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Village of Sherman to receive grants

By David Prenatt

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SHERMAN — The Village of Sherman received notification on June 15 by New York State Homes and Community Renewal that it was awarded a Community Development Block Grant of \$488,250 for housing rehabilitation, said Mayor Colleen Meeder.

The Village Board of Trustees were told at their regular meeting on June 14 that award announcements were imminent, and, according to Meeder, "It was the consensus that if we were not awarded this 2020 cycle, we would apply again next year."

Meeder said it was known that the 2020 cycle was a challenging one. "We knew this would be a very competitive grant cycle, many communities share similar needs," she said.

Upon receiving the news that the Village was awarded the grant, board members were very excited, Meeder said. "The trustees were ecstatic and we are very grateful to assist residents in a way that will directly impact their most critical needs, such as replacing

leaky roofs, bad foundations, furnaces, windows, and the like," she said.

Meeder said the grant will be used to rehabilitate 8 or 9 eligible households in the village. The program will largely be administered by CHRIC (Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation), who will reach out to those who initially applied to further verify income eligibility and maintenance needs, she said.

Meeder noted that it may not be visible to the public that \$40,000 - \$60,000 in improvements have been made to a single dwelling. Nevertheless, of the grants received by the Village, this is the one that will most directly impact the lives of the residents by giving assistance for the most basic and critical of needs, she said.

"It maintains the health and safety of our residential community, preventing future blight and demolition," she said. "This will affect the face of Sherman in ways beyond brick and mortar, and aesthetic facades."

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This is the third 2020 Community Development Block Grant that the Village has received, Meeder said. For this project, the Village received 25 applications from residents, of which CHRIC will select 8 or 9 to receive funding, following scored criteria that includes rehabilitation needs, income eligibility, as well as ADA and VA status.

Meeder said that applicants who are not selected should apply again. "The Village is encouraging people to apply, and though eight or so may be assisted in this cycle, the Village intends to work with CHRIC on additional rounds to assist everyone eligible in time," Meeder said.



Village of Sherman mayor Colleen Meeder.