

The Westfield Republican

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

Also serving the communities of Chautauqua and Mayville since 1856

Volume 190, Number 16

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021

Westfield, New York

Stepping towards providing vehicle charging stations for Sherman

By David Prenatt

editorial@westfieldrepublican.com

Village of Sherman Board of Trustees are one step closer to providing electric vehicle charging stations, having approved a resolution authorizing the Village attorney and Mayor Colleen Meeder to take steps to have property on Church Street appraised.

Board members authorized the appraisal of the parking lot next to Graham's Market at their regular meeting on August 4.

At their July 14 meeting, Meeder told trustees that Chautauqua County recommended that the installation of two electric charging stations be included in the Village's comprehensive plan. NYSER- TA provides \$4,000 per electric

charging station, and National Grid funds up to 90% of construction costs, she said.

However, Meeder told trustees, the NYSDEC grant is more expansive than the NYSERTA grant, so the Village is proceeding with NYSDEC and National Grid. The NYSDEC grant is a reimbursable grant, but, according to Matt Zarbo, it may even cover the cost of the land, she added.

"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."

Trustee Donna Higgenbothom asked about other possible locations, such as property that the Vil-



Jay Irwin

lage already owns, perhaps behind the old Ford Garage. Meeder responded that it has not been determined what the long-term use of the property will be.

See CHARGING, Page A8

CHARGING, From Page 1

"We are still a ways away from this," Meeder said. "We're still getting clarification about what the State requires."

Meeder said if the charging stations do become a reality, the Village will try to place them where they will be most beneficial. "The spot we're looking at 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 walkability to Main Street."

Meeder said the construction of the charging stations would be very good for Sherman. "This is very exciting to the planning board because it gets us on the map," she said. She added that New York State has launched a very aggressive

program to phase out gas-powered vehicles.

According to a report issued by electrivive.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." New York State Senate Bill S9008A (ACTIVE) - Provides that one hundred percent of in-state sales of new passenger cars and trucks shall be zero-emissions by two thousand thirty-five, medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles by two thousand forty-five and off-road vehicles and equipment by two thousand thirty-five.

In another matter, Meeder told trustees that she is drafting a letter to the NYS Independent Redistricting Commis-

sion, objecting to Congressional Redistricting, which would result in the Southern Tier's loss of representation. "We are in danger of losing our representation in Washington," she said.

In other business, Chief Wastewater Operator Jay Irwin told Board of Trustee members that it may not be necessary to purchase a triple reduction drive to keep the current system running. With the assistance of a resident who is familiar with these drives, Irwin said, they may be able to replace the seal to stop the drive from leaking. "If it fixes it, we are not going any further," he said.

Irwin said the resident read about the triple reduction drive problem in the newspaper and

reached out to the Village, offering his assistance. He told trustees that the part to repair the drive has been ordered.

Irwin also told board members that residents may experience some discolored water while lines are being installed, but no significant disruption in service is expected.

In a related matter, trustees passed a resolution to authorize the clerk-treasurer to advertise the Sherman Wastewater Improvement Project for bids at the discretion of the mayor.

Board members also passed a resolution authorizing a special meeting to be held on August 18 at 6 pm for the purpose of a SEQRA for composting Grade A biosolids.