted units with NYS CDBG will be subject to a period of affordability of not less than five (5) years.



# VILLAGE OF SHERMAN REHAB PROGRAM

The information in this form will be held confidential.

**This is a pre-screening form only. It will be used to support an application to the NYS Office of Community Renewal for Community Development Block Grant funds to help income-eligible homeowners in the Village of Sherman with necessary home repairs.**

In order to submit a successful application, we are asking you to fill out this form. We will use this information to show the NYS Office of Community Renewal that there is a need for these funds in the Village of Sherman and that there are people interested in receiving help with home repairs through the Community Development Block Grant program.

**Please return the completed form to the Village Hall or mail it to:  
Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corp (CHRIC)  
2 Academy St.  
Mayville NY 14757**

**For further information, please call the Village Hall at 761-6781  
or Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corp (CHRIC) at 753-4650**

1. Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Your Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Phone \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are you the legal owner of the property (is your name on the deed?) Yes  No

6. Are all taxes on this property paid to date? Yes  No

7. Do you have insurance on this property? Yes  No

8. Are you over age 60? Yes  No

9. Are there minors (18 or younger) living in the home? Yes  No

10. Are you or anyone who lives in the home disabled? Yes  No

11. Are you a veteran of the US military? Yes  No

12. How many bedrooms are in your home? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Please state the ONE (only one) most important home repair concern that you have:  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. Please state any other repairs that your home may also need:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE TURN OVER AND COMPLETE QUESTIONS ON THE BACK**

15. How many people live in your household all together? \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your income by checking all of the sources that apply and filling in the appropriate dollar amount and how often you receive it. Please report your **GROSS INCOME** before any taxes or any other deductions are taken out (**not your "take-home" pay**)

The total annual income of everyone over the age of 18 who lives in the home (whether they contribute or not) must be below the following maximum amounts:

1 Person	2 People	3 People	4 People	5 People	6 People	7 People	8 People
\$45,600	\$52,100	\$58,600	\$65,100	\$70,350	\$75,550	\$80,750	\$85,950

<u>TYPE OF INCOME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>HOW OFTEN?</u> (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, annual)
<input type="checkbox"/> Working	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Income from your own business	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Receiving Unemployment Benefits	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Receiving Pension Benefits	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Receiving Veteran Benefits	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Receiving Social Security/SSI/SSD	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Receiving Insurance Benefits	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Receiving Public Assistance (DSS)	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Receiving Worker's Compensation	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Receiving Disability	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Receiving alimony/child support	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Rental Income	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Interest Income	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Income from assets	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Income	_____	_____

If you'd like to provide any additional information, please do so below:

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I am interested in receiving assistance with repairs on my home through the Village of Sherman Rehab Program if this grant is awarded.

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Signature

**Victim Impact Statement**  
**RE Ann M. Gilbert Docket - 22070015**

(Please print or type, attach extra sheets if necessary)

VICTIM'S ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT:

It was discovered that Ann Gilbert received cash payments for water and sewer utilities and village property taxes, indicated the accounts were paid in the computer, or made adjustments accordingly, but she did not deposit the funds into the village bank account.

WAS THERE ANY PERSONAL INJURY AS A RESULT OF THIS OFFENSE?  Yes or  No  
If yes, please explain:

AMOUNT YOU PAID FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT - NOT COVERED BY INSURANCE.  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT YOU PAID FOR PROPERTY REPAIR AND/OR REPLACEMENT-NOT COVERED BY INSURANCE.  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT YOU ARE REQUESTING BE PAID TO YOU BY THE DEFENDANT FOR YOUR LOSS. \$14,440

**PLEASE ATTACH COPIES OF ESTIMATES OR BILL TO VERIFY LOSS**

DID YOU RECEIVE OR DO YOU ANTICIPATE RECEIVING ANY REIMBURSEMENT FROM AN INSURANCE COMPANY OR CRIME VICTIM'S BOARD?  Yes  No

IF SO, HOW MUCH \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
IF NO, HAVE YOU STARTED A CIVIL ACTION TO OBTAIN RESTITUTION? Yes or  No

NAME AND ADDRESS OF YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY

VICTIM'S VIEW TOWARD SENTENCING

See attached.

I have read the foregoing and state all the facts contained therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and acknowledge a false statement made herein is punishable pursuant to Section 175.30, 175.35 or 210.05 of the Penal Law.

PREPARER'S SIGNATURE Colleen M. Meeder - Mayor DATE 8/1/2023

NAME OF VICTIM Village of Sherman (Colleen Meeder, Mayor)

DATE OF BIRTH OR BUSINESS ID # 116-6002512

ADDRESS: 111 Mill St, Sherman, NY 14781

PHONE: 716-761-6781

PO Box 629

**VILLAGE OF SHERMAN**  
**HOME OF THE YORKER MUSEUM**  
111 MILL ST, PO BOX 629, SHERMAN, NY 14781  
716-761-6781 TDD 711 \* VILLAGE.SHERMAN@GMAIL.COM  
**WWW.SHERMANNY.ORG**

**August 1, 2023**

**Victim Impact Statement**

**RE: Ann M. Gilbert Docket – 22070015**

The Village of Sherman 'serves' the community. The clerk's role in taking and administering the oath of office should hold Ann Gilbert to a higher standard.

It was disheartening to see the names on the accounts which were taken advantage of; Ms. Gilbert exploited the most vulnerable families who struggle to make their payments. Evidently, she casually and selfishly acted without remorse, believing there would never be any accountability.

The theft has applied stress on our small municipality taking away not only financial resources, but a very significant amount of time with limited staff. In some cases, it has brought mistrust and contempt for the Office of the Clerk, and unwarranted suspicion on blameless staff.

Several were personally affected by Ms. Gilbert's actions, including but not limited to Mayor John Patterson who depended greatly on her, more so than a typical mayor would of his clerk with his health challenges and physical limitations. Having only one arm, Mayor Patterson entrusted his signature stamp to Ms. Gilbert that was misused for her personal benefit and to cover her tracks. On one occasion the signature stamp was used on a county document after she took Donald Pope's Village Property Tax payment. Mr. Pope is another individual with a serious medical condition and was very concerned and confused to discover his taxes were "unpaid" and re-levied onto the County Tax bill. Trustees were impacted, had their cash payments stolen, which could have resulted in the appearance of impropriety on their part.

The trustees, residents, business owners, and community organizations placed their confidence in Ms. Gilbert. As the clerk-treasurer, she worked in the office and served community organizations like the Chamber of Commerce and Sherman Day Committee, where she handled a great deal of cash, un-reconcilable cash. For her length of service and the responsibilities she took on, the total amount and number of victims are not quantifiable and the full impact is unknown.

Ann Gilbert was to secure the assets of the Village; she breached that commitment without regard for those she was harming. No excuses can be made for the thousands of dollars she conveniently helped herself to as she left for Florida. She had a pattern with the way she entered dates and organized deposits showing her behavior was calculated.

On behalf of the past and present Board of Trustees, we wish to express our greatest disappointment in what we believe are Ann Gilbert's indefensible actions. To prevent any further waste of resources, the Village Board of Trustees is in agreement with the plea negotiated by the Chautauqua County District Attorney.

Respectfully,



Colleen M. Meeder, Village of Sherman Mayor

THE HONORABLE COLLEEN MEEDER, MAYOR  
DEPUTY MAYOR RYAN SANDERS  
TRUSTEES DENNIS WATSON, GARY EMORY & DANIEL CRANE

*"Preserving our Past... Working for our Future"*

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

**VILLAGE OF SHERMAN**  
**HOME OF THE YORKER MUSEUM**  
111 MILL ST, PO BOX 629, SHERMAN, NY 14781  
716-761-6781 TDD 711 \* VILLAGE.SHERMAN@GMAIL.COM  
**WWW.SHERMANNY.ORG**

May 22, 2023

Sherman Assembly of God Church  
PO Box 413  
Sherman, NY 14781

Re: Acct #62  
Subj: Non-payment subject to penalty fees and shut-off

It was brought to my attention, the Village of Sherman is in receipt of check #6975 for \$40.00 for the water and sewer account #62 for the Sherman Assembly of God Church, to be paid toward the amount due of \$170.37, with a remaining amount due of \$130.37.

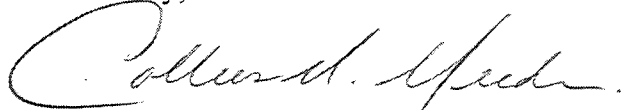
The account is now subject to a 10% penalty fee for the amount that is remaining. After 45 days of non-payment the account will be subject to shut off, which is an additional \$50, plus another \$50 reconnection fee.

The \$170.37 billing statement is made up of **two different utilities for two months**, essentially four monthly bills in one statement. This is approximately \$30/month for water and approximately \$55.18 for sewer.

The words "unjust water & sewer bill" were printed in the memo. Utility charges are calculated based on the budget including wages, electricity cost, chemicals, equipment and infrastructure, along with administrative expenses like insurance, training & certification of licensed operators, and billing processes. The Village of Sherman operates under the authority of the NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation for sewer and under the authority of the NYS Dept of Health for water. The Village must follow the strict regulations of each in service to the community's health, safety, and welfare. The Village takes great care in managing the budget to keep the rates affordable (as NYS had determined by our median household income). I might direct you to recent articles in the paper regarding the cost of providing water and sewer utilities to area communities, including the article I have enclosed. The Village's rate structure is fair and appropriate.

In comparison to the article enclosed the Sherman Assembly of God Church's approximate annual sewer fees based on the latest bill, plus the \$4/month increase beginning in June = \$710/ year. \$220 under that of the flat rate of the neighboring sewer district.

Sincerely,



Colleen Meeder, Mayor, Village of Sherman

*"Preserving our Past... Working for our Future"*

THE HONORABLE COLLEEN MEEDER, MAYOR  
DEPUTY MAYOR RYAN SANDERS  
TRUSTEES DENNIS WATSON, GARY EMORY & DANIEL CRANE

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Pastor Danny Ray Fowler

P.O. Box 391

131 Miller Street

Sherman NY 14781

Date: July 20 2023

To:

Village of Sherman and Board Members: *And Mayor*

I received your letter dated May 22 2023.

First of all I want to state that I love all people. But not their ways.

The two ways that I will use in response to your letter. I will use the Dictionary meaning of the words of the government ways.

1st. Ways of a Dictator: Which means a ruler who enjoys usurper powers beyond Constitutional Restraint. Dictatorship consists of a ruling minority.

2nd. Socialism ways. Which means, that land, Industries, and goods produced should be owned, managed, and distributed by a government representing the people. Any system aimed to put these ideas into practical application.

Collen, you and the village board members have and keep putting the village tax payers deeper and deeper in debt. I read the paper daily and read every time you and the board members vote into another bond. Which in should be said that you are

putting the village more and more in debt.

It is not enough that our Federal Gov. has put every person over \$178.00 in debt.

You and the board members are taking good farm land and turning it into solar. Which are made in China and not America.

God gave America plenty of Gas and Oil to use. And gave trees and plants to turns the carbon into oxgen.

Yes the water and sewage bills are unjust, because what it really is another tax on people. And when people can't afford to pay for it, In other words, you are saying {Let the working tax workers pay for it.}

As you keep adding, I have been seeing the bussiness that are left having to raise their prices more and more. And Sherman has lost so many bussiness.To Name: The Farmers Mill, Sherman Central Tractor, Weise Garage, The Hardware Store, GraHam's Market, Ford Garage. The Insurance Office people. And many people have moved out of Sherman and many more say that they will be moving.

Under the Freedom of Information Act I am requiring you and the board members to post so the people will know how much debt your have put the people of Sherman in with all of the Bonds passed.

This letter is written under the freedom of Speach.

Note one copy is kept on file.

**Pastor Danny Ray Fowler**  
**P.O. Box 391 - 131 Miller St**  
**Sherman, NY 14781**  
**Jesus Loves You!**

*Pastor Danny Ray Fowler*

Send Payment to:  
**Village of Sherman**  
 PO Box 629  
 111 Mill Street  
 Sherman, NY 14781  
 716-761-6781

**Service Address:** 136 W. MA  
 Billing Address  
**ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

50-755/213 6991

**SHERMAN ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH**

DATE July 21-2023

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Village of Sherman \$ 169.60

Over hundred Eighty Nine & 60/100 DOLLARS

**Community Bank N.A.**  
 Sherman, New York 14781

MEMO Just water & sewer charges

6991

**Customer Message:**

**METER READ INFORMATION:**

Meter Number	Read Date	Read Method	Previous Reading	Current Reading	Meter Multi	Usage
130060378	06/19/2023	HANDHELD	10,100	10,849	X1	749
<b>Total usage this billing period:</b>						<b>749</b>

**ITEMIZED LIST OF CHARGES:**

Charge Item	Type	Amount	Payments	Credits	Discounts	Amount Due
SEWER	CURRENT	\$4.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4.00
SEWER_BASE	CURRENT	\$106.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$106.00
WATER	CURRENT	\$4.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4.60
WATER_BASE	CURRENT	\$55.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$55.00

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES:**

Please Note:  
 Anything Unapplied will  
 be applied accordingly  
 next billing period.

TOTAL AMOUNT	TOTAL PAYMENTS	TOTAL CREDITS	TOTAL DISCOUNTS	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE
\$169.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$169.60

**Total amount due this billing period: \$169.60 Due Date: 08/21/2023**

After 08/21/2023 Pay Late Amount of: \$186.56

*Due Read your letter and ALL I see is a god. ways  
 of over charging people. with not serving the people.  
 You and the Board ways keep putting the village people worse  
 and more in debts*

Return this section with your payment

**Customer Name:** ASSEMBLY OF GOD  
**Service Address:** 136 W. MAIN ST. - CHURCH; SHERMAN, NY 14781

Date Billed: 06/19/2023

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Account Number**  
 62

Service From	Service To	Due Date
04/13/2023	06/19/2023	08/21/2023
<b>Amount Due</b>		<b>\$169.60</b>

After 08/21/2023 Pay Late Amount of: \$186.56



# CYCLE Account Invoice

Send Payment to:

Date Billed: 06/19/2023

**Village of Sherman**

PO Box 629  
111 Mill Street  
Sherman, NY 14781  
716-761-6781

Service From	Service To	Due Date
04/13/2023	06/19/2023	08/21/2023

**Service Address:** 131 MILLER ST.; SHERMAN, NY 14781

Billing Address

**REV. DANNY FOWLER**

**Account Number**

138

**Customer Message:**

**METER READ INFORMATION:**

Meter Number	Read Date	Read Method	Previous Reading	Current Reading	Meter Multi	Usage
130060524	06/19/2023	HANDHELD	8,757	10,057	X1	1,300
<b>Total usage this billing period:</b>						<b>1,300</b>

**ITEMIZED LIST OF CHARGES:**

Charge Item	Type	Amount	Payments	Credits	Discounts	Amount Due
SEWER	CURRENT	\$6.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6.95
SEWER_BASE	CURRENT	\$106.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$106.00
WATER	CURRENT	\$7.99	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7.99
WATER_BASE	CURRENT	\$55.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$55.00

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES:**


Please Note: **TOTAL** **9479** **TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$175.94**


Anyt  
be e  
ne

REV. DANNY R FOWLER *Ph: 3-9-10* 50-755/213 *Like 6:30* **9479**

SHERMAN, NY 14781-0391 *DATE July 21 2023* **1/2023**

PAY TO *Village of Sherman* **\$ 175.94**

THE ORDER OF *One Hundred Seventy Five 94/100* DOLLARS  Security Feature  
includes  
Details on Back

 **Community Bank** *Thank you for service* *Mich. 3-10-12*

Community Bank, N.A. | cbna.com

MEMO *Water & Sewerage Adjust Cost* **9479** *Ph: 4119*

Return this section with your payment

**Customer Name:** REV. DANNY FOWLER

Date Billed: 06/19/2023

**Service Address:** 131 MILLER ST.; SHERMAN, NY 14781

Service From	Service To	Due Date
04/13/2023	06/19/2023	08/21/2023

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number **138**

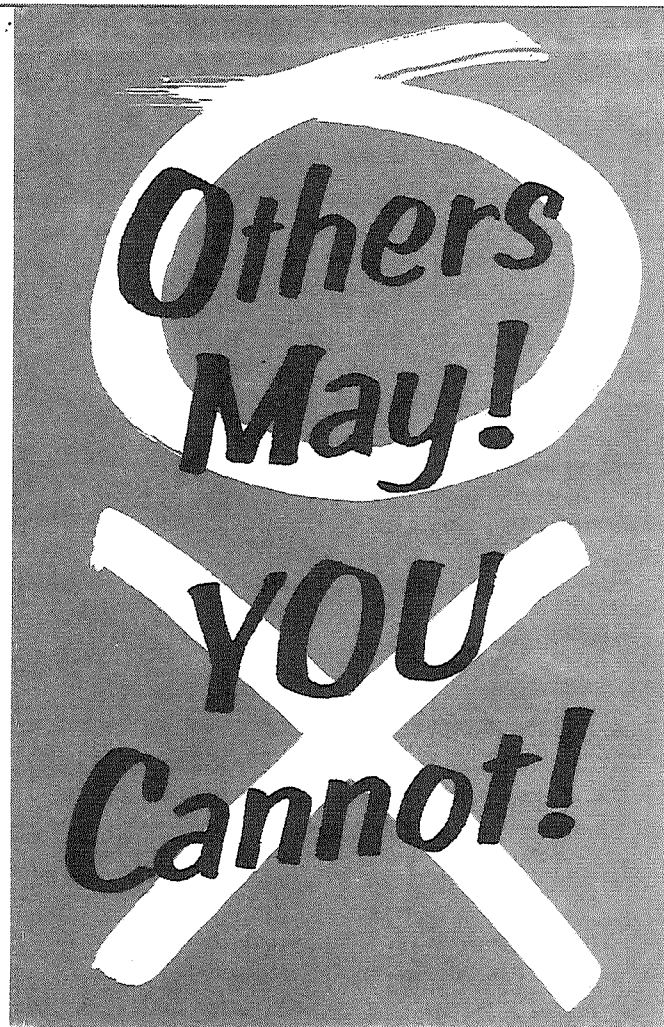
Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Amount Due</b>	<b>\$175.94</b>
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After 08/21/2023 Pay Late Amount of: \$193.54

ereign and has a right to do as He pleases with His own, and He will not explain to you a thousand things which may puzzle your reason in His dealings with you. God will take you at your word; and, if you absolutely sell yourself to be His slave, He will wrap you up in a jealous love, and let other people say and do many things that you cannot do or say. Settle it forever that you are to deal directly with the Holy Spirit, and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hand, or closing your eyes in ways that others are not dealt with. Now when you are so possessed with the living God that you are, in your secret heart, pleased and delighted over this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, you will have found the vestibule of heaven.

—G. W. D., in *Living Words*



### **Others May! You Cannot!**

If God has called you to be really like Jesus in all your spirit, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put on you such demands of obedience that He will not allow you to follow other Christians, and in many ways He will seem to let other good people do things which He will not let you do.

### ***You Must Practice Self-denial***

Other Christians and ministers, who seem very religious and useful, may push themselves, pull wires, and work schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do it; and if you attempt it you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent.

Others can brag on themselves, on their work, on their success, on their writings, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing; and if you begin it He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others will be allowed to succeed in making money, or having a legacy left to

them, or in having luxuries; but it is likely God will keep you poor because He wants you to have something better than gold. He may desire to teach you a helpless dependence on Him, that He may have the privilege of supplying your needs day by day out of an unseen treasury.

The Lord will let others be honored and put forward, and keep you hid away in obscurity because He wants to produce some choice, fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can be produced only in the shade.

### ***Love Is Your Reward***

God will let others be great, but keep you small. He will let others do a work for Him and get the credit for it; but He will make you work and toil on without knowing how much you are doing. And then, to make your work still more precious, He will let others get the credit for the work you have done; this will make your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes. The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch over you, with a jealous love, and will rebuke you for little words and feelings or for wasting your time, which other Christians never seem distressed over. So make up your mind that God is an infinite Gov-

## There Always Will Be God

They cannot shell His temple,  
Nor dynamite His throne;  
They cannot bomb His city,  
Nor rob Him of His own.

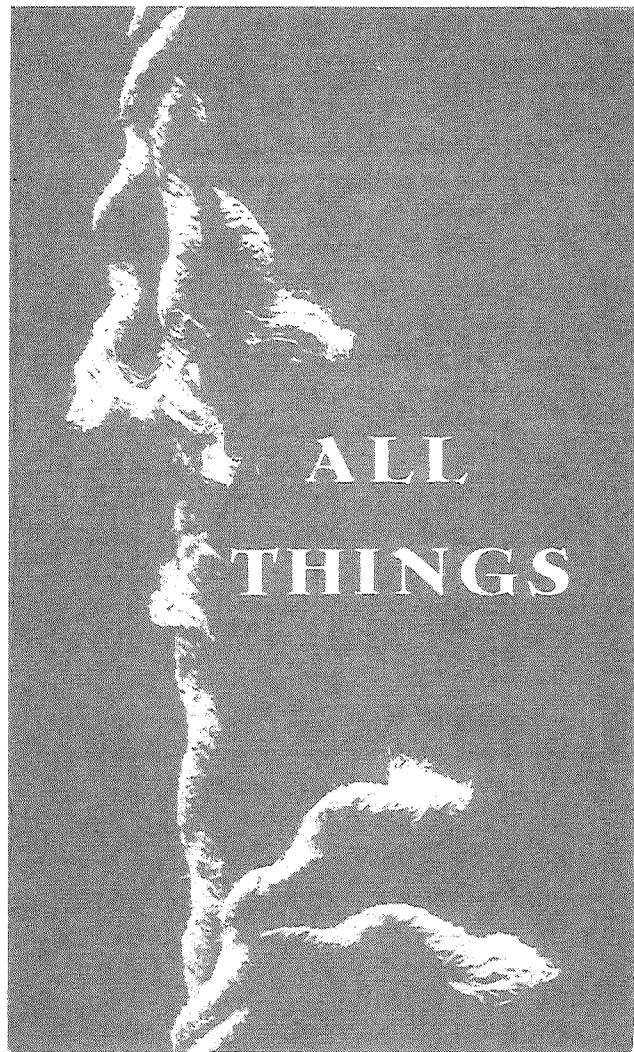
They cannot take Him captive,  
Nor strike Him deaf and blind.  
Nor starve Him to surrender,  
Nor make Him change His mind.

They cannot cause Him panic;  
Nor cut off His supplies;  
They cannot take His kingdom,  
Nor hurt Him with their lies.

Though all the world be shattered,  
His truth remains the same,  
His righteous laws still potent  
And "Father" still His name.

Though we face war and struggle  
And feel their goad and rod,  
We know above confusion  
There always will be God.

Gospel Tract Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1118  
Independence, Mo. 64051



### *All Things—For Good*

Good things are not always good.  
**Bad things are not always bad.** The things we believe we need and want may or may not be best for us.

All this, you say, sounds rather confusing. Who is to decide what is good for us and what we should have?

I remember once hearing a frail little girl tell her parents that all she wanted for dinner was chocolate candy. Her wise mother explained to the child that candy would not help her grow up to be a strong young lady. The confused but trusting girl sat down to eat the nourishing food prepared for her.

Now God, of Whom we sing:

*No earthly father loves like Thee  
No mother, half so mild*

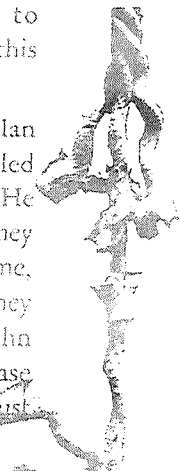
is the one who determines what is best for us. This will help us to understand Romans 8:28: "*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God . . .*"

Every person who accepts the Lord Jesus

Christ as his personal Saviour, who loves and trusts Him, can be assured that everything that is permitted to come in his life is the result of a careful decision of a loving Father in heaven. This all-wise Father wouldn't think of giving a frail child candy for dinner. But He will carefully and thoughtfully give such things that will be most helpful.

God may in His wisdom and tender care allow some illness to come to His child of faith. Recently I heard a woman whisper, "At first I didn't understand why this illness came to me, but it has brought me closer to Him, and I am beginning to realize the good there is in this bad experience."

The *good* contained in the plan of our heavenly Father is revealed in the prayer of Jesus, when He prays: "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory." (John 17:24) Doesn't this prospect ease the pain and discomfort we must endure for a short time?



**VILLAGE OF SHERMAN**  
**HOME OF THE YORKER MUSEUM**  
111 MILL ST, PO BOX 629, SHERMAN, NY 14781  
716-761-6781 TDD 711 \* VILLAGE.SHERMAN@GMAIL.COM  
**WWW.SHERMANNY.ORG**

July 21, 2023

Danny Fowler  
131 Miller St, PO Box 391  
Sherman, NY 14781

Mr. Fowler,

As you are not my pastor, and your disregard for Romans 13:1-2 reminds me you only selectively choose what you want to read and convey. The world is full of false prophets and teachers that manipulate the Word to their own benefit. While claiming to be righteous their actions are without love and used to persecute others as the religious leaders did out of fear, self-preservation, and power.

Providing safe drinking water and a sanitary sewer system are not unjust, nor is it a sin to serve our community as our board of trustees, myself, and the Village employees do in service to **you** and the rest of the community. Your debate is simply about **entitlement**, not unlike any other person that demands things are here and available or services are provided to them without any contribution or remuneration, but you use the Bible as your hammer. **'Spiritual abuse** is using the Bible as a weapon of control', Matthew 4:1-11.

You are conveniently reading articles and postings for your narrative, and you are lacking information. I've enclosed a few articles for you, including:

The **"\$930" Sewer** Fee, anything under \$1,000 is considered affordable by the NY State Comptroller:

Sherman is lacking in economy of scale with our small community, yet the two bills you just paid, even with the increase 6/1/2023 of \$4/month, are well below that by over \$200/year

For your Miller St home: \$112.95 for sewer (x 6 billing cycles) = **\$677.70** 2023-2024 **\$725.70**

The church equaled: \$110.00 for sewer (x 6 billing cycles) = **\$660.00** 2023-2024 **\$708.00**

Mina Sewer District estimated at **\$30,716,000**

With about twice the properties (456), they are looking at a project nearly five times the size of ours.

The **\$10.4M Water** System Project in Clymer states, because the components in the "water system do not meet current health standards and are in need of significant rehab or replacement due to age related deficiencies". **That sums it ALL up right there.** Let's reflect on the size of the Clymer water district, which is approximately the same as ours, and the \$10.4M price tag. The Village of Sherman has bond resolutions for the \$7M Wastewater Treatment Plant and \$3.2M Water Improvement Projects. That's \$10.2M for TWO VASTLY DIFFERENT and EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE systems, of which we are coming in under \$9.4M, with a total of five grant funders and two financiers maintaining critical infrastructure at an AFFORDABLE value to our community.

*"Preserving our Past... Working for our Future"*

**THE HONORABLE COLLEEN MEEDER, MAYOR**  
DEPUTY MAYOR RYAN SANDERS  
TRUSTEES DENNIS WATSON, GARY EMORY & DANIEL CRANE

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Understanding Municipal Finance Law

**BOND RESOLUTIONS DO NOT EQUAL DEBT**

- #1) A Bond Resolution is adopted prior to any other decision; it does not mean any funds will be spent.
- #2) A Bond Resolution is required to approve the total cost of the project, not the actual debt to be financed. For instance: the \$7M Bond Resolution for the WWTP will result in a \$2,613,750 debt for a maximum of 40 years, this is after three grants our office has tirelessly achieved and managed to alleviate the burden on this community. An amazing 63% of the \$7M is covered by grant and the remaining debt will be at a low 2.125% interest rate from the generosity of USDA Rural Development. The \$3.2M Bond Resolution for the Drinking Water System will come in under \$2.4M, and with the 60% grant awarded, the long-term debt of less than \$960,000 will be financed at zero percent over 30 years... again making water more than affordable for a community of our low medium household income – by NYS standards.
- #3.) Some “debt” that you are concerned about, is **NOT DEBT ON THE VILLAGE TAXPAYERS**, but temporary lending until the NYSDEC ‘rebate’ pays for the project at its completion (in the case of the EV Stations); or similar short-term debt covered by other revenues from contracts or grants (as is the case with the properties on W Main St). However, because it all runs through the Village’s finances it must have a correlating Bond Resolution.
- #4.) The Stormwater Bond Resolution is for \$5M... of which less than \$500,000 has been borrowed in the form of what’s called a BAN – Bond Anticipation Note for short-term financing. Some Village investments and a commitment toward a project must be made for granters and funders to award the municipality. This Comprehensive Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Project is critical. There are multiple ‘phases’ or smaller projects that make up the ‘comprehensive’ project. Each time you hear about these you are adding additional dollars that are part of a greater whole that has already been accounted for.

On the flip side...

- #5.) Under the finance law, a variety of small projects making up a greater comprehensive project will sometimes require ***‘multiple’ bond resolutions for clarity and ease of processing*** with funding agencies.

**Dept of Public Works Plan**

**Streets Equipment** – *has multiple bond resolutions for various reasons, including estimated life of equipment 5yr, 10yr, 15yr – based on type of equipment and purchase value, and if it is under a grant program*

Mowers, UTV, Snowblower, Truck w/Plow all to be purchased under government contracted bid at a total cost \$134,000

(Amounts of \$35,000, \$38,000, and \$61,000 – with an eligible amount of \$20,000 in grant from USDA RD)

**Plus, Building Improvements**

15yr improvements of cold storage siding off of Cornish St, the conversion of the old drying beds at the WWTP (reusing the old frame and trusses and installing metal roof and three sides – no windows or doors – essentially creating a large lean-to for equipment out of the weather), and repairing the cement ramp and entrance to the Village office and siding it to prevent further weather-related issues. Estimated total cost \$115,000

CLERK-TREASURER JEANETTE RAMM

716-761-6781

STREETS SUPERINTENDENT DOUGLAS CRANE

716-269-9096

WATER & WASTEWATER CHIEF OPERATOR JAMES IRWIN

716-581-3397

**The Dept of Public Works Plan for Streets Equipment and Building Restoration totals \$249,000** for three building projects and multiple equipment purchases, over four different bond resolutions. Your concern is with the 'quantity' of resolutions, not the value; but the quantity is a matter of extra 'paperwork' – which I despise. In comparison, the last Streets Equipment bond resolution was for \$230,000 for only two pieces of equipment.

*(The costs within the bond resolution include attorneys, bond counsel, fiscal advisors, posting in the paper, and engineering where applicable. It's not just in equipment, but the full cost of the project.)*

- - - - -  
This is the reality of running a municipality, this is not a club, or a homeowner's association. There is a significant amount of responsibility to ensuring the resources are available and maintained in providing for the health, safety, well-being, and quality of living for our residents while promoting economic development and recreational opportunities. The Village is accountable to all its residents and businesses **and to NYS**, which you disregard as an authority, but the ethical responsibility and requirements remain for the Trustees and I who took an oath.

You're saying anyone with a mortgage, home improvement loan, student debt, or car loan or lease is irresponsibly going into debt. I don't like debt; we are not as far apart on these subjects as you want to believe. However, my personal aversion to debt cannot get in the way of strategically planning for the needs and fulfillment of municipal obligations to the Village, for the present **and the future**. This involves leveraging the financial opportunities, be it grants or debt, as tools in support of the Village.

You act as though you are peeking into our secrets and want to expose some malice. We have been transparent and clearly report, share, and post information on what we are doing. Not only is it required by law, but it is our goal to inform and educate the community.

- - - - -  
Regarding Solar: Solar is supporting the infrastructure costs you call 'unjust'. That project is going to defray some of the burden from you. The full report was recently mailed to you. Pursuing Made in America products is always the priority, **whenever it is possible**.

The Village makes purchases that are Made in the U.S.A. whenever possible. The enormity of the expense associated with the Village projects is that we are required to have stamped USA pipe, per Federal USDA guidelines. This has significantly delayed and increased the cost of our WWTP Project; by \$70,000 for one single set of pipes that were unavailable in the US leading to the purchase of higher-grade stainless steel.

- - - - -  
Dictator is an insulting, patronizing, and disrespectful term; its suggestive tone is likened to Hitler and Nazism, inciting hate. Merely because I have accepted the responsibility, where no one has been willing.

For decades equipment, buildings, and infrastructure have continued to age and decay while there was no preparation or reserves made available.

CLERK-TREASURER JEANETTE RAMM 716-761-6781  
STREETS SUPERINTENDENT DOUGLAS CRANE 716-269-9096  
WATER & WASTEWATER CHIEF OPERATOR JAMES IRWIN 716-581-3397

You desire to demonize me and the trustees for the lack of planning and saving by those before us. You continue to point out business closures that occurred (or were in the process of closing) long before any of us were in office. While other businesses, *despite your selective hearing*, have closed for other more serious reasons, not because of the Village. The Village, or I should say, 'I' worked with Mark Graham for over a year with the CCIDA, STEDO, Five Star, and others to open Graham's Market and have been there through its closing. I am especially familiar with the situations, not only as the mayor, but in my profession as an accountant, and in your ignorance, you flippantly attempt to lay the closures on the Village. There's a multitude of reasons these businesses have closed, like COVID, staffing challenges, \*lack of local patrons\* supporting their business, changes to the agriculture industry in our region, changes to the way people shop and travel, the health, death, aging, and simple retirement or relocation of the staff or proprietor.

Entrepreneurs and families are looking at Sherman as an up-and-coming community. We have invested a great deal of time and effort in attracting investment to our community. The four trustees and I earn \$11,200 combined, much of our time in service is volunteered beyond the requirements of our positions. The five of us pay taxes and our water and sewer bills, abide by local zoning code, pay our fees; we are not exempt and well aware of the impact every decision we make has on the residents and businesses we serve.

Your constant messages sent through the office distracts and disturbs the clerk – particularly since you claim to do it all in God's name. You may want to check yourself as to whether you are self-righteously using the Word of God against others.

I have been put here for such a time as this, for this purpose. Whether you, "or I", like it! This has not been for my personal gain; I do not get any special recognition or accommodation, quite the contrary. This is true for each of the trustees, the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, and Steering Committee that serve. They serve despite the struggles they and their family endure in service to the community. Our members, volunteers, and employees are what inspire me and drive me to continue each day.

***I'm becoming increasingly intolerant of those that dismiss the work performed in service to them as the attitude of entitlement is growing exponentially everywhere, spreading like a disease.***

You need to ask the Lord in your next prayer why He did not provide you directly with water. Why did he bury it so deep that pumps and pipes must be used to draw it up and take it to your home and have it so conveniently flow safely to your tap. Do you see how ridiculous this "unjust" discussion is? Especially when it's really a debate over "entitlement" – by definition it is "the belief of inherent right to something" – which is exactly what you've argued before. Your biblical misuse and 'unjust' statements are under the religious guise of simple 'entitlement'; and that is committing evil in God's name.

I should not needlessly respond to your rebukes, Proverbs 26:4. I endeavor fruitlessly to try and edify you, because you relentlessly spread lies and misinformation on a quest to divide and destroy this community.

This community is very blessed to have plenty of safe well water from an uncontaminated aquifer and a distribution system that started with the ingenuity of Oliver W. Norton in the 1890's; a sewer collection system made of PVC installed in the 1970's under Mayor Ed Sprickman – who I'm sure was seen as the devil of his day; had he not made that decision (that was unfamiliar and risky), it otherwise would cost us several million more to replace. Many communities in our area are suffering from contaminated wells and local streams – and lakes!

CLERK-TREASURER JEANETTE RAMM	716-761-6781
STREETS SUPERINTENDENT DOUGLAS CRANE	716-269-9096
WATER & WASTEWATER CHIEF OPERATOR JAMES IRWIN	716-581-3397

**We are very fortunate to live in this community. In all things be thankful!**

We started these projects just before the costs began to skyrocket. We received commitments from financiers before the increasing interest rates. God's timing is perfect! The commitment Rural Development is holding for our stormwater project is only 1.25%. These are the big obvious items, but we have investors and donators, groups of volunteers growing in strength, and despite what you may believe – business growth, there is much to be thankful for during these challenging times.

Mr. Fowler, daily I thank the Lord for what He is providing, and know that He is in control. If not, I would have no reason to continue on with what has been such a **thankless and demeaning** task in serving what I'm finding to be a number of extremely ungrateful people.

You're sincerely welcome,



Colleen M. Meeder  
Mayor

You are interchangeably using the words 'debt' and 'bond' – meaning Bond Resolutions, which again:  
**BOND RESOLUTIONS DO NOT EQUAL DEBT**

I have included the information that you requested in this letter. For FOIL requests in the future contact the clerk-treasurer for the appropriate form for submission for consideration. The request needs to be clear and specific. The Village is under no obligation to summarize or package up information in a particular format at your request – or respond to a demand as **you require**. We may refer you to where you can find such information that was likely previously presented in multiple formats.

**[www.shermanny.org](http://www.shermanny.org)**

CLERK-TREASURER JEANETTE RAMM  
STREETS SUPERINTENDENT DOUGLAS CRANE  
WATER & WASTEWATER CHIEF OPERATOR JAMES IRWIN

716-761-6781  
716-269-9096  
716-581-3397



## New Sewer District Users Expected To Pay \$930 Annually

5/19/23, 11:41 AM

MyNews.OnTheGo

19 May 2023 — The Post-Journal

By Gregory Bacon

MAYVILLE - Residents who will be joining the new sewer district around Chautauqua Lake will pay less than \$1,000 a year due to some savings on the overall project.

During a meeting this week of the legislature's Public Facilities Committee, a resolution was approved setting the rate at \$930 annually. The resolution still needs final approval by the full legislature.

Tom Walsh, the director of the North Chautauqua Lake Sewer District, discussed the resolution before the vote.

Walsh noted that when the Phase I of the South Chautauqua Lake Sewer District extension was first proposed in 2020, it was expected to cost \$16,888,000. The project was expected to get \$7,972,000 in grant funds. New users of the district were told they would pay up to \$1,000 annually to cover the balance of the \$8.9 million loan.

He added that \$1,000 was a maximum amount permitted by the New York state comptroller's office.

Walsh said the project is about 90% complete and is actually under budget. He said the actual project cost came in at \$15,098,000, or \$1.79 million less than expected. Because the project is less than originally anticipated, the grant funding will drop around \$400,000. They will also borrow less money, needing a \$7,535,366 loan instead, which is about \$1.38 million lower than originally projected. The drop in the loan is why the new rate will be \$930 annually for the next 30 years, instead of \$1,000.

Of the \$930 charge, \$354 will be for operation and maintenance, while \$576 will be used for the loan.

Vacant properties with at least a quarter acre of land with sufficient road frontage for a new house construction will pay \$100 annual cost for the construction for a 30-year period.

Walsh noted that because there is now municipal sewer, the property values, including the vacant lands, are all going up.

# Mina continuing work for possible sewer district

By DAVID PRENATT

editorial@westfieldrepublican.com

**MINA** — The Town of Mina is literally “back to the drawing board” regarding the possibility of establishing a sewer district.

Town council members held a special meeting on June 13, largely to discuss an engineering study for a proposed sewer district. Present at the meeting were Jessica Wuerstle, Chautauqua County Director of Environmental Health Services, and Matt Zarbo, Engineer for Barton & Loguidice.

Zarbo told council members that the first step is to vote finalize a map plan and report of the sewer district. This district may include additions to a former map plan that was drawn a few years ago, he said. “The only thing that is hindering this project from getting funding is that the district is not formed,” he said.

Findley Lake has wrestled with septic problems for more than 20 years. There is a high level of phosphorus in the lake due to inadequate septic systems.

Mina Supervisor Rebecca Brumagin started the meeting with a call to Melanie Wright, Professional Environmental Engineer of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in Buffalo. Wright said the town needs to provide documentation that a project is underway to control chemicals in the lake. “A sewer system would absolutely get you there,” Wright said. “It’s much more difficult to prove upgrades to individual septic systems.”

Wuerstle agreed that a septic system would be preferable to individual septic system upgrades. “Sewers will give you the best and most dependable method of dealing with

waste water,” she said. “It does not depend on the individual maintaining their system properly.”

Another problem with septic systems that empty into the lake, Wuerstle said, is that chemicals used in the individual systems are specific. “There are chemicals that can bind phosphorus,” she said. “But they are specific to one chemical. They may work for phosphorus, but not nitrogen.”

Wuerstle said that out of 456 properties, only 170 currently have permitted sewer systems. Also, she said, some of the permitted properties might fail under inspection because additional structures may have been constructed on some properties since the permit was issued.

Mandatory inspections of septic systems were delayed a few years by COVID. However, Wuerstle said, unless the town has a sewer project underway, the Department of Health will begin inspections soon.

Also, because of the closeness of many of the houses around the lake, properties that don’t pass inspection would most likely require engineered systems which could cost up to \$25,000, said Wuerstle.

Zarbo reviewed the results of an engineering study regarding the formation of a new sewer district. He noted that the town has completed part 1 of a SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) which involves the background of the project, but parts 2 and 3, which involve summarizing and determining the environmental impact, have yet to be completed.

“The project is at its infant stage,” he said. “There are a lot of environmental requirements we

have to do.” However, Zarbo said, he does not foresee any difficulty with the SEQR. “The project will have an environmental impact, but nothing that is significant,” he said. “I do not project any issues. We will be asking for a negative declaration.”

Zarbo reviewed possible boundaries of a sewer district, including a proposed addition to the north of the hamlet.

He noted that, if a sewer system is constructed, most people would be required to hook into it, except for property owners whose land is also designated as a New York Agricultural District.

“Regardless of Mina zoning, the homeowners in a New York Agricultural District have the option of whether or not they want to hook up,” he said. “The best way to proceed is to coordinate with property owners in the district, and if they do not want to hook up, we will map the district around their properties.”

Zarbo estimated the project to cost \$30,716,000. However, he said, the town is in a very good position to receive grants. For instance, he said, it is likely the town could obtain a grant from the federal bi-partisan infrastructure law, which could pay up to 50% of the cost. The town is also eligible to apply for a water quality improvement project grant, as well as a WIIA grant, he said.

Zarbo said the town is in a particularly good position for assistance this year because it has been designated eligible for a New York State Hardship Grant Loan.

He said he is hopeful that the town will receive funding for at least 75% of the project, if not more.

## Clymer Eyes \$10.4M Water System Project

7/18/23, 9:11 AM

MyNews.OnTheGo

17 Jul 2023 – The Post-Journal

By Sara Holthouse

CLYMER - A consultant is recommending the Clymer Town Board undertake a \$10.4 million upgrade of the town's water system. The system hasn't been updated since 1967.

Board members heard from Andrew Meyerhofer, an engineer with Barton and Loguidice, the firm hired to work on the project.

"Basically the town of Clymer owns and operates a water system that consists of one operational well, the well house, the water storage tank and about six and a quarter miles of distribution" Town Supervisor Brian Willink said. "All of it was basically built in 1967. Some of the proponents of the town's water system do not meet current health standards and are in need of significant rehab or replacement due to age related deficiencies."

The overall cost for the upgrades is an estimated \$10.4 million. One option to avoid the upgrade is to consolidate with the town of Sherman, but Sherman is considered too far away despite having the nearest water source suitable for the project. That's why Meyerhofer said they recommend the upgrades.

Health Department violations listed for the current town water system include:

- only one water well is in use, with the second no longer in use because of high nitrate levels;
- there is no current security at the water tank;
- the overflow does not discharge to the correct location;
- the tank has rust spots;
- asbestos has been found in the water main, and
- there is low water pressure at spots on Clymer Hill Road.

Upgrades proposed include a new well, replacing the storage tank with a glass coating, bolted steel water tank and new water meters.

Meyerhofer discussed the next steps with the board, saying construction could take place in 2025 or 2026. Willink reminded the board that just because they held a public hearing does not necessarily mean they have to move forward with the project, but they would be looking into grants with the help of Barton and Loguidice.

**VILLAGE OF SHERMAN**  
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July 31, 2023

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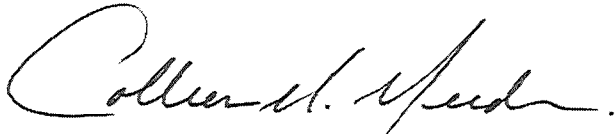
Mr. Fowler,

With the unanimous resolution of the Board of Trustees, I am directing you to refrain from any communication with Village employees or volunteers that is not relevant to municipal business. This has been creating a hostile and distracting environment for Village employees and volunteers, particularly involving those in the Village Office and at Village controlled work sites.

The Village of Sherman will no longer accept communications from you, or the Assembly of God Church, that are not directly related to the municipal business of the Village.

Understand the Village will not accept and will return all written communications that contain messages not directly related to conducting municipal business. This may include returning checks with such messages, leading to the possibility of delayed payment and the assessment of late fees on the accounts. 'Any information extraneous to the matter of payment will make the check not acceptable.'

Regards,



Colleen M. Meeder  
Mayor

cc: Assembly of God Church

*"Preserving our Past... Working for our Future"*

THE HONORABLE COLLEEN MEEDER, MAYOR  
DEPUTY MAYOR RYAN SANDERS  
TRUSTEES DENNIS WATSON, GARY EMORY & DANIEL CRANE

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