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Sherman approves purchase of parking lot

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SHERMAN – Village trustees approved a resolution for the purchase of a section of the Graham's Market parking lot for \$6,000 at a special meeting on Aug. 18.

The village intends to construct two electric vehicle charging stations at that location, said Mayor Colleen Meeder. The agreement is contingent upon the award of the NYSDEC grant for these stations.

The area to be purchased encompasses a section of the upper parking lot above Graham's Market at 104 Church Street. The section is a little over one half of the entire lot, Meeder said.

Village trustees approved the agreement with the owners of Graham's Market after pursuing a recommendation from Chautauqua County Planning Department to investigate the installation of



The village of Sherman Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a section of the Graham's Market parking lot at a special meeting.

electric vehicle charging stations. Matt Bourke of the Chautauqua County Planning Department offered to write a letter of support for the village's grant application

with the NYSDEC.

At their 14 meeting, Meeder told trustees that county department recommended that the installation of two electric

charging stations be included in the Village's comprehensive plan. This recommendation, which was made by Bourke, has since been included in the Village's updated comprehensive plan, Meeder said.

"A lot of what we're looking at is creating a spot where people will want to come and leave their vehicles," Meeder said. "The parking lot behind Graham's Market seems to be the best spot."

Meeder said it has been the goal of the Village to place the charging stations where they will be most beneficial. "The spot we're purchasing is a place where, if you have to leave your car for three hours to be charged, it is a secure, comfortable place," she said. "And it has walk-ability to Main Street."

New York state has launched an aggressive program to phase out gas-powered vehicles, Meeder told the board. According to

a report issued by electrive.com in October, 2020, "The state of New York is considering joining California by launching their own phase-out of gas-fueled vehicles by 2035."

In other business, trustees discussed the plan to hold two public hearings regarding New York State's requirement that municipalities opt in or opt out of allowing cannabis retail dispensaries or on-site consumption licenses from locating within their boundaries.

The state Office of Cannabis Management has recently clarified the role of municipalities. "Cities, towns, and villages can opt-out of allowing adult-use cannabis retail dispensaries or on-site consumption licenses from locating within their jurisdictions. Municipalities cannot opt-out of adult-use legalization."

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The Office of Cannabis Management further advises that, to opt-out, a municipality must pass a local law by December 31, 2021. According to the NYSOCM, "If a municipality does not opt out by the end of 2021, they will be unable to opt out at a future date. However, a municipality may opt back in, to allow either, or both, adult-use retail dispensary or

on-site consumption license types by repealing the local law which established the prohibition."

In another matter, board members received brief operational updates. Chief Wastewater Operator Jay Irwin told trustees a new seal has been installed on the triple drive unit and it is working well. Since it was possible to replace the seal and,

thus, prevent the drive from leaking, the village did not need to purchase a new triple drive unit which would have cost approximately \$20,000.

Irwin also told the board that good progress is being made on water line installation. However, he said, the village is encountering some supply issues, which may cause delays.