

The Westfield Republican

"First Republican Newspaper Printed in U. S. A."

Also serving the communities of Chautauqua and Mayville since 1856

Volume 190, Number 19

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

Westfield, New York

Sherman applying for grant to renovate building

By DAVID PRENATT

editorial@westfieldrepublican.com

SHERMAN — The village of Sherman held a public hearing to get the public's comments on the village's application to the RESTORE New York Communities Initiative.

Sherman Mayor Colleen Meeder explained that the "Restore NY" program is administered by Empire State Development and is providing \$250 million in new funding from the 2022-23 state budget, over two rounds, of which \$100 million will be awarded in the first round. Applications are due Tuesday, Oct. 11, she said. The state will award \$150 million in the second round, Meeder said, and applications are due on or around Jan. 11. Restore NY provides grants to the local municipality as the project applicant, for restoring buildings, and the municipality then sub-grants to businesses, non-profits, and private individuals, she said. The project match required is a minimum of 10%, she added.

According to the village website, "The Restore New York Communities Initiative ("Restore NY") provides municipalities with financial assistance for the revitalization of commercial and residential properties. The program encourages community development and neighborhood growth through the elimination and redevelopment of blighted structures."

Meeder explained that state grants are reimbursable; the funding will be awarded upon project completion. She said the NYS Restore New York Property Assessment List for the village application includes the project at the site of 130 West Main Street of 8,000 square feet of commercial



Sherman Village Board members are pictured during public hearing to apply for a RESTORE New York grant.

property to be reconstructed/ rehabilitated from its current vacant status.

The tentative plan for the building at 130 West Main is to renovate it into a community center, which could be used for a variety of purposes, Meeder said. The projected cost of the project is \$2 million.

"A lot of people have been coming to us and saying 'we want space for . . .'" Possible uses of the center include space for veterans, supervised visits of foster children, micro-businesses, a sensory center for children and a center for the aged," she said. "Since the property was donated, there have been a host

of things suggested."

A feasibility study was completed in 2021, in which recommendations for renovating the building at 130 West Main Street were included. These renovations would include a new facade with a mural, a new full lite metal store front door and new awning-style garage doors, repairs to all windows and a full width canopy with individual metal signage above.

Meeder reminded those in attendance that all information pertaining to Sherman's application to the RESTORE New York Communities Initiative can be found on the village website.