

The Westfield Republican

"First Republican Newspaper Printed in U. S. A."
Also serving the communities of Chautauqua and Mayville since 1856

Volume 189, Number 51

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

Westfield, New York

75¢

Village of Sherman enters 'last leg' of its water project

By David Prenatt

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SHERMAN — The Village of Sherman entered the "last leg" of its water system improvement project, as board of trustee members awarded construction and electrical bids during a special meeting on April 7.

The contract for construction of the new water system was awarded to J.D. Northrup construction, Inc. for the amount of \$1,053,882.50. The electrical contract was awarded to BECC of Fredonia for the amount of \$199,900.

"This is an exciting time," said Sherman Mayor Colleen Meeder. "This is the last leg of our water project that started in 2002."

In the fall of 2019, the Village applied for grants to complete upgrades for the water system. These grants were made possible because the Village was classified as a "great hardship" under the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act.

Meeder told board members that the construction bid was "significantly under the amount we had budgeted." However, the bid was examined thoroughly by the engineering firm Barton & LoGuidice to make sure it

met the needs of the project, she said.

Meeder said construction of the water system should begin in July and be completed by the end of 2021.

Meeder also told trustees that there were two bids for the electrical work and they were very close. BECC was the lowest, however, she noted that the Village engineers also carefully examined the bid and approved it.

In other business, trustees established the standard work day for Meeder, and trustees Kirk Ayers and Dennis Watson. For every six hours worked, they receive credit for one day of work toward their retirement. The establishment of the standard work day is required by the New York State and local Retirement System.

The board also established the Village as the lead agency in completing the State Environmental Quality Review Act full environmental assessment form being submitted by Solar Liberty Energy Systems, Inc. The review involves a plan to construct 32,500 solar panels on a 32-acre plot in the Sherman area.

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Village of Sherman Mayor Colleen Meeder

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Trustees also approved the hiring of three summer laborers at the rate of \$12.50 an hour for general work, such as mowing, painting, cleaning and yard work. The laborers are classified as occasional workers.

Village Clerk Jeanette Ramm will be circulating

a letter to inform area residents that spring clean-up begins on Tuesday, April 13.

The Board of Trustees will gather for their regular meeting on Wednesday, April 14 at 6 p.m. That meeting will also include a public hearing on the proposed budget.