

# VILLAGE OF SHERMAN

## HOME OF THE YORKER MUSEUM

111 MILL ST, PO BOX 629, SHERMAN, NY 14781  
716-761-6781 TDD 711 \* VILLAGE.SHERMAN@GMAIL.COM

**WWW.SHERMANNY.ORG**

January 11, 2021

USDA Rural Development

Subject: Village of Sherman  
Project Name: Stormwater Project  
RD Apply Infrastructure Loan

Dear Area Specialist,

You have been presented with the engineers' perspective of our need for a stormwater improvement project. Allow me to give you my perspective as a municipal officer responsible for the residents, businesses, and their needs that are bigger than what anyone of them on their own can achieve.

The last major flood in the Village of Sherman occurred two days before I took office. I witnessed crushed foliage, an entire football field and park under nearly 10 feet of water, geysers coming up 6+ feet from DI's, basements flooded close to the first floor joists, and homeowners concerned for the electrical panels and utility appliances in their basements. The only things preventing the situation from becoming more serious were the many volunteer fire department members pumping out basements, and the Village crew members pulling debris from DI's and removing a crushed sluice pipe five feet in diameter. This occurred on a November evening, but early enough that residents were able to identify the problems and respond.

To date the flooding has come from significant amounts of rain in a short period of time. If these rainfalls would coincide with a thaw, or following consistent rainfall, the damage could be devastating.

What we came to discover about these flooding incidents, is that they are a result of two particular problems:

- 1.) Sherman was built around French Creek, and the Village sits in a valley below Titus Road. The water from Titus funnels down mostly between Miller and Edmunds Street, flooding Columbia, Park, and First Streets, collecting at the athletic field acting as a giant retention pond before it slowly drains out to French Creek.
- 2.) The insufficient infrastructure was not planned or engineered. The culvert and pipe size of the stormwater system becomes narrower as it comes in and bottlenecks creating backflow and pooling until it has a chance to drain in to French Creek. In 2018, residents on East Street had stormwater backing up into their basements. The Streets Dept. unearthed crushed hot water tanks laid end to end. Ultimately the entire street received an unscheduled stormwater line replacement that was not budgeted.

Flooding is a great concern of any Mayor, second only to a fire. We are a small community with a low median household income. Stormwater is not directly funded like the Water and Sewer utility services. It has been long neglected, and is absolutely critical to the long-term health and safety of our community. This is our current position and our plan to achieve these goals.

*"Preserving our Past... Working for our Future"*

THE HONORABLE COLLEEN MEEDER, MAYOR

DEPUTY MAYOR ISAAC GRATTO

TRUSTEES DONNA LEE HIGGINBOTHAM, KIRK AYERS AND RYAN SANDERS

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Budget FY 6/2020-5/2021

The budget of 2021 reflects these same streets equipment purchases as noted on Form RD 442-2. Future budgets will reflect an estimated \$1,500 in Operational and Maintenance Expense to cover contractual and repair costs; the Village will commit to an annual reserve of \$2,720 for short-live assets. These expenditures will be paid from the local property tax revenue.

The Village of Sherman plans to find opportunities to contribute to the match with in-kind services, and will budget for as much as \$24,000 per year in debt principal and interest payments for the stormwater project. The \$24,000 estimate was calculated assuming 35 years remaining on a 40 year infrastructure debt schedule with a need for long-term financing of \$500,000 at 3% interest.

The Stormwater Project will be constructed in several phases over multiple years allowing for close management of in-kind services and matching cash fund requirements. It is the Village's intent to keep the long-term debt service to \$250,000 - \$500,000.

Future 'Other Income': The Village has a community solar array project currently under review (CESIR) with National Grid, and the Village is under contract to receive \$24,000 per year for one of the two arrays (ultimately \$48,000/year for 25 years to 45 year with contract extensions). This solar revenue from leasing Village owned property will contribute to the Stormwater Project and other infrastructure improvements the Village is undertaking.

GIGP – Green Innovation Grant Program

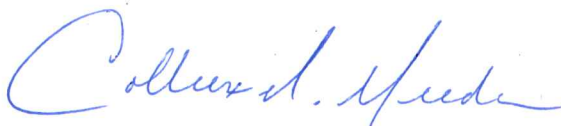
The Village of Sherman is submitting the first GIGP grant application to the NYS DEC / NYSEFC for \$2.3 million in stormwater infrastructure on and near Main Street. This application for 2020 funds is due 2/12/2021. We anticipate a 90% grant with a Village match of \$230,000. In addition to in-kind services the Village is investigating other opportunities like the RD Rural Business Development Grant program to work in coordination with the Stormwater Project.

The Village is committed to planning and budgeting for a comprehensive approach to resolving these flooding concerns by:

- using green and sustainable materials on Main Street improving our business district,
- installing a reliable, properly sized system of infrastructure quickly channeling the flow to French Creek,
- slowing the heavy flow at its origin with the use of bioswales and forebays.

Your consideration of financing the long-term debt portion of this Stormwater Project for the Village of Sherman is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Colleen M. Meeder  
Mayor

CLERK-TREASURER JEANETTE RAMM  
STREETS & WATER SUPERINTENDENT DOUGLAS CRANE  
WWTP CHIEF OPERATOR JAMES IRWIN

716-761-6781  
716-269-9096  
716-581-3397