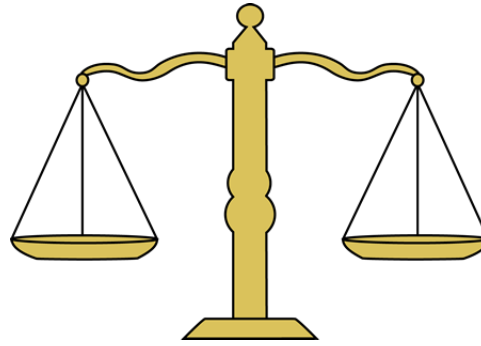


## Building a Foundation for the Future

- ◆ Supported by all properties with infrastructure available
- ◆ Further supported by all with ready to serve access—whether it is in use or not
- ◆ By equitably distributing the fixed costs over all customers
- ◆ Applying consumption rates for actual amount used to variable costs, directly related to flow
- ◆ Accurately coding expenditures to the **TWO** utility funds
- ◆ Meeting NYS requirements for billing based on MHI
- ◆ Providing salary and benefits appropriate to the industry certifications



A revised public utility rate structure will bring balance to an unsupported infrastructure. As houses have been demoed and the businesses have changed in the last 4 decades, while the weight of costs have been applied to use and not a steady base charge, this has left gaps in funding to support current and future public water and sewer utility services.



## NOTICES FROM THE VILLAGE OF SHERMAN

111 Mill Street, PO Box 629

Sherman, NY 14781

716-761-6781

## WATER & SEWER RATE

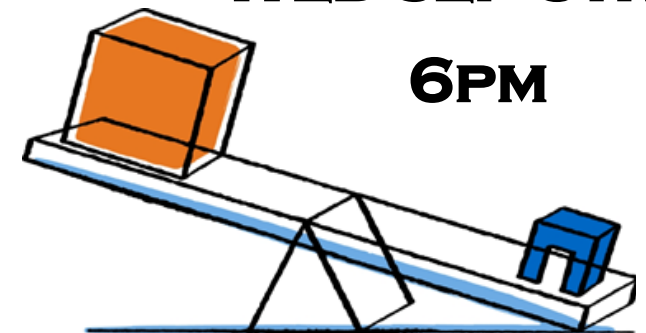
## RESTRUCTURE

## VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS & PUBLIC HEARINGS

**WED AUG 1ST**

**WED SEP 5TH**

**6PM**



*“Sherman is a small  
community with little  
'or limited' income,”*

## WATER AND SEWER UTILITY SERVICE BILLS

Two related themes keep emerging in the Village's role in managing the water and sewer public utilities - 'responsibility' and 'sustainability'. The Village of Sherman is thoroughly evaluating the current status of the water and sewer utility services. The water and sewer funds financial positions, condition of the infrastructure and human resource demands have been examined.

- \$0 – Neither the water nor sewer funds have saved for necessary capital improvement projects
- In times of fund shortage, the general fund has supplemented water and sewer fund shortages
- Water and sewer bills are below the NY State recommended average, and properties with infrastructure have not been properly billed
- The water department has nearly a million dollars in transmission and water meter replacement projects required, and the 40 yr old sewer treatment plant will require a several million dollar investment in improvements
- Grant funding is available to greatly assist in the capital improvements once the points are met
- Decisions made today will support the public utilities for the next 40yrs; the bottom line is sustainability

...this is the response to any news of rate or wage increases. NY State bases their expectations of municipalities on MHI, Median Household Income. This factor takes into consideration the economic situation of our residents, customers, and taxpayers. NY State's standard for the average residential water bill is 1.5%-2% of MHI and another 1.5%-2% for sewer.

There is a responsibility to contribute at the level NY State expects before NYS will grant additional funds.

For the water grants to be successful, the average residential water bill should be at least 1.5% of MHI.

For additional sewer supplemental grants, the average residential sewer bill should be nearing 2% of MHI.

Presently, Sherman is considerably below NY State's expected contribution percentages.

# Responsibility

Area water superintendents and chief sewer operators are receiving nearly 1.5X the salary of Sherman employees, and that's before the consideration of benefits or longevity. While the DOH & DEC increase requirements, there is an increasing demand in certified employees, and fewer qualified individuals. The Sherman department heads are local and loyal, and understand they will remain below average to their equivalent counterparts. That being said, it has been made clear that the Board has a responsibility to ensure that the salaries and benefits are close to the industry standard. The job descriptions necessitate particular certifications which would be relatively costly to replace. Low wage percentage increases on lower than average wages further widens the salary gap and creates an unrealistic deficit to overcome. The incremental changes the Board is making is to secure a similar and sustainable standard.

# Sustainability