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Sherman lowers tax rate in new budget

By **DAVID PRENATT**

editorial@westfieldrepublican.com

Village of Sherman Board of Trustees voted to lower the tax rate by 18 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value at a public hearing for the 2022-23 budget on April 20.

During the regular meeting, trustees approved the 2022-23 budget for the Village of Sherman in the amount of \$1,012,871. The tax levy portion of the budget was set at \$221,197 which is a 3.6% increase from last year.

Village Mayor Colleen Meeder said assessment values in the village increased by \$1,133,134, and the Special Franchise increased by \$1,091,971. She explained that the tax levy increase for the Village is \$7,690, creating a 3.6% increase in the

levy.

But because of the increase in assessed values, the village was able to actually decrease the tax rate slightly, Meeder said.

In a brief meeting of the Municipal Zoning Board, trustees approved six annual dumpster special use permits of which four were commercial with no condition and two were residential with no condition. Board members also approved the Code Enforcement Officer's recommendation to wave the \$25 roof permit for the Town of Sherman.

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees followed the public hearing for the budget and the Municipal Zoning Board meeting.

See **SHERMAN**, Page A2

SHERMAN, From Page 1

Chief Wastewater Operator Jay Irwin brought attention to the Village's yellow, pink and green lights which have been installed in the light strings on Main Street, which can now be changed to correlate with each holiday season.

Meeder gave a brief update on the progress of the EV charging stations. "We've met with National Grid regarding the EV stations. The closing on the parking lot property at Graham's Market is imminent," she said. "Also, engineering has begun on the project."

Meeder also updated trustees on several capital projects, including the downtown feasibility study and the downtown market analysis. Regarding the NYMS-TA (New York Main Street Technical Assistance Planning Grant), Clinton Brown has prepared the final concept plans for the Steering Committee, property owners and NYSOCR (New York State Office of Community Renewal), she said. "The next step will be the grant application, in the amount of \$500,000 for the implementation phase," she added.

Regarding the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant), Meeder said representatives from Camoin Associates would present the Downtown Market Analysis at the Open House. "Following collection of feedback from the community forum, they will meet with the Steering Committee to complete the com-

munity planning study," she said. "The next step will be reviewing the CFA (Consolidated Funding Application) for economic development opportunities."

In other business, Meeder told trustees that she met with the Chamber of Commerce on two occasions, regarding Sherman's 1st Annual Music Festival, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 10 at Edmunds Park, and concerning the digital/social media footprint of Sherman, as well as coordination of planters in the Village.

Meeder said she also met with County Executive P.J. Wendel on the Infrastructure Bill and Village Projects. "At this time, they are asking that we be prepared for opportunities," she said. "While they are unaware of how the Infrastructure funds will be funneled down to the local municipalities," she said. "County Executive Wendel is anticipating that the County will be given discretionary control."

Meeder also announced that a Sherman Rural and Village Map and Directory, which belonged to Leonard A. Persons, was donated by the Cady family and is on display at the Clerk's office.

Trustees approved the payroll schedule for village employees hourly wages, beginning June 12, and the Mayor's annual salary of \$6,000 was also approved, as well as the monthly cell phone reimbursement of \$75.

Trustees also approved an agreement with Heritage Resources, LLC to assist the village with the grant application for the Main Street building improvements in the amount of \$6,000. The application will be made through the Consolidated Funding Agency to the Office of Community Renewal for NY Main Street Implementation Funds.

Use of the ARPA/SLFEF Funds for Main Street economic and community development, drinking water improvement, stormwater infrastructure improvement, wastewater treatment plant capital improvements, EV charging stations implementation and trail improvements were also approved by trustees.

A moratorium on storage in Main Street buildings was approved by trustees. The moratorium states that no business or community property located in the C1 district may be used for storage on the ground level nor may any building be used to keep inventory for online or mail order business.

Village trustees also approved the introduction of the amendment to the proposed Local Law 1 of 2022 for the Amendment to the Water Rents Law, increasing the monthly base water charge to \$27.50, effective June 1, 2022, to be first due and payable in August, 2022. The monthly base water charge will increase to \$30, effective June 1, 2023, to be first due and payable in August, 2023.