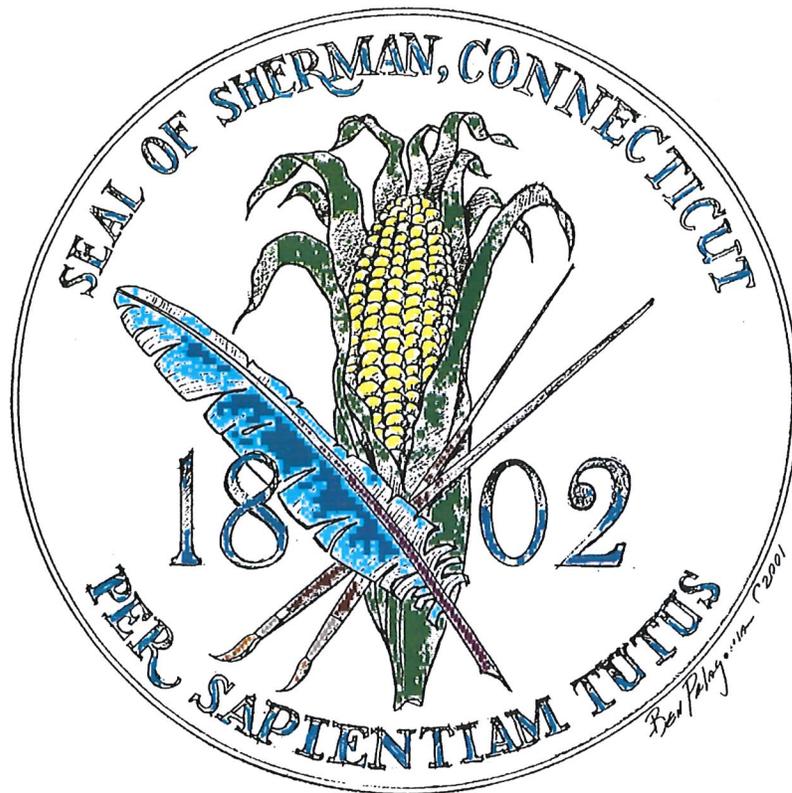


TOWN OF SHERMAN



ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024



Please find enclosed the
Annual Report for the Town of Sherman
For the year ended June 30, 2024

- Independent Auditors Report from the firm of Clermont and Associates, LLC
- Superintendent of Schools
- Sherman Volunteer Fire Department
- Resident State Trooper
- Fire Marshal's Office/Facilities Mgt
- Park and Recreation Commission
- Public Works
- Planning and Zoning Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Building Department
- Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission
- Social Services Department
- Senior Center
- Registrar of Voters
- Commission on Aging
- Historic District Commission
- Housing Commission (no quorum/no submission)
- Conservation Commission
- Commission for the Arts
- Land Acquisition Fund Advisory Board (no quorum/no submission)
- The Sherman Library
- Candlewood Lake Authority

Don Lowe

First Selectman

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

June 30, 2024

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT
 June 30, 2024
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TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT
 June 30, 2024
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CLERMONT

ACCOUNTANTS • ADVISORS

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Waterbury CT 06708

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Selectmen
Town of Sherman
Sherman, CT 06784

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Sherman, Connecticut, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Sherman, Connecticut's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Sherman, Connecticut as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in the financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Sherman, Connecticut and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Sherman, Connecticut's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we;

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Sherman, Connecticut's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events considered in aggregate, which raise substantial doubt about the Town of Sherman, Connecticut's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the *management's discussion and analysis* on pages 4a through 4e and the required supplementary information relating to pension on pages 42-46, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town of Sherman, Connecticut's basic financial statements. The accompanying combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and schedules, the statement of changes in fund balance – by project, the schedule of property taxes levied, collected and outstanding, and the schedule of debt limitation are presented for the purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual non-major fund financial statements and schedules described in the above paragraph are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 18, 2024, on our consideration of the Town of Sherman, Connecticut's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Sherman, Connecticut's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Town of Sherman, Connecticut's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

CLERMONT & ASSOCIATES LLC
Waterbury, Connecticut



October 18, 2024

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2024

This discussion and analysis of the Town of Sherman, Connecticut's (the "Town") financial performance is provided by management to provide an overview of the Town's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. Please read this MD&A in conjunction with the Town's financial statements.

Financial Highlights

- The net position of our governmental activities increased by \$307 thousand.
- The General Fund reported a fund balance this year of \$5.6 million; \$17 thousand less than the general fund balance reported in the prior year.
- The Town maintained a capital reserve fund balance of \$1.8 million, this decreased by \$193 thousand from the prior year.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities (Exhibits A and B, respectively) provide information about the activities of the Town as a whole and present a long-term view of the Town's finances. Fund financial statements are presented in Exhibits C and D. For governmental activities, these statements tell how these services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund financial statements also report the Town's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements by providing information about the Town's most significant funds. The remaining statements provide financial information about activities for which the Town acts solely as a trustee or agent for the benefit of those outside of the government.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The analysis of the Town as a whole begins on Exhibits A and B. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities reports information about the Town as a whole and about its activities for the current period. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. All the current year's revenues and expenses are considered regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report on the Town's net position and related changes. The Town's net position, the difference between assets and liabilities, is one way to measure the Town's financial health, or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the Town's net position are one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. The reader needs to consider other non-financial factors, such as changes in the Town's property tax base and the condition of the Town's capital assets, to assess the overall health of the Town.

Government-Wide Financial Statements (continued)

In the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, the Town reports its activities as follows:

- *Governmental activities* - The Town's basic services are reported here, including general government, public safety, community services, public works, education, and municipal facilities. Property taxes, charges for services, and state and federal grants finance most of these activities.

Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements begin with Exhibit C and provide detailed information about the most significant funds - not the Town as a whole. Some funds are required to be established by the State Statute. However, the Board of Selectman establishes many other funds to help control and manage financial activities for particular purposes or to show that it is meeting legal responsibilities for using grants and other money (like grants received for education from the State and Federal governments). The Town's funds are divided into three categories: governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary.

- *Governmental funds (Exhibits C and D)* - Most of the Town's basic services are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. These funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can be readily converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Town's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps to determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Town's programs. The relationship (or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds is described in a reconciliation at the bottom of the fund financial statements.
- *Fiduciary funds (Exhibits G and H)* - The Town is the trustee, or fiduciary, for its employees' pension plans. All the Town's fiduciary activities are reported in separate statements of fiduciary net assets and changes in fiduciary net position. These activities are excluded from the Town's other financial statements because the Town cannot use these assets to finance its operations. The Town is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used for their intended purposes.

Government-Wide Financial Analysis

The analysis below focuses on the net position (Table 1) and changes in net position (Table 2) of the Town's governmental activities. The Town's net position for governmental activities increased \$307 thousand from \$23.1 million in 2022 to \$23.4 million in 2024.

Table 1: Net Position

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Current and other assets	\$ 11,768,256	11,536,043
Capital assets	15,827,835	15,995,117
Deferred outflows	131,585	188,497
Total assets & deferred outflows	\$ 27,727,676	27,719,657
Current and other liabilities	\$	1,418,832
Deferred inflows	161,600	
Long-term liabilities	4,149,974	3,191,397
Total liabilities & deferred inflows	\$ 4,311,574	4,610,229
Net position:		
Investment in capital assets	\$ 13,442,835	13,200,117
Restricted	2,329,303	2,113,309
Unrestricted	7,643,964	7,796,002
Total net position	\$ 23,416,102	23,109,428

Table 2: Change In Net Assets

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Revenues:		
Program revenues:		
Charges for services	\$ 770,541	694,712
Operating grants and contributions	2,156,604	2,141,905
Capital grants and contributions	284,390	509,989
General revenues:		
Property taxes	13,738,664	13,705,121
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific purposes	108,697	38,327
Unrestricted investment earnings and other revenues	683,675	435,904
Sale of Assets		20,957
Miscellaneous	82,887	28,381
Total revenues	\$ 17,825,458	17,575,296
Program expenses:		
General government	\$ 1,510,194	1,328,055
Public safety	1,343,089	1,159,457
Public works	1,522,770	1,650,878
Health and welfare	172,411	589,324
Culture and recreation	709,382	141,632
Education	11,841,495	11,404,341
Other	352,993	119,467
Interest on long-term debt	66,450	82,032
Total program expenses	\$ 17,518,784	16,475,186
Increase (decrease) in net position	\$ 306,674	1,100,110

Town Funds Financial Analysis

Governmental Funds

As the Town completed the year, its governmental funds (as presented in the Balance Sheet - Exhibit C) reported a combined fund balance of \$9.9 million which was a \$32 thousand decrease from the previous year. Included in this year's total change in fund balance was a \$193 thousand in the capital projects spending, an \$18 thousand operating deficit in the general fund and liquidation of the revaluation savings account to fund the revaluation program.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

Exhibit F shows the summary information of budget to actual revenues, expenditures, and changes in undesignated, unreserved fund balance (funds available to be appropriated).

- Property tax collections, permits and fees and investment income were significantly more than expected, which provided for an additional \$167 thousand in revenues over budget.
- Department of Education over spent the appropriation by \$200 thousand causing an operating deficit in the general fund budget.
- The total undesignated fund balance was \$5.6 million, of which the majority was without restrictions or assignments and are available to be appropriated.

Capital Assets

At June 30, 2024, the Town had approximately \$16.0 million invested in a broad range of capital assets, including land, buildings, park facilities, vehicles and equipment, roads, and bridges. The total Town's amount represents a decrease (including additions and deductions) of 167 thousand, net of depreciation expenses. The Town has two large ongoing projects included in contraction in progress, which includes the school playground and school redevelopment projects.

Table 3: Capital Assets (Net of Depreciation)

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Land	\$ 2,851,200	2,851,200
Construction in progress	484,281	148,890
Buildings and improvements	9,120,403	9,605,291
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment	723,271	761,090
Vehicles	760,267	653,568
Infrastructure	1,888,413	1,975,077
Totals	\$ <u>15,827,835</u>	<u>15,995,116</u>

Long-Term Liabilities

At June 30, 2024, the Town had \$2.7 million in long-term liabilities versus \$3.2 million last year. The largest decrease includes the continual payments on the Town's 2017 general obligation bond.

The Town closed its defined benefit plan to new employees and froze participants' monthly pension calculations as of June 30, 2005 (no additional benefits will accrue under the plan for the subsequent periods). An independent actuarial valuation has determined the Town carries a net plan asset of \$156 thousand and is well funded.

The Town established a Defined Contribution Pension Plan for its employees on July 1, 2005. Under this plan, employees can contribute a portion of their pay to the plan, and the Town matches 100% of employees' contribution of gross pay to contractual limits by bargaining units.

Additional information on the Town's employee retirement plans can be found in Note 10.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates

The Town's elected officials considered many factors when setting the fiscal-year 2024/2025 property tax rates. One of those factors is the economy.

While the Town's spending is also relatively stable year-to-year, Sherman faces increasing economic burdens from the reduction of state and federal grants including the reduction of PILOT and education grants. In addition, the Town weighs the risks of further unfunded mandates as well as the State's unfunded teacher's pension and OPEB liabilities.

These indicators along with a projected inflationary increase were considered when proposing the General Fund budget for 2024-25.

Contacting the Town's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide citizens, taxpayers, customers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the Town's finances and to show the Town's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the First Selectman's office, P.O. Box 39, Sherman, Connecticut, 06784.

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
June 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities *
Assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,171,465
Investments	7,043,907
Receivables, net	140,981
Net pension asset	411,903
Capital assets:	
Capital assets, not being depreciated	3,335,481
Capital assets, being depreciated, net	12,492,354
Total assets	<u>\$ 27,596,091</u>
Deferred outflows on resources:	
Deferred charges from refunding	\$ 84,326
Deferred outflows related to pension	47,259
Total deferred outflows on resources	<u>\$ 131,585</u>
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	\$ 499,276
Payments in advance	875,760
Deposits	28,160
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Due within one year	515,000
Due in more than one year	2,231,778
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 4,149,974</u>
Deferred inflows on resources:	
Deferred inflows related to pension	\$ <u>161,600</u>
Net position:	
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	\$ 13,442,835
Restricted	2,329,303
Unrestricted	7,643,964
Total net position	<u>\$ 23,416,102</u>

* After internal balances have been eliminated

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

EXHIBIT B

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Functions/programs	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Net (Expenses) Revenue and Changes in Net Position	
				Primary Government	Total
Primary government:					
Governmental activities:					
General government	\$ (1,510,194)	403,781	5,500	22,248	(1,078,665)
Public safety	(1,343,089)	2,166			(1,340,923)
Public works	(1,522,770)		2,799		(1,519,971)
Culture and recreation	(172,411)	342,444		262,142	432,175
Health services	(709,382)	22,150			(687,232)
Education	(11,841,495)		2,148,305		(9,693,190)
Other	(352,993)				(352,993)
Interest on long-term debt	(66,450)				(66,450)
Total governmental activities	\$ (17,518,784)	770,541	2,156,604	284,390	(14,307,249)
General revenues:					
Property taxes, interest and lien fees				\$ 13,738,664	
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs				108,697	
Unrestricted investment earnings (loss)				683,675	
Miscellaneous				82,887	
Total general revenues				\$ 14,613,923	
Change in net position				\$ 306,674	
Net position, beginning				23,109,428	
Net position, ended				\$ 23,416,102	

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
June 30, 2024

	General	Capital & Nonrecurring	Happy Acres Farm	American Recovery Plan	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets:						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,204,040	1,791,315	145,983	816,738	213,389	4,171,465
Investments	4,905,266		2,138,641			7,043,907
Receivables, net	133,481				7,500	140,981
Due from other funds						-
Total assets	\$ 6,242,787	1,791,315	2,284,624	816,738	220,889	11,356,353
Liabilities:						
Accounts and other payables	\$ 440,557				34,957	475,514
Payments in advance	35,565	38,371		780,391	21,433	875,760
Deposits	28,160					28,160
Total liabilities	\$ 504,282	38,371	-	780,391	56,390	1,379,434
Deferred inflows of resources:						
Unavailable receipts	\$ 110,518					110,518
Total deferred inflows of resources	\$ 110,518	-	-	-	-	110,518
Fund balances:						
Restricted	\$ 28,160	26,975	2,229,827	36,347	7,994	2,329,303
Committed	21,695	1,148,255	54,797		121,119	1,345,866
Assigned		577,714			70,343	648,057
Unassigned	5,578,132				(34,957)	5,543,175
Total fund balances	\$ 5,627,987	1,752,944	2,284,624	36,347	164,499	9,866,401
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balances	\$ 6,242,787	1,791,315	2,284,624	816,738	220,889	

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position (Exhibit A) are different because:

Capital assets used in the governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	15,827,835
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the funds.	110,518
Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	(2,686,214)
Pension costs, including differences between expected and actual pension experiences, change in pension assumptions and net difference between projected and actual pension earnings.	297,562
Net position of governmental activities (Exhibit A)	\$ 23,416,102

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	General	Capital & Nonrecurring	Happy Acres Farm	American Recovery Plan	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:						
Property taxes and assessments	\$ 13,718,941					13,718,941
Intergovernmental	1,812,515	2,799	128,205	67,234	538,938	2,549,691
Charges for services	586,488	2,900	39,955		141,198	770,541
Investment income	343,987	51,346	262,142	22,248	3,952	683,675
Miscellaneous	82,887					82,887
Total revenues	\$ 16,544,818	57,045	430,302	89,482	684,088	17,805,735
Expenditures:						
Current:						
General government	\$ 986,266				128,162	1,114,428
Public safety	920,867				1,937	922,804
Public works	939,740					939,740
Public health	129,104					129,104
Culture and recreation	422,570				81,040	503,610
Education	11,125,604				533,438	11,659,042
Other	1,054,276					1,054,276
Capital outlay		749,944	230,902	67,234		1,048,080
Debt service	466,864					466,864
Total expenditures	\$ 16,045,291	749,944	230,902	67,234	744,577	17,837,948
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	\$ 499,527	(692,899)	199,400	22,248	(60,489)	(32,213)
Other financing sources (uses):						
Transfer to other funds	\$ (516,481)					(516,481)
Transfer from other funds		500,000			16,481	516,481
Total other financing sources (uses)	\$ (516,481)	500,000	-	-	16,481	-
Net change in fund balances	\$ (16,954)	(192,899)	199,400	22,248	(44,008)	(32,213)
Fund balances (deficits) - beginning	5,644,941	1,945,843	2,085,224	14,099	208,507	9,898,614
Fund balances (deficits) - ended	\$ 5,627,987	1,752,944	2,284,624	36,347	164,499	9,866,401

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS) OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Differences in amounts reported for government-wide activities in the Statement of Activities are due to:

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (Exhibit D)	\$ (32,213)
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures; however, in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlays exceeded depreciation in the current period.	(167,282)
Revenues previously recognized in the Statement of Activities that provided current financial resources in the current year.	19,723
The issuance of long-term debt (e.g., bonds, leases) provide current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net assets. Also, governmental funds report the effect of issuance costs, premiums, discounts, and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are deferred and amortized in the statement of activities. This amount is the net effect of these differences in the treatment of long-term debt and related items.	435,034
Pension expenses and credits as a result of changes in assumptions and expectation are recognized in the government-wide financial statements but are not included in the fund financial statements.	<u>51,412</u>
Change in net position of governmental activities (Exhibit B)	<u>\$ 306,674</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE -
 BUDGETARY BASIS - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts Budgetary Basis	Variance With Final Budget Positive/ (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Revenues:				
Property taxes	\$ 13,658,178	13,658,178	13,718,941	60,763
Intergovernmental	351,642	351,642	394,557	42,915
Licenses, permits and fees	591,147	591,147	586,488	(4,659)
Investment income	252,336	322,336	343,987	21,651
Other revenues	37,048	37,048	82,887	45,839
Total revenues	\$ 14,890,351	14,960,351	15,126,860	166,509
Expenditures:				
Current:	84,326			
General government	\$ 948,339	983,339	986,266	(2,927)
Public safety	944,049	944,049	920,867	23,182
Public works	969,480	969,480	939,740	29,740
Health and welfare	130,494	130,494	129,104	1,390
Cultural and recreation	362,157	397,157	422,570	(25,413)
Education	9,509,371	9,509,371	9,709,572	(200,201)
Insurance and employee benefits	690,200	690,200	701,283	(11,083)
Building and grounds	210,200	210,200	214,769	(4,569)
Other	658,849	658,849	654,705	4,144
Debt services	467,212	467,212	466,864	348
Total expenditures	\$ 14,890,351	14,960,351	15,145,740	(185,389)
Revenues over (under) expenditures	\$ -	-	(18,880)	(18,880)
Revenues over expenditures and other financing sources (uses)	\$ -	-	(18,880)	(18,880)
Unassigned fund balance, July 1, 2023			5,597,012	
Unassigned fund balance, June 30, 2024			\$ 5,578,132	

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
 FIDUCIARY FUNDS
 June 30, 2024

	Defined Benefit Trust	Custodial Funds
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 25,506	51,986
Investments, at fair value	1,146,100	
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,171,606</u>	<u>51,986</u>
Net position:		
Held in trust for benefits and other purposes	<u>\$ 1,171,606</u>	<u>51,986</u>
Held in trust for benefits & other purposes	<u>\$ 1,171,606</u>	<u>51,986</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
 FIDUCIARY FUNDS
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Defined Benefit Trust
Additions:	
Contributions:	
Employer contributions	\$ -
Employee contributions	-
Total contributions	<u>\$ -</u>
Investment earnings:	
Net increase in fair value of investments	\$ 85,545
Total investment earnings	<u>\$ 85,545</u>
Total additions	<u>\$ 85,545</u>
Deductions:	
Administrative	\$ 4,350
Benefits	54,516
Total deductions	<u>\$ 58,866</u>
Change in net position	\$ 26,679
Net position - beginning of year	<u>1,144,927</u>
Net position - end of year	<u>\$ 1,171,606</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Reporting Entity

The Town of Sherman, Connecticut (the Town) was incorporated in 1802, under the provisions of the State of Connecticut's General Statutes, as amended. The Town is governed under the provisions of the Home Rule Law of the State of Connecticut and operates under a Board of Selectmen form of government.

The Town provides a full range of services to its residents including public safety, police and fire, highways and streets, health and human services, culture and recreation, public improvements, planning and zoning, general administrative services, and education.

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The financial statements of the Town have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applied to government units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting board for governmental accounting financial reporting principles. These principles require that the Town report government-wide and fund financial statements.

The following is a summary of the Town's most significant accounting principles.

Government-wide financial statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Changes in Net Position) report information on all the non-fiduciary activities of the primary government. *Government activities*, which are normally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately than *business-type activities*, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment of, are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Program revenues include (1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services or privileges provided by a given function or segment and (2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*, as are proprietary fund and fiduciary fund financial statements. Under this method, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenues as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

As a rule, the effect of inter-fund activity, or internal balances, has been eliminated from government-wide financial statements. Exceptions to this rule are the changes between the business-type funds and the various other functions of the Town. Elimination of these charges would distort the direct costs and program revenues reported for the various functions.

Fund financial statements

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

The governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be *available* when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures are generally recorded when a liability has occurred, as under accrual accounting. However, expenditures related to long-term liabilities, such as debt service payments and compensated absences, are recorded only when payment is due.

Property taxes are levied on all taxable assessed property on the grand list of October 1 prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. Real estate taxes are payable in two installments (July 1 and January 1). Personal property taxes are payable annually (July 1) and motor vehicle taxes are due in one single payment on July 1. Liens are filed on delinquent real estate taxes within one year. Revenues from property taxes are recognized when they become available. Available means due, or past due, and receivable within the current period or expected to be collected soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities in the current period. For this purpose, the Town considers property tax revenue to be available if it is collected within 60 days of the end of the fiscal year.

Those revenues susceptible to accrual are property taxes, special assessments, and interest revenue. Fines, permits, and charges for services are not susceptible to accrual because generally they are not measurable until received in cash.

Intergovernmental revenue grants and similar items are recognized as soon as all eligible requirements imposed by the provider have been met and are collected soon enough to pay the liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, grants may be recognized and received after 60 days of the fiscal year end.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

The Town reports on the following major governmental funds:

The *general fund* is the general operating fund of the Town's government. All unrestricted resources, except those required to be accounted for in other funds, are accounted for in this fund. From this fund are paid general operating expenditures, fixed charges, principal and interest on long-term debt and capital improvement costs of the Town, which were not paid through a special fund.

The *capital and nonrecurring fund* is used to account for resources used for capital expenditures or for the acquisition or construction of capital facilities, improvements, and equipment. Sources of revenue include current tax revenues and government grants.

The *Happy Acres Farms* accounts for the preservation and maintenance of the real estate and improvements conveyed to the Town known as Happy Acres Farm.

Additionally, the Town reports the following fund type:

The *Pension trust and defined contribution funds* account for activities of the Town's defined benefit plan and defined contribution plan, which accumulate resources for the pension benefit payments to qualified employees.

The *Custodial funds* account for monies held as a custodian for outside groups and agencies.

Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets or Equity

Cash and cash equivalents

The Town considers cash on hand, deposits, and short-term investments, with an original maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Investments

Investments are primarily stated at fair value using quoted market prices, with the exception of U.S. government agencies whose fair values are based upon prices quoted by dealers in such securities, certificates of deposit whose cost approximates fair value, and market funds whose amortized costs approximate fair value.

Receivables and payables

Activities between funds that are representative of lending or borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as either "due to/from other funds" (current portion of interfund loans) or "advances to/from other funds" (noncurrent portion of interfund loans).

Advances between funds, as reported in the fund financial statements, are offset by a fund balance reserve account in applicable funds to indicate that they are not available for appropriation and are not expendable as financial resources.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Property taxes

Property taxes on real estate, motor vehicles and personal property are assessed on the Town's grand list as of October 1 of the previous year and billed on the following July 1 and January 1. The billings are considered due on those dates; however, the actual due dates are 31 days after the tax bill date. On these days, (February 1 and August 1) the unpaid bill is considered delinquent at which time the applicable property is subject to lien and penalties, and interest is assessed. Property tax assessments are made at 70% of the assessed value for all taxable real estate and personal property located within the Town of Sherman on October 1.

Capital assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant and equipment and infrastructure assets (e.g., roads, bridges, sidewalks, and similar items) are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities columns in government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the government as assets with an initial individual cost of more than \$20,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of two years.

Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair value at the date of donation. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the net assets or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized.

Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. Interest incurred during the construction phase of capital assets of the business-type activities is included as part of the capitalized value of the assets constructed.

Property, plant, and equipment of the Town are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives with a capitalization threshold of \$5,000:

<u>Asset</u>	<u>Years</u>
Buildings and improvements	5-40
Infrastructure (including sewer system)	30-50
Machinery and equipment	5-20

Capital assets are reported as expenditures and no depreciation expense is reported in the governmental fund financial statements.

Deferred outflows/inflows of resources

The Statement of Net Position (Exhibit A) reports a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial element represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period or periods and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources until a future period. The Town reports borrowing costs as well as a deferred charge on refunding as a result from the differences in the carrying value of refunded debt and its reacquisition price. These amounts are deferred and amortized over the shorter of the life of the related debt.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

A deferred outflow of resources related to pension results from differences between expected and actual experience, changes in assumptions or other inputs, and the net difference between projected and actual pension investment earnings.

The Statement of Net Position (Exhibit A) and the Balance Sheet for the governmental funds (Exhibit C) report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial element represents the addition of net position or fund balance that applies to future periods and will not be recognized as revenue until that time. The Town reports advance tax collections in the Statement of Net Position and the Balance Sheet for the governmental funds. The Town reports a deferred inflow of resources related to pensions in the Statement of Net Position.

A deferred inflow of resources related to pension results from differences between expected and actual experience. These amounts are deferred and included in pension expenses in a systematic and rational manner. The government funds report unavailable revenue, which arises only under the modified accrual basis of accounting because it does not meet the measurable and available criteria for recognition in the current period.

Compensated absences

Under the terms of its various union contracts, Town employees are granted vacation and sick time in varying amounts based on length of service. Certain employees may also carry over a limited number of unused vacation days to subsequent years based on the terms of an employment or union contract. In the event of termination, these employees are reimbursed for accumulated vacation. The Town recognizes a liability in the government-wide financial statements for the vested portion, as well as the unvested portion to the extent expected to be paid, as compensated absences.

Net pension asset

The net pension liability is measured as the portion of the present actuarial value of projected benefits that is attributed to past periods of employee service (total pension liability), net of the pension plan's fiduciary net position. The pension plan's fiduciary net position is determined using the same valuation methods that are used by the pension plan for purposes of preparing its statement of fiduciary net position. The net pension liability is measured as of a date (measurement date) no earlier than the end of the employer's prior fiscal year, consistently applied from period to period.

Long-term obligations

In the government-wide financial statements long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental activities. Bond premiums and discounts, as well as issuance costs, are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the effective interest method. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount. Bond issuance costs are reported as deferred charges and amortized over the terms of the related debt.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of the debt issued is reported as other financial sources.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

Fund equity and net position

In the government-wide financial statements, net position is classified in the following categories:

Investment in capital assets, net of related debt - This category groups all capital assets, including infrastructure, into one component of net position. Accumulated depreciation and the outstanding balances of debt that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of these assets reduce this category.

Restricted net position represents external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, laws or regulations of other governments, and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted net position represents the net position of the Town which is not restricted for any project or other purpose.

In the fund financial statements, fund balances of governmental funds are classified into five separate categories. The five categories and their general meanings are as follows:

Nonspendable are those net assets that are not in expendable form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained.

Restricted fund balances are defined in the same manner as for the restricted government-wide net assets.

Committed fund balances are those balances that can only be used for a specific purpose as a result of constraints imposed by formal action of the government's highest level of decision-making authority. For the Town of Sherman, that was considered to be the Town Council.

Assigned fund balances are amounts that are contained by the government's intent to be used as a specific purpose.

Unassigned fund balance is defined as the residual classification for the general fund and includes those remaining balances that cannot be categorized in the above four categories.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and deferred inflows/outflows, including disclosures for contingent liabilities and reporting revenues, expenses, and expenditures during the fiscal year. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Note 2 - Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The Town adheres to the following procedures in establishing the budgetary data included in the General Fund Financial Statements.

1. In January of each year, all departments are asked to submit their budget requests to the First Selectman.
2. During January and February, the First Selectman compiles a draft of the Town budget for the subsequent year based on each department's provided information.
3. In March, the Board of Selectmen, acting as the Board of Finance, holds public hearings at which time departments formally present their budget requests and rationale. Following the hearings, the Board of Selectman meet in a workshop to finalize the budget.
4. At the March Board of Selectmen meeting, acting as the Board of Finance, the Board of Selectman approve the subsequent year's proposed budget and schedules a Town meeting to present the proposed budget. The Town meeting is held and then adjourned to a referendum vote on the budgets. The Town and Board of Education budgets are voted on separately.
5. The legal level of control is at the department level.
6. Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control devise during the fiscal year. Only by recommendation of the First Selectman, and certification of the Treasurer, the Board of Selectmen, acting as the Board of Finance, may transfer appropriations from one department to another. Within one department, appropriations may be transferred without the Board of Selectmen's approval. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

A reconciliation of the general fund amounts presented on a budgetary basis to amounts presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP basis) is as follows:

	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Balance, budgetary basis	\$ 15,126,860	15,145,740
Committed resources recognized for budgetary but not GAAP purposes:		
2024 Encumbrances		(39,103)
2023 Encumbrances		37,177
Reclassify transfers to other funds as other financing resources		(516,481)
State Teachers' Retirement "on-behalf" payment, not recognized for budgetary purposes	<u>1,417,958</u>	<u>1,417,958</u>
Balance, GAAP basis	\$ <u>16,544,818</u>	<u>16,045,291</u>

Special Revenue Funds

The Town does not have legally adopted annual budgets for the Special Revenue Funds. Budgets for the various special revenue funds which are utilized to account for specific grant programs are established in accordance with the requirements of the grantor agencies. Such budgets carry over until completion of the grants and, therefore, may comprise more than one fiscal year.

Capital Projects Funds

Legal authorization for expenditures of the Capital Projects Funds may be provided by the related bond ordinances and/or intergovernmental grant agreements or Connecticut State Statutes. Capital appropriations do not lapse until the purpose for which the appropriation was made has been accomplished or abandoned.

Note 3 - Reconciliation of Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

Explanation of Certain Differences Between the Government Fund Balance Sheet and the Government-Wide Statement of Net Position

The details of the components included in Exhibit C are as follows:

Capitalized assets are expensed in the fund financial statements in the period the expense is incurred while the expense is incurred over the useful life of the related asset in the government-wide financial statements:

Land	\$ 2,851,200
Construction in progress	484,281
Net capital assets being depreciated	<u>12,492,354</u>
Net adjustment to increase fund balance to arrive at net position of governmental activities	\$ <u>15,827,835</u>

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds. The detail of this difference is as follows:

Debt	\$ (2,385,000)
Accrued interest	(23,762)
Deferred charges on refunding	84,326
Compensated absences	<u>(361,778)</u>
Net adjustment to reduce fund balance to arrive at net position of governmental activities	<u>\$ (2,686,214)</u>

Explanation of Certain Differences Between the Governmental Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance and the Government-Wide Statement of Activities

The governmental fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances includes reconciliation between net changes in fund balances - total governmental funds and changes in net position of governmental activities as reported in the government-wide statement of activities. One element of that reconciliation explains that "governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as a depreciation expense."

Another element of that reconciliation states that "the issuance of long-term debt (e.g., bonds, leases) provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position. Also, governmental funds report the effect of issuance costs, premiums, discounts and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are deferred and amortized in the Statement of Activities."

The details of these differences are as follows:

Capital assets:

Acquisitions	\$ 809,966
Depreciation	<u>(977,248)</u>
Net adjustment to increase net changes in fund balances to arrive at changes in net position of governmental activities	<u>\$ (167,282)</u>

Long-term liabilities:

Debt payments	\$ 410,000
Net change in accrued interest	4,469
Net change in deferred refunding	(14,054)
Net change in compensated absences	<u>34,619</u>
Net adjustment to reduce fund balance to arrive at net position of governmental activities	<u>\$ 435,034</u>

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Note 4 - Deposits and Investments

Deposits

As of June 30, 2024, total deposits of \$4,248,957 represent cash and cash equivalents of \$4,171,465 as reported on the Statement of Net Position and \$77,492 reported on the Statement of Fiduciary Net Assets.

Custodial credit risk on deposits – Custodial credit risk is the possibility that in the event of a bank failure, the Town deposits may not be returned. The Treasurer is generally restricted to investing funds in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes (Section 7-402). Deposits may be placed with any “qualifying public depository,” as defined by state statute, which has its main place of business in the State of Connecticut. The State of Connecticut requires that each depository maintain segregated collateral in an amount equal to a defined percentage of its public deposits based upon the bank’s risk-based capital ratio.

Concentration of credit risk – Concentration of credit risk attributed to the magnitude of a government’s deposit in a single financial institution. The Town follows the limitations specified in the Connecticut General Statutes. Generally, the Town’s deposits cannot be 75% or more of the total capital of any one depository.

Of the Town’s total bank deposits, \$800,000 was covered by Federal Depository Insurance and \$3,850,000 was unissued and uncollateralized. All the deposits were maintained in institutions considered to be qualified public depositories and are protected under the provisions of Section 36a-33 of the Connecticut General Statutes, which provide for protection against loss in excess of any deposit insurance by providing individual bank collateral pledge requirements tiered to risk-based capital ratios.

Investments

The Town’s investments consist of the following at June 30, 2024:

	<u>Governmental</u>	<u>Retirement Trust</u>
CT Short term investment fund	\$ 4,905,266	
Exchange traded funds (ETF)	2,081,053	1,165,360
Sweep Accounts	57,888	20,631
Total investments	<u>\$ 7,044,207</u>	<u>1,185,991</u>

The Connecticut General Statutes authorize the investment of funds in the obligations of the United States or may be invested in any state to other tax-exempt political subdivision under certain conditions. Funds may also be deposited in the State Treasurer’s Short-Term Investment Fund (STIF). The provisions of the statutes regarding the investments of certain funds, such as the municipal pension funds, do not specify permitted investments. Therefore, investments of such funds are generally controlled by laws applicable to fiduciaries and regulations applicable to those funds.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Credit Risk – The Town has a formal investment policy that would limit its investment choices due to credit risk for the Happy Acres Farm restricted fund. All other funds follow State Statutes.

Interest Rate Risk – Interest rate risk is the possibility that the Town will incur losses in fair market value caused by changing interest rates. The Town does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

The Town is required to measure the fair value of its assets and liabilities under a three-level hierarchy, as follows:

Level 1: Quoted market prices for identical assets or liabilities to which an entity has access to at the measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs and information other than quoted market indices included in Level 1 are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level 2 inputs include:

- a. Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
- b. Quoted prices for identical or similar assets in markets that are not active;
- c. Observable inputs other than quoted prices for the assets or liabilities;
- d. Inputs derived principally from, or corroborated by, observable market data by correlation or by other means.

Level 3: Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability. Unobservable inputs should be used to measure the fair value to the extent that observable inputs are not available.

Observable inputs reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed from sources independent of the reporting entity; and *unobservable inputs* reflect the reporting entity’s own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances.

Investments are summarized as follows:

	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Maturities (in years) <1</u>
CT STIF	\$ 4,905,266	4,905,266
Investment Sweep Account	78,519	78,519
EFT's - pension	2,081,053	2,081,053
	<u>\$ 7,064,838</u>	<u>7,064,838</u>

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Note 5 - Receivables and Unavailable/Unearned Receipts

Receivables

The receivables reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet consists of the following:

Current receivables:		
Property taxes	\$	130,223
Intergovernmental		<u>10,758</u>
Net total receivables	\$	<u>140,981</u>

Unavailable and unearned receipts

Governmental funds report deferred revenue in connection with receivables for revenue that are not considered to be available to liquidate liabilities in the current period. Recognition of revenues may also be deferred in connection with the resources received but not yet earned. The unavailable and unearned receipts consist of the following:

	<u>Unavailable</u>	<u>Unearned</u>
Delinquent taxes and interest	\$ 110,518	
Grants paid in advance		840,195
Fees paid in advance		<u>35,565</u>
Total	<u>\$ 110,518</u>	<u>875,760</u>

Note 6 - Inter-fund Receivables, Payables and Transfers

Inter-fund Transfers

The Town made the following transfers between funds during the fiscal year:

General fund to capital and non-recurring fund	\$	500,000
General fund to revaluation fund		<u>16,481</u>
Total inter-fund transfers	\$	<u>516,481</u>

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Note 7 - Capital Assets

Capital assets activity for the year ended June 30, 2024, was as follows:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Disposals</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Governmental activities:				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 2,851,200	-	-	2,851,200
Construction in progress	148,890	335,391		484,281
Total capital assets, not being deprec.	<u>\$ 3,000,090</u>	<u>335,391</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,335,481</u>
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings and improvements	\$ 22,331,593	177,673		22,509,266
Infrastructure	4,035,667			4,035,667
Vehicles	1,678,233	250,466	29,756	1,898,943
Furniture and equipment	1,551,906	76,193		1,628,099
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>\$ 29,597,399</u>	<u>504,332</u>	<u>29,756</u>	<u>30,071,975</u>
Less: accumulated depreciation:				
Buildings and improvements	\$ 12,726,302	662,561		13,388,863
Infrastructure	2,060,590	86,664		2,147,254
Vehicles	1,024,665	143,767	29,756	1,138,676
Furniture and equipment	790,817	114,011		904,828
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>\$ 16,602,374</u>	<u>1,007,003</u>	<u>29,756</u>	<u>17,579,621</u>
Net capital assets, being depreciated	<u>\$ 12,995,027</u>	<u>(502,667)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,492,354</u>
Total capital assets, governmental	<u>\$ 15,995,117</u>	<u>(167,276)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,827,835</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to functions of the primary government as follows:

Governmental activities:	
General government	\$ 195,130
Education	217,072
Public safety	254,148
Public works	205,485
Recreation	115,104
Health services	20,064
Total depreciation expense	<u>\$ 1,007,003</u>

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Note 8 - Long-Term Liabilities

Long-term debt liabilities activity for the year ended June 30, 2024 was as follows:

	<u>Balance</u> <u>July 1, 2023</u>	<u>New</u> <u>Issues</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>June 30, 2024</u>	<u>Due</u> <u>Within</u> <u>1 year</u>
Long-term debt:					
G.O. Refunding Bonds	\$ 2,795,000		410,000	2,385,000	515,000
Other long-term obligations:					
Compensated absences	<u>396,397</u>		<u>34,619</u>	<u>361,778</u>	
Total long-term liabilities	<u>\$ 3,191,397</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>444,619</u>	<u>2,746,778</u>	<u>515,000</u>

The Town issues general obligation bonds to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities. General obligation bonds have been issued for both governmental and business-type activities and are direct obligations and pledge the good faith and credit of the government. Certain general obligation bonds are to be repaid by revenues of the enterprise funds. As of June 30, 2024, the outstanding general obligation bonded indebtedness of the Town was as follows:

	<u>Refunding</u>
\$5,020,000 G.O. Refunding bond 2017 , issued on 4/13/2017, with final maturity on August 15, 2029, principal due serially with interest rate of 2.18%.	\$ <u>2,795,000</u>
Total general obligation bonds	\$ <u>2,795,000</u>

Annual debt service requirements for government funds to maturity for general obligation bonds are as follows:

<u>Year Ended,</u> <u>June 30</u>	<u>Governmental Activity</u>	
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2025	\$ 410,000	47,524
2026	405,000	38,641
2027	400,000	29,866
2028	395,000	21,201
2029	390,000	12,644
2030-2031	<u>385,000</u>	<u>4,197</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,385,000</u>	<u>154,073</u>

Legal Debt Limit

Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-374(b) provides that authorized debt of the Town shall not exceed seven times base receipts for the immediately preceding fiscal year, as defined in the Statute, or \$93,645,356. Further, the Statute limits the amount of debt that may be authorized by the Town for general purposes, schools, sewers, urban renewal, and pension deficit. The Town did not exceed any of the statutory debt limitations at June 30, 2024.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Unissued Bond Authorizations

Authorization of general obligation bonds that remained unissued as of June 30, 2024 are summarized below:

	<u>Date Authorized</u>	<u>Authorized and unissued</u>
Open space acquisition	6/09/2007	\$ <u>2,795,000</u>

Note 9 - Commitments and Contingencies

Risk Management

The Town is exposed to various risks of loss including torts, theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; error and omissions; injuries to employees; employee health; and natural disasters. The Town generally obtains commercial insurance for these risks. For all types of commercial coverage, settled claims have not exceeded coverage in any of the past three years.

The Town is a member of the Connecticut Interlock Risk Management Agency (CIRMA), a public entity risk pool established under the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes section 7-479a. The Town is liable only for contributions to the pool. Members do not retain the risk of loss, as they have transferred the risk by purchasing coverage with no deductible retention.

The Town of Sherman is currently involved as a defendant in litigation involving the Town, its officers, employees, boards, and commissions. The probability of adverse decisions in these matters and the amounts of potential losses that may result are not presently determinable. However, the Town is of the opinion that the liability in these cases, if any, will not materially adversely affect the financial statements for these contingencies.

The Town received federal and state grants for specific purposes and is subject to review and audit by the grantor agency for compliance and disallowed expenses under the grant. Management believes that such disallowances, if any, will not be material to the financial position of the Town.

Note 10 - Employee Retirement Plans

Town's Retirement Plan

Effective June 30, 2005, the Town's defined benefit retirement plan (the Town Plan) was closed to new employees and participant's monthly pension was frozen (i.e., additional benefits will accrue under the Plan for the subsequent period. Prior to closing the Town Plan, The Town had a defined benefit retirement plan covering substantially all employees of the Town and Board of Education except certified staff of the Board of Education covered by the State Teachers' Retirement Board Plan. The Town is the administrator of this single-employer public employee retirement system (PERS) established and administered to provide pension benefits for its employees. The Town Plan provides retirement, disability, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Town's Defined Contribution Plan

Employees are eligible to participate in the Town Plan when they complete 1 year of eligible service and have attained the age of 22. The only elected or appointed officials covered are those paid a salary by the Town, working more than 5 months a year and 20 hours per week.

All employees hired after July 1, 2005 will only be eligible to participate in the defined contribution plan for which the employees may contribute a portion of their pay and the Town will match 100%, up to 3% of the employee's gross pay, of the employee's contribution to a 457-account commencing the first payroll after the employee's one year anniversary.

Based on the actuarial valuation report dated June 30, 2022, membership consisted of:

Active participants	8
Terminated vested participants	6
Retired	<u>18</u>
Total	<u>32</u>

Benefit provisions

The Plan is contributory and covers substantially all regularly employed permanent employees of the Town employed as of June 30, 2005. Prior to June 30, 2005, employees contributed 3% of earnings. Beginning July 1, 2005, employees are not required to contribute to the Plan. The only elected or appointed officials covered are those paid a salary by the Town, working more than 5 months a year and 20 hours per week. To be eligible for the Plan, the employee must complete one full year of service and attain a minimum age of 22. Employees covered by the State Teachers Retirement System are excluded from this Plan.

Normal retirement age is 62 with 20 years of credited service or 65. The annual benefit is 1.6% of 1986-87 earnings for years of service through June 30, 1987, plus 1.6% of earnings for each year of participation since July 1, 1987, for a maximum of 40 years. The Plan contains a provision for early retirement at age 55 and after 10 years of credited service at reduced benefits. The Plan also contains provisions for disability retirement and spouse's benefits. There is no provision for increases in benefits after retirement.

Town's Defined Benefit Plan

Basis of Accounting

The Plan's financial statements are prepared on the accrued basis of accounting. Contributions are recorded as paid by the employer, and the benefits are recorded as payments are due.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Investments

The Town has no set policy regarding the allocation of invested assets, which is established by the plan's investment advisors. The administrative costs of the plan are financed through investment earnings. Investments are valued at fair market value using the quoted market price.

Contribution requirements

Employer

The Town's funding policy provides for periodic employer contributions at actuarially determined rates that are sufficient to accumulate the assets needed to pay benefits when due. Certain costs for administering the Plan are paid by the earnings in the Pension Trust Fund.

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the Town did not have a required contribution to the Plan.

Employee

Plan members are not required to contribute to the Plan.

Pension liabilities (assets), pension expense, and deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2022. The changes in assumptions that affected the measurement of the total pension liability since the prior measurement date, were updating rates of inflation, real investment return mortality, withdrawal, disability, retirement, and salary increase to more closely reflect actual and anticipated experience.

Net pension liabilities (assets)

The component of the net pension liability (Asset) of the Town as of June 30, 2024 were as follows:

	<u>Total Pension Liability (a)</u>	<u>Plan Fiduciary Net Assets (b)</u>	<u>Net Pension Liabilities (asset) (a)-(b)</u>
Balance At June 30, 2023	\$ 988,896	1,144,927	(156,031)
Interest	\$ 57,562		57,562
Difference between expected and actual experience	(232,239)		(232,239)
Net investment income		85,545	(85,545)
Benefit payments	(54,516)	(54,516)	-
Administrative expense		(4,350)	4,350
Net Change	\$ (229,193)	26,679	(255,872)
Balance at June 30, 2024	\$ 759,703	1,171,606	(411,903)

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

The Town recognized its proportionate share of the collective pension revenue in the government-wide Statement of Activities in the amount of \$51,412 for the year ended June 30, 2024.

At June 30, 2024, the Town reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to the Plan pension benefits as follows:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on plan investments	\$ 47,259	
Difference between expected and actual experience		161,600
	<u>\$ 47,259</u>	<u>161,600</u>

Net deferred outflows and inflows of resources for pensions is amortized and recognized as an increase/decrease to the net pension expense/liability each year as follows:

<u>Year Ended June 30,</u>	
2025	\$ (42,052)
2026	(42,052)
2027	(42,052)
2028	11,815
	<u>\$ (114,341)</u>

Actuarial assumptions

The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2022. The key actuarial assumptions used in the valuation were as follows:

Mortality	Post-retirement – RP -2000 Mortality
Salary increase	NA
Rate of Return	6.00%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation
Assumed retirement Age	The younger of age 62 or the completion of 20 years of service

Discount rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.0%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the actuarial determined rates in future years. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Sensitivity of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate

The following presents the net pension liability of the Town calculated using the discount rate of 6.00%, as well as what the Town's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1% lower or 1% higher than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (5.00%)	Current Discount Rate (6.00%)	1% Increase (7.00%)
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ (355,367)	(411,903)	(463,030)

Teachers' Retirement

All Town of Sherman Board of Education certified employees participate in the State of Connecticut Teachers' Retirement System ("TRS" or the "Plan") under Section 10.183 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut.

Plan Description

Teachers, principals, superintendents, or supervisors engaged in service of public schools are provided with pensions through the Connecticut State Teachers' Retirement System – a cost sharing, multiemployer, defined benefit pension plan administered by the Teachers' Retirement Board. Title 10, Chapter 167a of the State Statutes grants authority to establish and amend the benefit terms to the State Teachers' Retirement Board ("TRB"). The State Treasurer is responsible for investing Teachers' Retirement System funds for the exclusive benefit of the TRS members.

The Teachers' Retirement System is considered to be a part of the State of Connecticut financial reporting entity and is included in the State's financial reports as a pension trust fund. Those reports may be obtained by writing to the State of Connecticut, Office of the State Comptroller, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, by calling 860-702-3480, or by visiting the State's website www.ct.gov.

Benefit Provisions

The plan provides retirement, disability, and death benefits. Employees are eligible to retire at age 60 with 20 years of credited service in Connecticut, or 35 years of credited service including at least 25 years of service in Connecticut.

Normal Retirement: Retirement benefits for the employees are calculated as 2% of the average annual salary times years of credited service (maximum benefit is 75% of average annual salary during the 3 years of highest salary).

In addition, amounts derived from the accumulation of the 6% contributions made prior to July 1, 1989 and voluntary contributions are payable.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Early Retirement: Employees are eligible after 25 years of credited service with a minimum of 20 years of Connecticut service, or age 55 with 20 years of credited service with a minimum of 15 years of Connecticut service. Benefits are reduced for those retiring before the normal retirement age.

Minimum Benefit: Effective January 1, 1999, Public Act 98-251 provides a minimum monthly benefit of \$1,200 to teachers who retire under the normal retirement provisions and who have completed at least 25 years of full-time Connecticut service at retirement.

Disability Retirement: Employees are eligible for service-related disability benefits regardless of length of service. Five years of credited service is required for nonservice-related disability eligibility. Disability benefits are calculated as 2% per year of service times the average of the highest three years of pensionable salary, as defined per the Plan, but not less than 15%, nor more than 50%. In addition, disability benefits under this plan (without regard to cost-of-living adjustments) plus any initial award of Social Security benefits and workers' compensation cannot exceed 75% of the average annual salary.

A plan member who leaves service and has attained 10 years of service will be entitled to 100% of the accrued benefit as of the date of termination of covered employment. Benefits are payable at age 60, and early retirement deductions are based on the number of years of service the member would have had if they had continued work until age 60.

Pre-Retirement Death Benefit: The plan also offers a lump-sum return of contributions with interest or surviving spouse benefit depending on length of service.

Contributions

State of Connecticut

Per Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-183z, (which reflects Public Act 79-436 as amended), contribution requirements of active employees and the State of Connecticut is amended and certified by the State Teachers' Retirement Board and appropriated by the General Assembly. The contributions are actuarially determined as an amount that, when combined with employee contributions and investment earnings, is expected to finance the costs of the benefits earned by employees during the year, with any additional amounts to finance any unfunded accrued liability.

Employer (School Districts)

School district employers are not required to make contributions to the Plan.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Employees

Effective July 1, 1992, participants are required to contribute 6.00% of their pensionable salary to the pension System as required by CGS Section 10-183b (7). Effective January 1, 2018, the required contribution increased to 7.00% of pensionable salary. For the year ended June 30, 2024, mandatory contributions were deducted from the salaries of teachers who were participants in the System. The estimated covered payroll for the Town was \$3,270,216.

Administrative Expenses

Administrative expenses of the Plan are to be paid by the General Assembly per Section 10-183r of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

The State has a statutory requirement to pay 100% of the required plan contribution, therefore, as of June 30, 2024 the Town reports no amounts for its proportionate share of the net pension liability, and related deferred outflows and inflows. The amount recognized by the Town as its proportionate share of the net pension liability, the related state support, and the total portion of the net pension liability associated with the Town were as follows:

Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$	-
State's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the Town		<u>14,617,090</u>
Total net pension liability	\$	<u>14,617,090</u>

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2020. The assumptions used in the June 30, 2020 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2019.

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the Town has recognized, in the General Fund, intergovernmental revenue and education expenditures in the amount of \$1,493,799 as payments made by the State of Connecticut on behalf of the Town for teachers' pension.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2023, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.50%
Salary increase	3.00-6.50%, including inflation
Investment rate of return	6.90%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation
Administrative expenses	\$0 assumption as expenses are paid for by the State of CT General Assembly

Mortality rates were based on the PubT-2010 Healthy Retiree Table (adjusted 105% for males and 103% for females as ages 82 and above), projected generationally with MP-2019 for the period after service retirement. The PubT-2010 Disabled Retiree Table projected generationally with MP-2019 was used for the period after disability retirement.

The PubT-2010 Contingent Survivor Table projected generationally with MP-2019 and set forward 1 year for both males and females was used for survivors and beneficiaries. The PubT-2010 Employee Table projected generationally with MP-2019 was used for active members,

Future Cost-of-Living increases for teachers who retired prior to September 1, 1992, are made in accordance with increases in the Consumer Price Index, with a minimum of 3% and a maximum of 5% per annum. For teachers who were members of the Teachers' Retirement System before July 1, 2007, and retire on or after September 1, 1992, pension benefit adjustments are made that are consistent with those provided for Social Security benefits on January 1 of the year granted, with a maximum of 6% per annum. If the return on assets in the previous year was less than 8.5%, the maximum increase is 1.5%. For teachers who were members of the Teachers' Retirement System after July 1, 2007, pension benefit adjustments are made that are consistent with those provided for Social Security benefits on January 1 of the year granted, with a maximum of 5% per annum. If the return on assets in the previous year was less than 11.5%, the maximum increase is 3%, and if the return on the assets in the previous year was less than 8.5%, the maximum increase is 1.0%.

Long-Term Rate of Return

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighing the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Global Equity	37.0 %	6.8 %
Public Credit	2.0	2.9
Core Fixed Income	13.0	0.4
Liquidity Fund	1.0	(0.4)
Risk Mitigation	5.0	0.1
Private equity	15.0	11.2
Private Credit	10.0	6.1
Real estate	10.0	6.2
Alternative investment	7.0	7.7
Total	<u>100.0%</u>	

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.90%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that State contributions will be made at the actuarially determined rates in future years. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability is \$0. Any change in the discount rate would only have an effect on the amount recorded by the State of Connecticut.

Note 11 - Other Post-Employment Benefits Plan

Teachers' Retirement OPEB Plan

All Town of Sherman Board of Education certified employees participate in the State of Connecticut Teachers' Retirement System ("TRS" or the "Plan") under Section 10.183 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Plan description

Teachers, principals, superintendents, or supervisors engaged in service of public schools are provided with benefits, including retiree health insurance, through the Connecticut State Teachers' Retirement System – a cost sharing, multiemployer, defined benefit pension plan administered by the Teachers' Retirement Board. Title 10, Chapter 167a of the State Statutes grants authority to establish and amend the benefit terms to the State Teachers' Retirement Board ("TRB"). The State Treasurer is responsible for investing Teachers' Retirement System funds for the exclusive benefit of the TRS members.

The Teachers' Retirement System is considered to be a part of the State of Connecticut financial reporting entity and is included in the State's financial reports as a pension trust fund. Those reports may be obtained by writing to the State of Connecticut, Office of the State Comptroller, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, by calling 860-702-3480, or by visiting the State's website www.ct.gov.

Benefit provisions

The Plan provides healthcare insurance benefits to eligible retirees and their spouses. Any member currently receiving retirement or disability benefit through the Plan is eligible to participate in the healthcare portion of the Plan. Subsidized Local School District Coverage provides a subsidy paid to members still receiving coverage through their former employer and the TRB Sponsored Medicare Supplemental Plans provide coverage for those participating in Medicare, but not receiving Subsidized Local School District Coverage.

Any member that is not currently participating in Medicare Parts A & B is eligible to continue health care coverage with their former employer. A subsidy of up to \$110 per month for a retired member plus an additional \$110 per month for a spouse enrolled in a local school district plan is provided to the school district to first offset the retiree's share of the cost of coverage, any remaining portion is used to offset the district's cost. The subsidy amount is set by Statute and has not increased since July of 1996. A subsidy amount of \$220 per month may be paid for a retired member, spouse or the surviving spouse of a member who has attained the normal retirement age to participate in Medicare, is not eligible for Part A or Medicare without cost and contributes at least \$220 per month towards coverage under a local school district plan.

Any member that is currently participating in Medicare Parts A & B is eligible to either continue health care coverage with their former employer, if offered, or enroll in the Plan sponsored by the System. If they elect to remain in the Plan with their former employer, the same subsidies as above will be paid to offset the cost of coverage.

If a member participating in Medicare Parts A & B so elects, they may enroll in one of the CTRB Sponsored Medicare Supplemental Plans. Active members, retirees, and the State pay equally toward the cost of the basic coverage (medical and prescription drug benefits).

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

The choices and calendar year premiums charged as of July 1, 2024 are as follows:

- Medicare Supplement with Prescriptions \$ 269
- Medicare Supplement with Prescriptions and Dental 319
- Medicare Supplement with Prescriptions, Dental, Vision & Hearing N/A

Changes in Plan Provisions Since Previous Valuation

Effective January 1, 2022, vision and hearing coverage is included with all plans. Additionally, prescription drug coverage is included with the Medicare Advantage plan. All plans except Dental are now fully insured. The full premiums have been set until the calendar year 2024.

These changes have been reflected in the measurement of the Plan's benefit obligations for accounting purposes as of June 30, 2021. While coverage was consolidated into one plan (two for Medicare Supplement) as of January 1, 2022, and while Medicare Advantage premiums decreased, the level of benefits have remained identical or slightly increased. Therefore, the change effective January 1, 2022 was recognized through actual versus expected experience.

Survivor Health Care Coverage: Survivors of former employees or retirees remain eligible to participate in the Plan and continue to be eligible to receive either the \$110 monthly subsidy or participate in the TRB-Sponsored Medicare Supplemental Plans, as long as they do not remarry.

Normal Retirement: Eligible after age 60 with 20 years of credited service in Connecticut, or 35 years of credited service including at least 25 years of service in Connecticut.

Early Retirement: Eligible after 25 years of credited service with a minimum of 20 years of Connecticut service, or age 55 with 20 years of credited service with a minimum of 15 years of Connecticut service.

Proratable Retirement: Eligible after age 60 with 10 years of credited service.

Disability Retirement: Eligible after 5 years of credited service in Connecticut if not incurred in the performance of duty and no service requirement if incurred in the performance of duty.

Termination of Employment: Eligible after 10 or more years of credited service.

Contributions

State of Connecticut

Per Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-183z (which reflects Public Act 79-436 as amended), contribution requirements of active employees and the State of Connecticut is amended and certified by the State Teachers' Retirement Board and appropriated by the

General Assembly. The State pays for one third of Plan costs through an annual appropriation in the General Fund.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
June 30, 2024

Employer (school districts)

School district employers are not required to make contributions to the Plan.

Employees

The cost of providing Plan benefits is financed on a pay-as-you-go basis as follows:

- Active teachers pay one third of the Plan costs through a contribution of 1.25% of pensionable salary.
- Retired teachers pay one third of the Plan costs through monthly premiums.

For the year ended June 30, 2024, \$18,456 mandatory contributions were deducted from the salaries of active teachers who were participants in the System. The estimated covered payroll for the Town was \$3,501,799.

Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses of the Plan are to be paid by the General Assembly per Section 10-183r of the Connecticut General Statutes.

OPEB liabilities, OPEB expense, and deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB

The State has a statutory requirement to pay 100% of the required Plan contribution; therefore, as of June 30, 2024 the Town reports no amounts for its proportionate share of the net OPEB liability and related deferred outflows and inflows. The amount recognized by the Town as its proportionate share of the net OPEB liability, the related state support, and the total portion of the net OPEB liability associated with the Town were as follows:

Town's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$	-
State's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability associated with the Town		1,369,421
Total net OPEB liability	\$	<u>1,369,421</u>

The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2020. The assumptions used in the June 30, 2020; valuation was based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2019.

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the Town has recognized, in the General Fund, intergovernmental revenue and education expenditures related to OPEB in the amount of \$81,589 as payments made by the State of Connecticut on behalf of the Town teachers' OPEB.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Actuarial assumptions

The total OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2018, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.50%
Salary increase	3.00-6.50%, including inflation
Long-term investment rate of return	3.00%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation
Real wage growth	.50% (Previously 0.75%)
Wage inflation	3.00% (Previously 3.25%)
Municipal bond index rate	3.65%, (3.54% at prior measurement date)
Single equivalent interest rate	3.65%, net of OPEB plan investment expense, including inflation (3.53% at prior measurement date)
Healthcare cost trend rates	Known increases until calendar 2024, then general trend decreasing to an ultimate rate of 4.50% by 2031
Administrative expenses	\$0 assumption as expenses are paid for by the State of CT General Assembly

Mortality rates were based on the PubT-2010 Healthy Retiree Table (adjusted 105% for males and 103% for females as ages 82 and above), projected generationally with MP-2019 for the period after service retirement. The PubT-2010 Disabled Retiree Table projected generationally with MP-2019 was used for the period after disability retirement. The PubT-2010 Contingent Survivor Table projected generationally with MP-2019 and set forward 1 year for both males and females was used for survivors and beneficiaries. The PubT-2010 Employee Table projected generationally with MP-2019 was used for active members,

Long-term rate of return

The long-term expected rate of return on plan investments was determined using the Plan's current asset allocation and a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class compiled by Horizon Actuarial Services, LLC in its "*Survey of Capital Market Assumptions, 2020 Edition*".

The long-term expected rate of return was determined by weighing the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. the assumption is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 June 30, 2024

The target asset allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
U.S. Treasuries (cash equivalents)	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>3.25%</u>

Discount rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB was 3.64%, up from the previous year's rate of 3.53%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current member contribution rate and that contributions for future plan members were used to reduce the estimated amount of total service costs for future plan members. No future State contributions were assumed to have been made. Based on those assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be depleted in 2024 and, as a result, the Municipal Bond Index Rate was used in the determination.

Sensitivity of the net OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate

The Town's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability is \$0. Any change in the health care cost trend rate or the discount rate would only have an effect on the amount recorded by the State of Connecticut.

Note 12 - Fund Balances

Governmental funds report fund classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the Town is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent. These are summarized below:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Capital and Nonrecurring</u>	<u>Happy Acres</u>	<u>ARPA</u>	<u>Nonmajor Funds</u>
Restricted:					
Grant requirements	\$	1,975		36,347	7,994
Donor requirements	28,695	25,000	2,229,827		
Committed:					
Commitments	21,695		54,797		
Capital projects		1,148,255			
Specific programs					121,119
Assigned:					
Commitments					
Capital projects		577,714			
Specific programs					70,343
Unassigned	5,578,132				(34,957)
Total	<u>\$ 5,628,522</u>	<u>1,752,944</u>	<u>2,284,624</u>	<u>36,347</u>	<u>164,499</u>

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

Note 13 – Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated subsequent events from the financial statement date of June 30, 2024 through October 18, 2024, which was the date these financial statements were available to be issued. All subsequent events requiring recognition or disclosure have been incorporated into these financial statements.

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN NET PENSION LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS - TOWN PLAN
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Total pension liability:										
Interest	\$ 57,562	56,728	57,051	57,353	57,953	57,033	55,940	54,827	54,061	53,279
Differences between expected and actual experience	(232,239)	17,345	2,442	(1,050)	(11,526)	7,166	6,769	10,199	7,039	4,583
Change in assumptions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(54,516)	(66,850)	(62,542)	(59,937)	(52,272)	(44,843)	(44,072)	(49,295)	(47,227)	(41,976)
Net change in total pension liability	\$ (229,193)	7,223	(3,049)	(3,634)	(5,845)	19,356	18,637	15,731	13,873	15,886
Total pension liability - beginning	988,896	981,673	984,722	988,356	994,201	974,845	956,208	940,477	926,604	910,718
Total pension liability - ended	\$ 759,703	988,896	981,673	984,722	988,356	994,201	974,845	956,208	940,477	926,604
Plan fiduciary net position:										
Contributions - employer	\$ -	-	-	-	-	46,200	57,200	67,000	67,000	67,000
Contributions - employee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net investment income	85,545	88,154	(129,394)	260,911	10,992	39,811	78,476	101,754	3,257	20,082
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(54,516)	(66,850)	(62,542)	(59,937)	(52,272)	(44,843)	(44,072)	(49,295)	(47,227)	(41,976)
Other	(4,350)	(5,541)	(6,509)	(10,149)	(8,357)	(4,850)	(5,345)	(9,503)	(9,934)	(9,826)
Net change in plan fiduciary net position	\$ 26,679	15,763	(198,445)	190,825	(49,637)	36,318	86,259	109,956	13,096	35,280
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning	1,144,927	1,129,164	1,327,609	1,136,784	1,186,421	1,150,103	1,063,844	953,888	940,792	905,512
Plan fiduciary net position - ended	\$ 1,171,606	1,144,927	1,129,164	1,327,609	1,136,784	1,186,421	1,150,103	1,063,844	953,888	940,792
Net pension liability (asset) - ended	\$ (411,903)	(156,031)	(147,491)	(342,887)	(148,428)	(192,220)	(175,258)	(107,636)	(13,411)	(14,188)
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of total pension liability	154.22%	115.78%	115.02%	134.82%	115.02%	119.33%	117.98%	111.26%	101.43%	101.53%
Covered payroll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes to Schedule

Changes in benefit terms: None
 Changes in assumptions: The July 1, 2022 valuation reflects changes in investment rate of return from 4.00% to 6.00%, inflation from 3.00% to 2.50%, salary decrease from 4.00% to 3.50%, mortality was updated on the most recently published pension mortality study released by the Society of Actuaries.

Methods and assumptions used to determine contribution rates:

Actuarial cost method	Entry age
Amortization method	Level dollar
Remaining amortization period	13 years
Asset valuation method	Market value of assets
Inflation	2.50%
Salary increase	0.00%, including inflation
Investment rate of return	6.00%, net of pension plan investment expense

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

RSI-2

SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS -TOWN PLAN
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Actuarially Required Contribution	\$ (51,414)	15,078	8,279	(26,897)	12,012	3,583	2,728	11,670	18,716	7,876
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	-	-	-	-	-	46,200	57,200	67,000	67,000	67,000
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ (51,414)	15,078	8,279	(26,897)	12,012	(42,617)	(54,472)	(55,330)	(48,284)	(59,124)
Town's covered-employee payroll	\$ -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contributions as a percentage of covered employee payroll	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes to Schedule

Changes in benefit terms None

Methods and assumptions used to determine contribution rates:

Actuarial cost method	Entry age
Amortization method	Level dollar
Remaining amortization period	13 years
Asset valuation method	Market value of assets
Inflation	2.50%
Salary increase	0.00%, including inflation
Investment rate of return	6.00%, net of pension plan investment expense

SCHEDULE OF THE TOWN'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY -
TEACHERS' RETIREMENT PLAN
Last Nine Fiscal Years

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Town's proportion of the net pension liability	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
State's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the Town	14,617,090	15,455,577	12,914,053	16,305,448	14,011,923	10,804,007	10,011,700	10,562,396	9,113,816
Total	\$ 14,617,090	15,455,577	12,914,053	16,305,448	14,011,923	10,804,007	10,011,700	10,562,396	9,113,816
Town's covered payroll	\$ 3,501,799	3,177,133	3,270,216	3,778,452	3,696,082	3,569,082	3,384,980	3,185,000	3,025,599
Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of total pension liability	58.39%	54.06%	60.77%	49.24%	52.00%	57.69%	55.93%	52.26%	59.50%

Notes to Schedule

Changes in benefit terms In 2022, legislation was passed restoring the 25% wear down of Plan N benefits to vested members as of June 30, 2019.

Changes in assumptions None

Methods and assumptions used to determine contribution rates:

Actuarial cost method	Entry age
Amortization method	Level percent of salary closed, grading to a level dollar amortization method for June 30, 2024 valuation
Single equivalent amortization period	27.8 years
Asset valuation method	4-year smoothed market
Inflation	2.50%
Salary increase	3.00-6.50%, including inflation
Investment rate of return	6.90%, net of investment related expense, including inflation

This schedule is intended to show information for ten years. Additional information will be added as it becomes available.

SCHEDULE OF THE TOWN'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY -
TEACHERS' RETIREMENT PLAN
Last Seven Fiscal Years

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Town's proportion of the net OPEB liability	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Town's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ -	-	-	-	-	-	-
State's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability associated with the Town	1,369,421	1,353,554	1,406,962	2,431,958	2,185,246	2,159,818	2,576,898
Total	\$ 1,369,421	1,353,554	1,406,962	2,431,958	2,185,246	2,159,818	2,576,898
Town's covered payroll	\$ 3,501,799	3,177,133	3,270,829	3,778,452	3,696,082	3,569,082	3,384,980
Town's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of total OPEB liability	11.92%	9.46%	6.11%	2.50%	2.08%	1.49%	1.79%

Notes to Schedule

Changes in benefit terms

In June 2022, There was a change in the maximum monthly subsidy amounts offered to retirees and their dependants from \$110/\$220 to \$220/\$440.

Changes in assumptions

The single equivalent interest rate was updated to 3.53% as of June 30, 2022.

The expected annual per capita claims cost were updated to reflect anticipated medical and prescription drug claim experience; The assumed age related annual percentage increases in expected annual per capita health care claim costs were updated; Long-term health care cost trend rates were updated; and The percentages of participating retirees who are expected to enroll in the Medicare Supplement Plan and the Medicare Advantage Plan options were updated to better reflect anticipated plan experience.

Methods and assumptions used to determine contribution rates:

Actuarial cost method	Entry age
Amortization method	Level percent of payroll
Amortization period	30 years, open
Asset valuation method	Market value of assets
Inflation	2.50%
Salary increase	3.00-6.50%, including inflation
Investment rate of return	3.00%, net of investment related expense, including inflation

This schedule is intended to show information for ten years. Additional information will be added as it becomes available.

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

RSI-5

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS - PENSION PLAN
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Annual money-weighted rate of return, net of investment expense	<u>7.26%</u>	<u>7.54%</u>	<u>-10.48%</u>	<u>22.66%</u>	<u>0.23%</u>	<u>3.04%</u>	<u>6.83%</u>	<u>9.93%</u>	<u>-0.70%</u>	<u>1.12%</u>

GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES
 BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BUDGETARY BASIS)
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts - Budgetary Basis	Variance With Final Budget Positive/ (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Property taxes:				
Current year's levy	\$ 13,547,262	13,547,262	13,585,400	38,138
Prior year's levy	76,920	76,920	86,326	9,406
Interest and penalties	52,685	52,685	56,860	4,175
Refund	(18,689)	(18,689)	(9,645)	9,044
Total property taxes	\$ 13,658,178	13,658,178	13,718,941	60,763
Intergovernmental grants:				
State grants for education	\$ 126,127	126,127	108,697	(17,430)
Other state & federal grants	225,515	225,515	285,860	60,345
Total intergovernmental grants	\$ 351,642	351,642	394,557	42,915
Licenses, permits and fees:				
Building permits	\$ 263,804	263,804	217,332	(46,472)
Zoning & ZBA permits	25,639	25,639	24,950	(689)
Health dept permits	22,998	22,998	22,150	(848)
Inland wetlands	9,030	9,030	9,950	920
Other	2,656	2,656	4,877	2,221
Conveyance tax	150,000	150,000	124,866	(25,134)
Town clerk fees	24,941	24,941	13,392	(11,549)
Copy machine, regulations & dog fees	6,269	6,269	6,161	(108)
Town clerk LoCIP	1,600	1,600	1,293	(307)
Beach, parks & recreation	84,210	84,210	161,517	77,307
Total licenses, permits & fees	\$ 591,147	591,147	586,488	(4,659)
Investment income	\$ 252,336	322,336	343,987	21,651
Miscellaneous	\$ 37,048	37,048	82,887	45,839
Total other financing sources	\$ 14,890,351	14,960,351	15,126,860	166,509

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES -
 BUDGETARY BASIS - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts - Budgetary Basis	Variance With Final Budget Positive/ (Negative)
	Original	Final		
General Government:				
Board of Selectmen	\$ 203,030	203,030	218,886	(15,856)
Treasurer	27,861	27,861	28,255	(394)
Tax Collector	63,007	63,007	62,151	856
Town Clerk	122,807	122,807	116,663	6,144
Assessor	107,855	107,855	104,931	2,924
Assessment appeals	480	480	547	(67)
Building department	197,148	197,148	190,358	6,790
Planning and zoning	119,650	119,650	117,658	1,992
Zoning Board of Appeals	4,850	4,850	4,385	465
Inland wetlands commission	16,609	16,609	15,080	1,529
Counsel and court costs	20,000	55,000	61,688	(6,688)
Registrars	39,532	39,532	41,384	(1,852)
Memberships	8,332	8,332	8,332	-
Consultants	4,300	4,300	2,300	2,000
Other general government	12,878	12,878	13,648	(770)
Total general government	\$ 948,339	983,339	986,266	(2,927)
Public Safety:				
Public safety	\$ 444,919	444,919	421,268	23,651
EFS operations	111,985	111,985	112,493	(508)
SVFD operations	195,145	195,145	195,422	(277)
Candlewood Lake Authority	131,469	131,469	131,419	50
Animal control	22,316	22,316	22,515	(199)
Collections and recycling	38,215	38,215	37,750	465
Total public safety	\$ 944,049	944,049	920,867	23,182
Public Works	\$ 969,480	969,480	939,740	29,740
Health and Welfare:				
Health department	\$ 64,395	64,395	64,016	379
Health and welfare	66,099	66,099	65,088	1,011
Total health and welfare	\$ 130,494	130,494	129,104	1,390
Culture and Recreation:				
Library	\$ 192,816	192,816	192,816	-
Parks and recreation	166,791	201,791	228,168	(26,377)
Parades and Town events	2,550	2,550	1,586	964
Total culture and recreation	\$ 362,157	397,157	422,570	(25,413)
Department of Education				
Sherman School Pk-8	7,140,852	7,140,852	7,332,614	(191,762)
Highschool Tuition	2,368,519	2,368,519	2,376,958	(8,439)
Total department of education	\$ 9,509,371	9,509,371	9,709,572	(200,201)

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES -
BUDGETARY BASIS - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts - Budgetary Basis	Variance With Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Insurance and employee benefits:				
Defined benefit plan	\$ 2,600	2,600	2,400	200
Workers compensation/unemployment	59,000	59,000	54,511	4,489
Payroll taxes	117,200	117,200	120,799	(3,599)
Defined Contribution plan	51,000	51,000	46,280	4,720
Life and medical insurance	363,700	363,700	363,717	(17)
Liability/auto insurance	86,000	86,000	82,842	3,158
Other compensated absences	10,700	10,700	30,734	(20,034)
Total insurance & employee benefits	\$ 690,200	690,200	701,283	(11,083)
Building and grounds:				
Town hall technology	\$ 100,600	100,600	106,646	(6,046)
Facilities	109,600	109,600	108,123	1,477
Total building and grounds	\$ 210,200	210,200	214,769	(4,569)
Other:				
Reserve fund/capital reserve	\$ 500,000	500,000	500,000	-
Land acquisition fund	120	120		120
Probate services	5,049	5,049	5,458	(409)
Senior center	123,980	123,980	120,805	3,175
Historic District Commission	600	600	732	(132)
Cemeteries	100	100		100
Trees	22,200	22,200	21,770	430
Miscellaneous	4,000	4,000	4,509	(509)
Conservation commission	2,800	2,800	1,431	1,369
Total other	\$ 658,849	658,849	654,705	4,144
Debt service:				
Continuing disclosure	\$ 750	750	750	-
Principal	410,000	410,000	410,000	-
Interest	56,462	56,462	56,114	348
Total debt service	\$ 467,212	467,212	466,864	348
Total expenditures and other financial uses	\$ 14,890,351	14,960,351	15,145,740	(185,389)

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

SCHEDULE 3

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
 NONMAJOR FUNDS
 June 30, 2024

	Special Revenues						
	Dog Fund	Education Grants	Town Activities	Document Preservation	Revaluation Reserve	Land Acquisition	Total
Assets:							
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 60,892	13,933	70,343	7,994		60,227	213,389
Receivables, net		7,500					7,500
Total assets	\$ 60,892	21,433	70,343	7,994	-	60,227	220,889
Liabilities:							
Cash overdrawn	\$				34,957		34,957
Payments in advance		21,433					21,433
Due to other funds							-
Total liabilities	\$ -	21,433	-	-	34,957	-	56,390
Fund balance (deficit):							
Restricted	\$			7,994			7,994
Committed	60,892					60,227	121,119
Assigned			70,343				70,343
Unassigned					(34,957)		(34,957)
Total fund balance (deficit)	\$ 60,892	-	70,343	7,994	(34,957)	60,227	164,499

COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
 CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS) - NONMAJOR FUNDS
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Special Revenues						Total
	Dog Fund	Education Grants	Town Activities	Document Preservation	Revaluation Reserve	Land Acquisition	
Revenues:							
Intergovernmental	\$	533,438		5,500			538,938
Charges for services	2,166		138,072	960			141,198
Investment income	1,560			1	853	1,538	3,952
Total revenues	\$ 3,726	533,438	138,072	6,461	853	1,538	684,088
Expenditures:							
General government	\$			5,762	122,400		128,162
Public safety	1,937						1,937
Culture and recreation			81,040				81,040
Education		533,438					533,438
Other							-
Total expenditures	\$ 1,937	533,438	81,040	5,762	122,400	-	744,577
Revenue over (under) expenditures	\$ 1,789	-	57,032	699	(121,547)	1,538	(60,489)
Other financial sources (uses):							
Transfer in from other funds	\$				16,481		16,481
Transfer out to other funds							-
Total other financial sources (uses)	\$ -	-	-	-	16,481	-	16,481
Changes in fund balances	\$ 1,789	-	57,032	699	(105,066)	1,538	(44,008)
Fund balances - beginning	59,103	-	13,311	7,295	70,109	58,689	208,507
Fund balances - ended	\$ 60,892	-	70,343	7,994	(34,957)	60,227	164,499

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BY PROJECT
 CAPITAL AND NONRECURRING FUND
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Beginning Fund Balance	Current Year Capital Funding	Transfers	Other Revenues	Total Available	Current Year Expenditures	Ended Fund Balance
Reserved Funds:							
LoCIP - Roof Repair	\$ 855				855		855
LoCIP - Generator Hookup				2,799	2,799	(2,799)	-
Conservation Comm - HRRP Grant	1,432				1,432	(312)	1,120
Donation - Senior Center	25,000				25,000		25,000
Total reserved funds	\$ 27,287	-	-	2,799	30,086	(3,111)	26,975
Committed fund balance:							
SVFD Communications System-Phase III	\$ 59,000				59,000	(47,349)	11,651
Playground Reconstruction	278,884				278,884		278,884
Feasibility Study - New Senior Center	2,500				2,500		2,500
Renovate Veterans soccer field	16,980				16,980	(1,075)	15,905
Bridges under 20' - Evals	600		(600)		-		-
Purchase Ford F250	1,214		(1,214)		-		-
ESF- Sealcoat Equipment Bay Floors	2,602		(2,602)		-		-
Cedar Lane Survey Town Property Right of Way	225		(225)		-		-
FEMA Grant Match	7,140				7,140	(6,973)	167
Playground Reconstruction 2022/2023	150,000				150,000		150,000
Purchase Avanti Tractor and Utility	54		(54)		-		-
Bldg Plan - Architect Study/ Planning	110,235				110,235	(13,086)	97,149
Purchase 2024 Int'l 6 Wheel Dump Truck	265,000				265,000	(242,472)	22,528
New Sr Center Building / Planning	9,000				9,000		9,000
Aluminum Flatbed & Fuel Barrel	8,201		(207)		7,994	(7,994)	-
Owl 3 Remote Meeting System	1,901				1,901	(1,194)	707
Renzor Propane Heater	10,132				10,132	(10,132)	-
Meeting Room A/C Emergency Repair/Condensor Unit		9,522			9,522	(7,873)	1,649
School Reconst-Drawings/Schematics/Specs/Engr Svcs		340,000			340,000	(335,391)	4,609
Purchase Avanti Fence Mower Arm		5,700	(45)		5,655	(5,655)	-
STEAP Town Match for Pickleball Courts		48,000			48,000		48,000
Dock Replacement Phase I		66,500			66,500	(10,749)	55,751
Computers-2 Desktop/3 Laptop/Ruckus etc.		10,000			10,000	(7,780)	2,220
Purchase Sander for Truck #4		11,000	(1,511)		9,489	(9,489)	-
Fund SEVENTY2ARCHITECTS-pre rfrndm Architectural Svcs		76,225			76,225	(20,144)	56,081
Fund Emergency Installation Mini-Split AC/Heat unit		9,544			9,544	(9,544)	-
Purchase/Instal5 New Tires Engine 2		5,000	(282)		4,718	(4,718)	-
Purchase Cam Superfine Landscape Trailer		5,000	(130)		4,870	(4,870)	-
Purchase 2 Marlin "Your Sign" Speed Indicators		10,000			10,000		10,000
Roof Recovery Project-Coat Roof		135,000			135,000		135,000
HVAC-Classroom and Fitness Center		17,000			17,000		17,000
Emergency Hook-up Generator-LoCIP		2,799			2,799		2,799
Classroom/Fitness Center HVAC Repairs		17,000			17,000	(345)	16,655
Roof Recovery Project-Antinozzi Mgt Svcs		135,000			135,000		135,000
Storage Shed		10,000			10,000		10,000
School Facility Summer Repairs		50,000			50,000		50,000
Real Time Field Cards Online		15,000			15,000		15,000
Total committed fund balance	\$ 923,668	978,290	(6,870)	-	1,895,088	(746,833)	1,148,255
Assigned (unassigned) fund balance:							
Assigned	\$ 994,888	(978,290)	506,870	54,246	577,714	-	577,714
Total assigned (unassigned) fund balance	\$ 994,888	(978,290)	506,870	54,246	577,714	-	577,714
Total fund balance	\$ 1,945,843	-	500,000	57,045	2,502,888	(749,944)	1,752,944

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY TAXES LEVIED, COLLECTED AND OUTSTANDING
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Grand List Year	Uncollected Balance & New Levy July 1, 2023	Lawful Corrections		Transfers To (Recoveries From) Suspense	Balance to be Collected	Collections			Uncollected Balance June 30, 2024	
		Increases	Decreases			Taxes	Interest	Lien Fees		Total
2,016	\$ 47			(47)	47					-
2,017	46			(46)	46					-
2,018	1,874			(43)	1,874	1,830	1,467	53	3,350	
2,019	3,159	2,808	(3,317)	(1,487)	5,967	2,922	1,453	53	4,428	1,559
2,020	28,253	130		(1,409)	28,384	24,375	8,870	220	33,465	2,599
2,021	77,260	2,605		(1,431)	76,548	54,304	10,661	650	65,615	20,812
Total	\$ 110,639	5,543	(3,317)	(4,463)	112,866	83,431	22,451	976	106,858	24,970
2,022	13,661,935	74,870	(51,645)	(2,879)	13,682,281	13,577,028	32,100	2,637	13,611,765	105,253
Total	\$ 13,772,574	80,413	(54,962)	(7,342)	13,795,147	13,660,459	54,551	3,613	13,718,623	130,223

TOWN OF SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT

SCHEDULE 7

SCHEDULE OF DEBT LIMITATION
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

		Total tax collections (including interest and lien fees) for the year ended June 30, 2024					\$ 13,718,623
		Reimbursement for revenue loss on: Elderly Tax Relief - Freeze					<u>-</u>
		Base					\$ <u>13,718,623</u>
		<u>General Purpose</u>	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Sewers</u>	<u>Urban Renewal</u>	<u>Pension Bonding</u>	<u>Total Debt</u>
Debt limitation:							
2 1/4 times base	\$	30,866,902					
4 1/2 times base			61,733,804				
3 3/4 times base				51,444,837			
3 1/4 times base					44,585,525		
3 times base						41,155,869	
7 times base							96,030,362
Total debt limitation	\$	<u>30,866,902</u>	<u>61,733,804</u>	<u>51,444,837</u>	<u>44,585,525</u>	<u>41,155,869</u>	<u>96,030,362</u>
Indebtedness:							
Bonds payable	\$	2,385,000					2,385,000
Bonds authorized and unissued							-
Total indebtedness	\$	<u>2,385,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,385,000</u>
Less: School construction grants receivable		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total indebtedness of the Town	\$	<u>2,385,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,385,000</u>
Debt limitation in excess of outstanding and authorized debt	\$	<u>28,481,902</u>	<u>61,733,804</u>	<u>51,444,837</u>	<u>44,585,525</u>	<u>41,155,869</u>	<u>93,645,362</u>

SECTION B

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

SHERMAN BOARD OF EDUCATION



ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent
September 2024

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to provide the Town of Sherman with a report on The Sherman School progress under the governance of the Sherman Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year. The Board of Education and the administration are appreciative of the cooperation between the town leaders and our school. The Board is grateful for the town's approval of the operational budget of **\$9,509,370** (representing a **2.98% increase** from the 2022-2023 budget) which has served the needs of **246** students in preschool-8th grade, as well as paid tuition for **130** students in grades 9-12.

OUR VISION and GOALS

The Board of Education adopted our vision which serves to guide the present and future work in the Sherman School District. The following statement has also informed the Board's development and approval of seven goals designed to operationalize this vision, whereby:

"The Sherman School empowers students to thrive in a challenging, personalized, supportive environment that is joyful, inspiring, and future-focused."

In the Spring of 2023, the Board adopted a Strategic Plan that would chart a course to help us to manifest our vision over the course of the next five years. The plan contains five key areas. They are: Collaboration, Culture and Communication, Student Achievement and Functional Growth, Curriculum and Instructional Development, Middle School Reimagined, Infrastructure and Operational Enhancements. Objectives and action items, as well as timelines and accountability issues will be included. Greater detail can be found by visiting our website at www.shermanschool.com | About Us | Strategic Plan.

Our Strategic Objectives include:

Collaboration, Culture and Communication

Objective 1: Implement a clear change management process that is purposeful and consistent

Object 2: Build and maintain positive relationships with diverse stakeholders

Objective 3: Execute a comprehensive communication strategy that includes all facets of the organization

Objective 4: Foster an inclusive culture that appreciates a diversity of perspectives and learning styles.

Student Achievement and Functional Growth

Objective 1: Create a systematic approach to student achievement, which reflects high expectations

Objective 2: Strengthen and enhance student learning supports.

Objective 3: Establish the capacity of students to become empowered learners

Objective 4: Continuously improve and evaluate the effectiveness of resources and programming.

Curriculum and Instructional Development

Objective 1: Foster an Individualized approach to instruction for students

Objective 2: Develop and regularly monitor an innovative curriculum for Grades PK-8.

Objective 3: Provide strategic and purposeful professional staff development

Objective 4: Create a cohesive lesson design cycle to make learning visible.

Middle School Reimagined

Objective 1: Improve middle school student achievement

Objective 2: Implement a student-centered approach to teaching and learning.

Objective 3: Develop a culture that fosters exploration and independence.

Objective 4: Embrace flexibility and continuous improvement

Objective 5: Prepare students for their choice of high school or vocational experience training in grades 9-12.

Infrastructure and Operational Enhancements

Objective 1: Partner with the School Building Committee to execute a comprehensive repair and renovation project.

Objective 2: Adopt a transparent and fiscally responsible budget.

Objective 3: Develop a long-term capital infrastructure maintenance plan.

Objective 4: Continuously improve protocols, procedures, and personnel as they relate to finance, operations and human resources.

STAFFING

The vast majority of our budget was invested in human resources; salaries for staff who serve a wide variety of roles to support our instructional program. In addition to a variety of contracted service providers, there are a total of **61** full and part-time individuals employed by the Sherman Board of Education, including:

- Administration **(4)**
- Teachers **(36)**
- Paraprofessionals **(14)**
- Secretarial, Technology, Facilities, Business Office, Security **(10)**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For 2023-2024, the town approved an operating budget of **\$9,509,370** to support our instructional program. Our final balance was **-\$217,932** due to additional bussing, special education outplacements, special education transportation and special education high school costs.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT for 2024-2025

The 2024-2025 operational budget was constructed to allow us to achieve a shared vision for the Sherman School District. First and foremost our goal was to align our proposed spending with our vision and Strategic Plan. The Board's approved budget of **\$9,869,360** allows us to do the following, and more:

- Increase student support and enrichment during the school day.
- Create programs for students to participate in and connect with their community
- Evaluate and plan for improvements to a number of our programs including project based learning, WEE (WIN, Engagement and Enrichment) and the expansion of What I Need (WIN) into elementary grades
- Focus on data to help teachers target specific student needs

In addition, our 2024-2025 budget continues to ensure:

- Professional Learning and materials to support year two of implementation of a state approved reading program for grades K-8
- The fulfillment of all negotiated contractual obligations
- The safety of all students and staff with full-time armed security
- 1:1 technology devices for all students
- Continued investment in and development of extracurricular programs
- Programming for all preschool-aged residents who wish to attend

SUMMARY

The 2024-2025 year is the third year of the Sherman School administration. Dr. Patricia Cosentino is the part-time Superintendent, Dr. Mary Fernand is the building Principal, Dr. Karen Fildes divides her time between the Assistant Principal position and the Director of Teaching & Learning, and Dr. Renee Leekin leads the Student Services Department. The Sherman School District has developed a strategic plan with priorities and goals for the district. The Board in conjunction with a town Building Committee has decided on a renovation plan for The Sherman School. A tentative referendum is planned for October 5, 2024. We look forward to working together with the faculty, staff, parents, town leaders and the broader community to realize our vision and achieve our collective goals. We encourage you to visit our website at www.shermanschool.com for more information. Please feel free to contact us at 860-355-3793 if you have questions or concerns.

Sherman Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report 2024

In 2023, the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) responded to 466 emergency calls, including 139 fire-related incidents, 283 medical calls, and 44 combined events. As of September 1, 2024, we have already responded to over 273 calls for this year. Alongside these critical responses, our dedicated volunteers devoted over 200 hours to 50 nights of intensive drills and training sessions. We also held regular monthly meetings to plan activities and address the specific needs of our town.

Our department is made up of more than 50 active members, each trained in fire and EMS disciplines. Beyond our weekly Monday night training sessions, many of our members pursued additional certifications that required multiple weekly classes over several months. Noteworthy certifications achieved this year include Firefighter 1 and 2, Fire Instructor, Swiftwater Rescue Technician, and Ice Rescue. On the EMS side, new members completed Emergency Medical Technician and Responder training, along with monthly EMS training. Many of these EMS sessions were held at our department, in collaboration with neighboring fire departments, enhancing mutual aid efforts.

In addition to emergency services, we organized several successful community fundraising events in 2023 and 2024. These included the Christmas Tree Sale, which benefited 125 families in our town and nearby communities, and the Santa Express Gift Delivery, bringing joy to over 50 families. We were also thrilled to see the return of the Sherman Fireman's Ball. Despite some rainy weather, the event was a tremendous success, and we sincerely thank the community for their strong support.

Our department proudly represented Sherman in several local parades, including the Sherman Memorial Day Parade and the Bridgewater Fair Firefighters Parade, where we wore our new dress uniforms. We also participated in the New Fairfield Light Parade last December and the New Fairfield Lions Club Fourth of July Parade, where we were honored with the President's Award. In addition, the department fielded a team for the Sherman Annual Softball Tournament, showcasing our commitment to community involvement beyond emergency services.

This year, we are especially grateful to the residents of Sherman for approving the purchase of two new emergency vehicles. A Sprinter Ambulance is set to be in service by November, and a Mini Pumper will be replacing apparatus that are ready to age out of service in our fleet in 2025. These vehicles will improve our ability to respond effectively, especially in hard-to-reach areas of Sherman. We are also thankful for a generous donation from Sherman resident Alan Braverman, who provided a new LUCAS Device for our ambulance. This device delivers high-quality, consistent chest compressions to cardiac arrest patients, both in the field and during transport.

The Officers and Members of the SVFD extend our sincere thanks to the Board of Selectmen and the citizens of Sherman for their unwavering support. We are always looking to expand our membership, and we encourage anyone interested in joining to contact us at (860)354-9273 or visit www.shermanVFD.org for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

James Mandracchia
President, Sherman Fire Department





SHERMAN RESIDENT TROOPER OFFICE

1 ROUTE 39 NORTH, SHERMAN CT, 06784

Phone: (860)-354-3715, (203)-267-2200, Fax: (203)-267-2250

Shermanresidenttrooper@gmail.com

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

The Town of Sherman participates in the Connecticut State Police Resident Trooper Program. There is currently one Resident Trooper assigned to the Town of Sherman, TFC Wayne Tate #339. From July 1st, 2023, to June 30th, 2024, the Sherman Resident Trooper's Office, as well as the Connecticut State Police, responded to the following calls for service in the Town of Sherman.

The Sherman Resident Trooper's Office &

Connecticut State Police Calls for Service Summary:

Total Calls for Service:	2,496
Collisions without Injury:	34
Collisions with Injury:	9
Collisions with Serious Injury:	0
Alarms (Residential & Business):	116
General Citizen Assists:	147
Burglaries:	0
Trespassing Complaints:	7
Active & Non-Active Disturbances:	18
Operating Under the Influence Arrests:	1
Larcenies:	6
Suspicious Incidents:	70
Traffic Stops:	534
Death Investigations:	5

**Respectfully,
TFC Wayne Tate #339
Sherman Resident Trooper**



FIRE MARSHAL

SHERMAN, CT 06784

Annual Report

September 13th, 2024

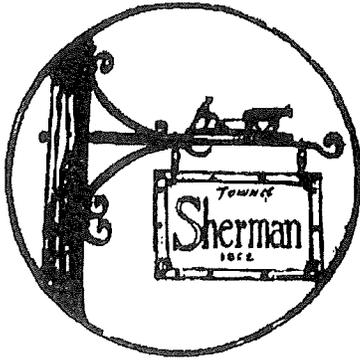
In January of this past year, David Lathrop, Sherman's long-time Fire Marshal and a pillar of fire prevention, community safety, and code enforcement throughout Connecticut passed away. The Sherman's Fire Marshal's office continues to honor Dave's tremendous legacy by upholding the enforcement of Connecticut's adopted Fire Prevention and Fire Safety codes, as well as providing consistent fire safety services for Sherman's residents and businesses.

Sherman's Fire Marshal's Office is served by Fire Marshal Christopher Fuchs and Open Burn Officer Jim Reilly. Over the course of the past year, the Fire Marshal's Office has served business owners and builders by reviewing construction plans for new commercial occupancies and residential subdivisions. Open burning regulations have been enforced with a newly enhanced permitting process that can be completed, submitted, and approved electronically. Annual fire code inspections are performed on a continuous basis to ensure that all restaurants, childcare centers, and entertainment spaces are safe for Sherman's community to occupy. The Fire Marshal's office continues to respond to all fires to conduct origin and cause investigations.

The Fire Marshal's Office reminds all residents to change their smoke alarm batteries twice a year and ensure one is present in each bedroom and on all floors of their homes. Care should be taken to have your chimney cleaned and inspected prior to using fireplaces and woodstoves. Driveways and mailboxes should clearly display a street number that is visible to emergency responders.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Fuchs,
Fire Marshal



**SHERMAN
PARK AND RECREATION**
Mallory Town Hall
Sherman, Connecticut 06784

(860) 354-3629

**PARK AND RECREATION
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024**

During 2023-2024 Park and Recreation has spent many hours planning, developing, maintaining and improving the recreational facilities and programs of the Town of Sherman to provide a safe and healthy environment for both passive and active recreation.

All of our successful summer programs of Junior and Senior Camp, and swim lessons were all well attended by over two hundred children. Youth Soccer had over fifty participants most in the Tiny Tot program. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt had over 100 participants. Our year-round and seasonal programs such as Basketball, Skiing, Summer Concert Series, to name a few, have kept our residents busy and our recreational areas in constant use. The 169 Road Race Club has added Sherman to their race schedule (can't do 169 towns without Sherman). A preschool Music Program "Music with Ms. Cheryl" was started and well received.

In the July of 2023, the Commission was approached by a Life Scout of Troop 31 in New Milford regarding an Eagle Scout Project which was presented and approved in August for the construction of a GaGa pit at the playground area at the Town Park. This was completed by winter and received much use by our 2024 summer campers. Two Life Scouts with Sherman's Troop 48 approached the Commission regarding their Eagle Scout Projects to improve two areas (Allen's Camp South and Allen's Camp North) of the Town Park – these projects will be done in the next fiscal year. The Commission is most appreciative of all the work done by the Scouts to enhance our recreational areas.

The Commission researched and found a software program that will allow online sign up for Park and Rec programs which was implemented in the fall of 2023.

August 2023 saw the Commission search for a new Program Coordinator for a September 1st start date. The Commission was pleased to welcome JodiAnn Eure as the first Program Coordinator. She has brought Park and Rec onto the 21st Century with an on-line presence and has introduced a number of new programs such as Taichi, Pilates, Yoga, Baking, jewelry making, etc. Some well attended and others not so much.

An annual Fireworks display was proposed, researched and may happen in the summer of 2025. A new Split Unit Heating System was installed in the Scout House and a new sign for Colonial Park was mounted at the entrance to the park.

With much thanks to the First Selectman, a STEAP Grant was obtained for the construction of new Pickleball Courts in Town, much time and effort was dedicated to finding the right location and after much research, comment and input; Volunteer Park was decided as the perfect spot for a dedicated Pickleball area in town. Construction should begin in Fall of 2024.

This year again saw our After-School Program (ASP) fully funded by those who use the program and it was well attended by children of families that need after school care and the Commission was happy to report that it ended the year in the black. The Commission will continue this program for the next school year and will do so as long as it serves the needs of the families of Sherman.

Much time and effort from the members and employees of the Park and Recreation Commission goes into maintaining all areas for the enjoyment of our townspeople and we look forward to continuing to provide recreational areas and programs for all ages to enjoy. The Commission will continue with its commitment to maintain the high standard of facilities, activities, special events and programs that the residents of Sherman have enjoyed in the past.

Respectfully submitted,
SHERMAN PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

By *Frances Frattini*

Frances Frattini, Chairman

September 11, 2024

TOWN OF SHERMAN

Public Works



2023-2024 Annual Report

Fiscal year 2023/24 was a busy year for Public Works. Portions of Church rd, Edmunds rd and the aprons on Gelston rd were paved and over 3 miles of road was chip sealed and fog coated. This included Hubell Mtn Rd, Fox Run, Partridge Trail, Brinsmade lane and Jericho rd South. We had the Wakeman Hill road project approved and should be completed in late 2024. Road work will continue to be a priority in the future as we continue to evaluate all possible projects.

With a completed review of facilities, equipment and personnel we are now updating our capital needs to continue servicing Sherman to the best of our abilities. This will be continually updated, reviewed and adjusted as needed.

Public Works also saw equipment upgrades and replacements. This included the delivery of the long anticipated Truck #6 (renamed Truck #7). Its arrival just before winter was perfect timing to help through the snowy days. We also purchased a sander for truck #8, this now ensures that all trucks have similar capabilities during snow storms. There was additional delays of nearly 4 months on the delivery of the Truck #2 replacement which arrived in the next budget year. We continued an aggressive maintenance program making sure we keep up with repairs needed and planning for replacements when necessary .

Public Works employees worked tirelessly to keep up with maintenance and project at all four major town parks. Mowing, playing field maintenance, playground equipment repairs, trail evaluations, beach up keep and building reviews continue to be a priority working with Park and Recreation department along with supporting the Conservation Commission in their efforts to battle invasive plants in our parks.

Public works employees are proud of their efforts and continue to look forward to serving the residents of Sherman

Public Works
43 Route 39 North
Sherman, Connecticut 06784
Visit us online at www.townofshermanct.org

Supervisor Kristian Fazzino
publicworks@townofshermanct.org
Office 860-350-5514
Cell 203-917-0723

**TOWN OF SHERMAN
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024

The Planning and Zoning Commission included the following members during the year:

	Jeannene Burruano		Exp. 01/01/2028
	Christian Dacunha	Vice-Chair	Exp. 01/01/2028
	David Febbraio		Exp. 01/01/2026
	Mary Lee	Secretary	Exp. 01/01/2025
	Ryan Peburn	Chair	Exp. 01/01/2026
	Jerrold Siegel		Exp. 01/01/2026
	Paul Voorhees		Exp. 01/01/2029
	Jill Finch	Alternate	Exp. 01/01/2026
	Julia Verlaine	Alternate	Exp. 01/01/2026
	Lauren Weber	Alternate	Exp. 01/01/2026
Staff	Ron Cooper	Zoning Enforcement Officer	Ret. 12/31/2023
	D. Tobin, PhD.	Land Use Enforcement Officer	Beg. 01/01/2024
	Christine Branson	(Administrative Clerk)	

The P&Z Commission consists of seven regular members and three alternate members. R. Peburn continues as Chair. Christian Dacunha continues as Vice-Chair. Mary Lee continues as Secretary. Jeannene Burruano and Alternate Julia Verlaine completed their terms at the end of 2023. At the December 7, 2023 meeting, the Commission voted to appoint Jeannene Burruano as a regular member to serve a four year term. At the April 4, 2024 Meeting, the Commission voted to appoint Julia Verlaine as an Alternate, to serve a two year term. The Commissioners attended virtual continuing education courses this year to comply with new State mandates set forth in PA 21-29. The Commission thanked outgoing ZEO, R. Cooper for 18 years of steadfast dedication to the Town when he retired at the end of 2023. The Commission welcomed incoming LUEO, D. Tobin, PhD. to the Town and Zoning Office. This year the Commission completed several changes to the Zoning Regulations and shall continue review in the upcoming year.

THE PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT RECEIVED AND PROCESSED THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS:

New Single Family Dwellings:	8
Additions:	10
Decks:	14
Garages:	3
Renovations to existing space:	8
Sheds:	14
Pools:	1
Hot tubs:	6
Generators:	35
HVAC:	31
Fences:	6
Demo:	3
Change of Occupancy:	2
Sign:	1
Office:	3
Gate:	1
Gazebo:	2
Planting Plan:	1
Temporary:	3
Special Permits & Other:	
Accessory Dwellings & Apartments:	2
Septic Connection to Accessory Building:	4
Subdivisions:	1
Certificate of Zoning Compliance:	1
Driveway Permits:	4
Municipal Improvements (§ 8-24):	4
Affordable Housing unit (§ 8-30g):	1
Denied:	4
Withdrawn:	2
Total:	175

Respectfully submitted by:


Christine Branson, Commission Clerk September 5, 2024



**TOWN OF SHERMAN
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Mallory Town Hall, 9 Rte. 39 North, P.O. Box 39
Sherman, Connecticut 06784
T: 860.355.3127 F: 860.350.5041
www.townofshermanct.org

Annual Report for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

The Zoning Board of Appeals included the following members during the year:

Jared Bonner		Exp. 01/01/2028
Ann Chiaramonte		Exp. 01/01/2030
Richard Devine		Exp. 01/01/2027
Kathleen A. Fazzino	(Vice- Chair)	Exp. 01/01/2026
Kenric Gubner	(Chair)	Exp. 01/01/2029
Samantha Addonizio- Butts	(Alternate)	Exp. 01/01/2026
Scott Guinta	(Alternate)	Exp. 01/01/2024
Andrea O'Connor	(Alternate)	Exp. 01/01/2026
Scott Murray	(Alternate)	Exp. 01/01/2026

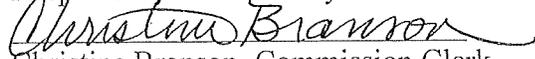
Staff:

Ron Cooper	(Zoning Enforcement Officer)	Retired 12/31/2023
Dennis Tobin, PhD.	(Land Use Enforcement Officer)	Began 01/01/2024
Christine Branson	(Administrative Clerk)	

The Zoning Board of Appeals consists of five regular members and three Alternate members. Kenric Gubner continues as Chair. Kathy Fazzino continues as Vice Chair. Scott Guinta resigned from the Board in September of 2023. Scott Murray, Andrea O'Connor, and Samantha Addonizio-Butts each serve two year terms as Alternate Members. There are no vacancies.

The Zoning Board of Appeals heard a total of 11 cases during the fiscal year; 4 cases were granted, 5 were denied, 2 cases were withdrawn, and 1 application was ruled upon in August 2023.

Respectfully submitted by:


Christine Branson, Commission Clerk
September 3, 2024

TOWN OF SHERMAN

OFFICE OF BUILDING INSPECTOR

P. O. BOX 39 · Sherman, Conn. 06784 - 0039

(203) 355 - 0166

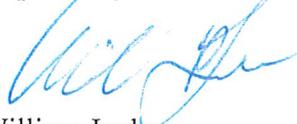
TOWN OF SHERMAN BUILDING DEPARTMENT FISCAL YEAR END REPORT 2023 - 2024

FOLLOWING IS A THREE YEAR CONSTRUCTION COMPARISON

Fiscal Year:	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
No. Permit	650	547	541	476
New Dwellings:	16	10	5	9
Const. Value:	\$19,808,305	\$21,683,231	\$20,759,092	\$17,853,824
Fee Value:	\$246,544	\$270,134	\$259,916	\$217,520
Fee Waived:		\$828	\$960	\$3234

New Home Construction has slightly increased with 9 New Homes constructed. Additions and Alterations to existing dwelling continues to be a very active portion of construction. This is my Final Year End Report as I will be retiring as of October 1, 2024. It has been an absolute pleasure for 38 years working in this wonderful Town of Sherman and I wish you all many Sparking Days.

Respectfully Submitted



William Jenks
Building Official
Town of Sherman



SHERMAN INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
Box 39 Sherman, Connecticut 06784

ANNUAL REPORT OF COMMISSION ACTIVITIES
WETLANDS

FISCAL YEAR 2023– 2024

The Commission processed the following:

STATEMENT OF INTENT	143
PERMITS	26
SCHEDULE A	2
PERMIT MODIFICATIONS	2
PERMIT RENEWALS	0
VIOLATIONS	0

The Commission held the following:

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING	11
SPECIAL / WORKSHOP MEETING	0
FIELD TRIPS	20
PUBLIC HEARING	2

As of July 1, 2024, the slate for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is as follows:
Chairman, Frank Galasso, Vice Chairman, Robert Putnam, Secretary, Michael
Humphreys. The other Commission members are Jerome Mendell, Merialis Lewis, Diane
LaViano, Robert Washabaugh. (3) openings.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Galasso, Chairman

Prepared by:
Trish Viola, Clerk

Sherman Social Services

Annual Report

2023-24

Time in the Field

Sherman Social Services spent considerably more time on home visits, nursing home visits and emergency room visits in 2023-24.

In serving Sherman's aging population, the director and assistant have provided hands-on assistance in many situations, especially in cases of Sherman residents living alone with no family or reliable friends.

For example, we assisted directly in one home visit where we found an elderly woman on the kitchen floor, unable to get up. She had been on the floor all morning. We called the rescue squad.

We assisted directly with a confused senior citizen who was later to be found with a severely high blood glucose reading that could have put her into a diabetic coma. We called the rescue squad. We sat in the ER with her, as she had no family or reliable friends.

During the year we have reached out to help seniors who have been without electricity, without heat, or without phone service. Most of these cases were solo seniors who had forgotten to pay a bill. We called Adult Protective Services, as we are mandated reporters of neglect, even self-neglect. We helped seniors to get on auto-pay to avoid shut-offs. We also attended probate court hearings as witnesses in conservator cases.

Although our mission is to provide information, referrals and advocacy, we have found we are providing more hands-on assistance, including acting as go-betweens with emergency room and nursing home personnel for clients who have no family.

Working with Sherman's excellent rescue squad members has also resulted in better communications between our office and theirs. One of the squad members created a Referral Form for Social Services. When the rescue squad has repeat calls to the same house or finds a senior in need of more services, they complete a referral form and submit it to Social Services. The rescue squad is the front-line of helping services in Sherman.

Goals for 2024-45

Hoarding Task Force: Lynne has attended meetings with area social services directors to work collaboratively on Hoarding. Sherman has several known severe cases of elderly hoarding. The goal of a regional task force will be to consolidate resources, including information, clean-up crews, dumpster rentals, organizers and therapists. Our approach to hoarding is "safety first."

Important: Hoarding is a mental health disorder. Hoarding cannot be cured by clearing out. It is a long therapeutic process to make steps forward. Each client has the right to live their lives the way they see fit. Social Services is here to provide information, encouragement and steps toward change.

Reach Out: At this printing the office was awaiting a determination of a grant in support of the Reach Out program. Sherman has a population of seniors who are living alone. Loneliness has been identified by the Surgeon General as a health risk. Our goal is to revamp our Reach Out program in 2024-25. This

program simply provides reliable weekly visits matching seniors with trained volunteers. Our office will do the training. The goal is 1 hour per week visits for purely social interactions, like playing cards and chatting. It is not home care.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Sherman Social Services assisted in securing \$151,182.09 in funding for struggling households for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.

Here is a breakdown:

CHARITABLE GROUPS:

Salvation Army: The Salvation Army helped Sherman residents with funds for heating, medical needs, housing, grocery gift cards and the Back-to-School program. Total: \$55,600.67. See below for Back-to-School details.

Sherman Cares: This local Sherman non-profit agency helped our residents with grocery gift cards, gasoline gift cards, interim housing, home repairs, heating needs and summer camp for a total of \$16,586.50. See below for Summer Camp details.

Matthew 25 (M25): M25 is Sherman's Hot Meal Program, sponsored locally by Matthew 25, a non-profit organization. The meals are prepared fresh by our local IGA. They are delivered anonymously by our wonderful volunteers. Meals are delivered three days each week (Monday-Wednesday-Friday) all year. The meals are free to eligible residents. To qualify, residents must be under the State Poverty Level or be a homebound senior. This fiscal year, we provided meals to 12 households, for a total of \$20,500.00, paid for by M25. NOTE: This program is currently on hiatus, as of June 2024, awaiting notice of further funding.

United Way of Western CT: United Way provided \$2,430.00 in funding for Back-to-School, supplying backpacks, school supplies and gift cards for clothing to Sherman high schoolers.

Community Relief of the Sherman Congregational Church provided \$1,652.04 in funding for various requests, including transitional housing for a homeless woman.

Sherman IGA: \$2,200.00 purchased Hams and Turkeys for our seasonal gifts and American Pie Company: \$1,000.00 for pies.

PROGRAMS:

Energy Assistance: This fiscal year, the office processed more than 41 energy assistance applications for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program, providing \$39,512.88 in federal dollars for Energy Assistance. These funds are sent directly to vendors.

Back-to-School: We distributed school supplies and Wal-Mart/Kohl's Gift Cards and back packs for the 2023-24 school year in the amount of \$5,100.00 to 17 households, representing 30 school-aged children. Funding was provided by the Salvation Army and the United Way. NOTE: This figure is reflected in totals from United Way and Salvation Army.

Summer Camp: Sixteen Sherman children received tuition waivers valued at \$350.00 each for summer camp 2024, with add-ons including swim lessons and extended care, for a total of \$9,725.00. Funding was provided by Sherman Cares. NOTE: This figure is reflected in the total received from Sherman Cares.

Seasonal Outreach Spring Basket: Over 40 households received a ham, chocolate candies, a gift card and a reusable bag, for a total of \$2,000.00. Funding was provided by the Sherman IGA, Sherman Cares and the Salvation Army. NOTE: This figure is reflected in the totals received from Sherman Cares, the Salvation Army and Sherman IGA.

Thanksgiving: Over 40 households received a turkey, pumpkin pie, and a grocery gift card, for a total of \$2,000.00. Funding was provided by the Sherman IGA, American Pie Company, and Sherman Cares. NOTE: This figure is reflected in the totals received from Sherman Cares, Sherman IGA, and The American Pie Company.

Holiday Gift Drive: The office asked for donations from the public of gift cards to retailers preferred in a wish-list survey of our households. We kept this entirely confidential. Donors didn't know who they were buying for, beyond a few general details, for example: "13-year-old boy who likes Gamestop." We had many, many donors. Recipients didn't know who bought the cards. 39 eligible households representing 83 Sherman recipients participated. We also distributed a grocery gift card to each household, provided by Sherman Cares and the Salvation Army. Total: \$11,700.00

ONGOING PROGRAMS:

Sherman Food Pantry: Sherman's only food pantry continues to serve food-insecure households in Sherman. Located on shelving in the Sherman Social Services office, it continues to serve dozens of households, ranging from single moms with children to seniors on a fixed income. Our shelves were replenished by donations from the Sherman School, Sherman Scouts, Webster Bank, funding from the Salvation Army, and donations from individuals.

Medicare Open Enrollment: In her role as a certified CHOICES Counselor, Social Services Director Lynne Gomez provided enrollment assistance during Medicare Open Enrollment from Oct. 15th –Dec. 7th. The office helped numerous residents review Drug Plans and enroll in the Medicare Savings Program as well as Medicare supplemental plans. During this enrollment period, 41 Sherman residents over the age of 65 were assisted. Social Services assistant Susanna Marker is a certified CHOICES counselor as well. As a certified CHOICES Counselor, Lynne also helps residents throughout the fiscal year enroll in Medicare when they first turn 65.

Application Assistance: We routinely sit down with clients in the office and process online and paper applications for a variety of benefits and services, including SNAP (food stamps), Medicaid, Husky, Access Health, TANF (formerly Welfare), disability, SSI and MSP.

Emergency Support System: We have identified, interviewed, documented and mapped nearly 50 at-risk residents who would need special support and outreach in the event of a disaster. This includes identifying neighbors who can check on them to make sure they are OK. We will continue this project through the coming years. We developed and purchased "Sorry we missed you" door hangers to place on front doors when we reach out for home visits and no one is home. The door hangers alert households that we have come to the home, and includes our contact info.

Referrals: We routinely share lists of community support, including Private Duty Home Care aides, Companion and Homemaker agencies, Long-term care facilities, and Assisted Living options.

Workshops and Training: Social Services Director Lynne Gomez attended various required training sessions including CHOICES, Medicare, Fuelware/CAAWC, and general trainings on the topics of Traumatic Brain Injury, Suicide Prevention, SBIRT substance abuse screening, Housing crisis, Eversource Payment Programs, and Nursing Home Debt. Lynne is required to accrue 15 Continuing Education units (CEUs) to maintain her license with the state as a licensed social worker. Also: Lynne continued her role as the Sherman Municipal Agent for the Aging and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator for Sherman, in addition to Veterans Representative. She is also a member of NMCAN, New Milford and Sherman's drug abuse and prevention council.

2023 - 2024 Annual Report Sherman Senior Center Town of Sherman

This fiscal year 229 individuals participated 6187 times in an activity at the center, 43% of our clients were 80+.

Mission: The mission of the Sherman Senior Center is to improve quality of life for adults age 55 and older and disabled adults by providing programs and activities for recreation, education, and health and wellness. According to the latest census completed in 2020, 53.7% of Sherman households have one or more people 60 years and over, 33% of our population is 60+ and qualifies for our services at the senior center.

Staff: In 2023-24, the Sherman Senior Center was staffed by Suzette Berger, Coordinator at 30 hours, Van Drivers Sue Moore and Bob Reiling shared the budgeted 25 hours per week. Carolyn Decker and Azuma Andos share the clerk hours assisting with activities at 22 hours per week.

Transportation: We utilize two vehicles, a donated 2009 Subaru Forester and 2016 passenger handicapped-accessible van to provide free rides for Sherman's seniors. The State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation provided \$14,750 toward our transportation costs. The vehicles are used to bring clients to the senior center, on weekly shopping trips, nutrition programs as well as various events and activities. The Subaru is now shared with the town's Land Use Enforcement Officer. **Our vehicles logged a total of 10660 miles. We drove 1257 one-way trips of which 861 are recorded as disabled clients.**

Program Planning: The center was an active place during the week and has an average of serving 25-35 clients per day. The busiest time of year is late winter and summer. There was an increase in attendance at programs and activities serving our growing senior population. Health and welfare programs are provided by RVNAHealth, Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging, health care professionals and volunteers from Sherman. We offer programs for hearing, low vision, healthy nutrition, monthly blood pressure, fall prevention and flexibility exercise programs.

Accessibility: The auditory system is available for the hearing impaired. It is utilized at all the educational programs allowing participation by seniors who were unable to previously join in. Additional assistive devices such as magnifiers, large print items, wheelchairs etc are available at the center to improve the participation of attending clients.

Nutrition: The congregate Wednesday lunch program is well attended as the senior dine breakfast outings. An average of 16 clients attend breakfast each week and 21 attend lunch. The cost of lunch is a requested \$3 donation from the client, the food is supplied by RW Solutions LLC and all labor is volunteer. These programs serve a largely elder and disabled population in a friendly setting.

Emergency Preparedness: We continue to focus on community Health and Wellness Programs and Education. Communication and reminders about weather safety are ongoing. The staff trainings include CPR, AED and situational training appropriate to our building and clients.

Communication: The Senior Center continues to publish a newsletter. Mutsumi Hyuga is our volunteer editor and designer. The Newsletter is inserted into the Town Tribune every two months

and is available on our town website for those who would prefer to view it on-line. The local papers are constantly updated. In addition, we have developed an email list to distribute digitally. The low-tech signboard is also utilized.

Volunteer Management: We could not accomplish half of what we do without our volunteers. Many programs, such as Congregate Meals, Discussion Club, Exercise and assorted classes, are possible only through volunteer help. Karen Dech is our congregate meal volunteer organizer which is a significant commitment. Volunteers also provide clerical help, office assistance, and run our regular activities such as bridge, pinochle and exercise club. This spring we again supervised an intern from Western CT State University.

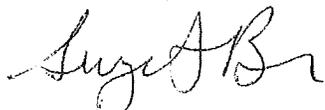
Collaboration with town groups included programs with JCC, CT Audubon, Sherman Historical Society, Sherman School, Sherman Library, scouts, and Sherman EMS and SVFD.

The Friends of the Senior Center is a 501C group that pays for improvements to the senior center and equipment that we need financial help with.

The Commission on Aging continues to support and coordinate with the Senior Center. They have a separate annual report that goes into much greater detail about their accomplishments for the year. We are very grateful for all their hard work and dedication to helping seniors in Sherman.

We continue to be committed to making the Sherman Senior Center a welcoming place so that all who come through its doors may enjoy all the good things it has to offer.

Respectfully submitted,



8/14/24

Suzette Berger

Coordinator, Sherman Senior Center



REGISTRARS OF VOTERS
 P.O. Box 39
 Mallory Town Hall
 Sherman, CT 06784-0039
 Shermanreg@yahoo.com
 (860) 350-4694



ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2023-JUNE 30, 2024

Voters

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Democratic Party	736	770	757	745	760
Republican Party	777	758	738	697	712
Other parties	55	58	56	52	54
Unaffiliated	1095	1166	1107	1036	1060
Active Registered Voters	2664	2752	2658	2530	2586

Ongoing Activities

- Regular weekly voter registration and maintenance.
- Provide reports for state, town, and political parties.
- Prepare annual budget.
- Attend mandated sessions, including early voting and registrations.
- Testing tabulators prior to elections.
- Process Annual Voter Canvass (January to May).
- Registrar Certification courses (UConn). Sara Laughlin is in process of completing Certification Courses.
- Program IVS-accessible voting system
- Attend multiple online SOTS classes.
- Attend and verify voters at town meetings.
- Prepare for and manage the elections.

Town Meetings

- 7/15/23 8/14/23
- 9/30/23 10/28/23
- 11/21/23 1/13/24mlement
- 2/21/24 4/20/24
- 5/11/24 6/13/24

Elections

- 10/7/23 Referendum
- 11/7/23 Municipal Election
- 4/2/24 Presidential Preference Primary
- 5/4/24 Budget Referendum

Registrar Conferences/Education/Information Session

- 9/19-9/20/23 Registrars of Voters Assn of Connecticut Fall Conference
- 4/10-4/12/24 Registrars of Voters Assn of Connecticut Spring Conference

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Hoag
Sara Laughlin
 Barbara Hoag
 Sara Laughlin

Town of Sherman Commission on Aging

Annual Report July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

The current members of the Commission on Aging are: Juan Garcia, Ed Hayes, Sheila McMahon, Jean McRoberts, Janet Way, Rich Hudson, Carol Sperling, Meredith Kroeger and Lynda Lee Arnold.

The 2023-2024 fiscal year unfolded as follows:

COA members received updates at the meetings from Senior Center Director, Suzette Berger and Social Services Director, Lynne Gomez regarding available programs, existing programs that are currently being utilized by seniors and upcoming activities for seniors.

COA, led by Janet Wey and in partnership with the Sherman Library, hosted a Senior Art Show with a reception on July 28, 2023. Sherman senior artists showcased their artwork which was displayed at the Sherman library from July 28, 2023 through September 6, 2023.

Dr. Fernand, principal of Sherman School and Matt Vogt, school board of education member, attended a COA meeting to present to the commission members the proposed renovation plans for the Sherman school.

The Senior Center Building Committee gave updates to the COA members including the site for the proposed senior center, the architects chosen and progress of same. The COA looks forward to following the progress of the Building Committee.

COA members spent time discussing "elder orphans" and how to potentially reach out to seniors with no family who need some companionship and/or assistance.

COA members spent time discussing how to best disseminate information to the public regarding the need for a new senior center and how to educate the public regarding same.

The COA continues its commitment to the ongoing exploration of a new Senior Center. We are excited to move forward with the senior center project which will enhance and expand the services and programs available to a wider range of our senior population.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynda Lee Arnold
September 4, 2024



Sherman Historic District Commission

Mallory Town Hall, 9 Rte. 39 North, P.O. Box 39

Sherman, Connecticut 06784

Email: carakaufmann@gmail.com

Annual Report for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

The Sherman Historic District Commission included the following members during the year:

Cara Kaufmann	Chair	Exp. 1/1/27
Jim French	Acting Vice Chair	Exp. 1/1/29
Connor McGowan	Member	Exp. 1/1/29
Karen Angelo	Member	Exp. 1/1/29
Jan Desiato	Alternate	Exp. 1/1/27
Christine Aruza	Administrative Clerk	
Marilyn Dwyer	Vice Chair	Resigned 7/15/24

One regular member vacancy remains and two alternate vacancies remain.

The Sherman Historic District Commission (HDC) approved four Certificates of Appropriateness (COA) during this fiscal year. Additionally, the town's historic visual district map was updated and uploaded to the town's website, alongside a detailed inventory of the corresponding buildings. We also formalized a new and more comprehensive COA, which includes a clear list of regulated and unregulated items, and have made it available on the HDC's website.

The HDC initially held bimonthly meetings this fiscal year, then switched to monthly meetings beginning 2/19/24. We alternate between regular and special meetings to better meet the needs of the community and to allow the commission to make steady progress on key initiatives, such as updating documents and organizing past records. A total of 10 meetings were held during this fiscal year.

To raise awareness and strengthen our presence in the community, we participated in the Community Expo on 5/4/24. However, we discovered that there is still significant confusion between the HDC and the Historical Society. Moving forward, we plan to increase our visibility within the town, work more closely with Town Hall and other commissions whose duties overlap with ours, and attend other commission meetings to represent the HDC.

We have also begun updating our property records to ensure they reflect the most accurate information. Two new members from the Historic District joined the commission on 2/24/24, adding

valuable local perspective. Additionally, we adjusted our budget to account for the increase in meetings and the necessary supplies for organizing our materials.

As we move into the next fiscal year, we are excited to continue growing as a commission and strengthening our impact within the town.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Kaufmann

Chair

Sherman Historic District Commission

Sherman Conservation Commission

2024 Annual Report

Over the fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, the Conservation Commission conducted the following activities with monthly meetings via Zoom:

Farm Day Tour- Last October we once again helped David Jellen with the 3rd annual Farm Day event at Happy Acres.

Weed Warriors and Veteran's Field- This was our 4th growing season at invasive plant removal at Veteran's Field. We are starting to see some real success with a new procedure of covering with a heavy duty weed fabric placed on top of a cardboard layer after the third cut of the season. A large area that this process was applied to last year showed little signs of knotweed coming back. We also expanded the plantings in the Pollinator Pathway Garden this past spring.

Subdivision Review- We were involved in a site walk and in the review of an environmental impact statement for a three lot subdivision this past winter and made recommendations to Planning and Zoning

Community Outreach- In April of 2023, we joined with the Sherman Library and Great Hollow Nature Preserve to put on a program about the Spotted Lantern Fly

We partnered with the Sherman Commission on the Arts and rolled our Green Fair into the Sherman Community Expo highlighting many of the not for profit organizations in town.

The SCC also continued to utilize our Facebook page to share conservation news, made available booklets about invasive plant species and published various articles in local papers.

Respectfully Submitted,



William S. McCann
Chairman
Sherman Conservation Commission

SHERMAN
COMMISSION
FOR THE
ARTS
CELEBRATING THE ARTS IN SHERMAN



Commission for the Arts
Mallory Town Hall, 9 Rte. 39 North, PO Box 39
Sherman, Connecticut 06784

Annual Report for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

The Commission for the Arts included the following members during the year:

Denise Schlesinger	Chair	Exp. July 2026
Linda Hubbard	Vice-Chair	Exp. July 2026
Ashleigh Blake		Exp. July 2026
Christy Bonuiato		Exp. July 2026
Terri Hahn		Exp. July 2026
Mary Jane Magoon		Exp. July 2026
Charley Gerard		Resigned 8/2024
Lori Vore		Resigned 2/2024
Henry Cooperman		Alternate

Note: 1 regular member vacancy as of 8/2024

The mission of the Sherman Commission for the Arts is to aid in communication and the promoting of the arts and culture in and around Sherman.

Accomplishments during our first year:

1. Events and Actions:

- Created a listing of Sherman Arts and Cultural Organizations
- Sherman Community Expo-May 4, 2024 11 – 3pm
Held on the Town of Sherman Green
Joint venture with the Sherman Conservation Commission.
Purpose: A “Meet and Greet” for arts and cultural organizations, conservation organizations and other town non-profit organizations that are currently operating in the town of Sherman. This created an opportunity for the community to become familiar with these organizations and also the organizations themselves got to know each other.
 - Twenty-two non-profits participated plus musicians.
- Helped promote the idea of a Community Calendar. This is now part of the TownofSherman.org website

- Met with the Director, Arts, Preservation & Museums for the Connecticut Office of the Arts and shared information about grants. The Sherman Artists Association is now pursuing one of the grants.
- Co-chaired a Cultural Alliance meeting with the Sherman Artists Association on May 22, 2024 where Lisa Scails, Director of CAWCT, presented information about her organization

2. Organization

- Developed Rules and Responsibilities
 - Need to be present at 7 meetings per year.
 - Need to actively participate in activities and follow through with ideas.
 - Abide by the Town Ethics Code.
 - Identify issues that need to be addressed, and add them to the meeting agenda.
 - Have strong knowledge of the public needs.
 - Help make changes that will benefit our citizens.
 - Act as a liaison between the cultural organizations and the town governance.
- Developed a Commission for the Arts email address "shermancfta@gmail.com" and logo
- Developed a Sherman Commission for the Arts Facebook Page to promote arts and cultural events.

This is our first year in creation and we have worked very hard at establishing this commission as a viable group of interested individuals who are invested in the arts and culture in the town of Sherman.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Schlesinger
Chair
Sherman Commission for the Arts

THE SHERMAN LIBRARY

Annual Report

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Dear Friends,

The Sherman Library has played an important role in our town since its opening in 1926. While always keeping books at its core, the library has evolved and expanded over the years to offer computer services, digital resources, WiFi access, and varied programming for all ages. All of these elements are important to our patrons, but it's notable that in an age of online interactions the library also serves as a place of community engagement. We take pride in creating and maintaining human connections, whether that includes hosting a group of writers that meets monthly to compare and critique their work, a gathering of folks sharing time together discussing similar interests such as knitting, or a group of patrons reading the same book then meeting to discuss. The library offers a place to see a friendly face, have questions answered, expand knowledge, meet new friends, nurture curiosity and, of course, to find a great book!

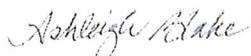
Our knowledgeable, kind, and accessible staff recommend and locate books, assist patrons with their technical questions, lead programs, introduce patrons to digital resources, and so much more. Earlier this year we bid a fond farewell to staff member Charlotte Svetkey and warmly welcomed our new Children's Service Coordinator, Monica Cichosz. Monica has offered new and exciting children's programs for babies through teens. She has expanded weekly storytimes, refreshed our collection of children's books, and provided fun and diverse hands-on programs. This past June, the Sherman Library staff expanded to include Laurie Carrara in the role of Assistant to the Director. We are very happy to have Laurie as part of the Library and we are looking forward to the many ways that she will contribute to the operation of this important town resource.

We are very proud of the multitude of programs that we offer to the public, including a wonderful mixture of both monthly programs and special events. This year, the library has increased adult and children's programs offered to the community by 80% and has increased attendance by 73%. Our programs are expansive, encompassing author talks, craft classes, art openings, musical performances, featured speakers on a range of topics from history to culture to the natural world, and more. These programs engage, educate, and inspire and are offered at no cost to members of our community.

The Sherman Library is an association library that receives just under 50% of our funding from a town grant. The remainder of our operating costs are covered by gifts and other grants, annual membership donations, and our beloved fundraising events. While these events provide important operating funds they are also much anticipated social events that members of our community enjoy greatly. Library fundraising events mark the beginning of the summer and holiday season and bring people together. We rely on and deeply appreciate the important work of the Board of Trustees and our dedicated volunteers that makes these events possible.

The Sherman Library is truly the heart of our community: a welcoming destination where people of all ages gather to seek information, exchange ideas, gain knowledge, and share experiences. As we take stock of the last year and plan for the next, the library staff and Board of Trustees look forward to continuing to provide resources, programs, and personalized services that promote life-long learning.

Respectfully Submitted,



Executive Director of the Sherman Library



Highlights of 2023-24

- The Sherman Library celebrated 122 years of service to the community
- The Sherman Library increased the number of adult and children's programs offered to the community by 80% and attendance by 73%
- Monica Cichosz, joined the library staff in the role of Children's Services Coordinator in August 2023
- Laurie Carrara joined the library staff in the role of Assistant to the Director in June 2024
- The Sherman Library received a SB2 Incentive Grant from the CT State Library. The grant provided funding for collection development
- The Sherman Library introduced a Winter Reading Challenge and a Summer Reading Challenge for our adult patrons
- 23,924 items were loaned to library patrons
- 1,284 books, audio books and films were added to the library collection
- 7970 children and adults attended over 447 free library programs
- The Sherman Library participated in community wide events such as the Halloween Bash, the Community Expo and the Sherman School Open House
- The Sherman Library participated in the CT Library Passport event which brought patrons from all over the state to visit the Sherman Library

Highlights of 2023-24 *(continued)*

- Sherman Library cardholders continued to enjoy our free digital resources including Hoopla, Libby, Palace Project, Mango, Newsbank & New York Times online
- Generous grants from individuals, foundations and local organizations supported programs and special material purchases
- Members, patrons and the town were informed of library news through our e-newsletter, website, expanded social media, local publications, and online events calendar
- Our popular programs included collaborations with local organizations and we are very appreciative of their time and effort, including the CT Humane Society, the Institute for American Indian Studies, the McCarthy Observatory, Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy, RVNAhealth, Sherman Artists Association, Sherman Chamber Ensemble, Sherman Commission on Aging, Sherman Commission for the Arts, Sherman Conservation Commission, Sherman Historical Society, Sherman Park and Rec, Sherman Volunteer Fire Department and White Memorial Conservation Center.
- The Sherman Library's robust and updated wireless Internet network access remained free for all library users
- The Golden Ticket, Women's Soiree, Book Sale, Bags & Baubles, Annual Golf Tournament and Annual Holiday Gala provided important financial support for the Library
- Membership donations, fundraising events, in-kind donations, and a grant from the Town of Sherman supported the library operating budget
- Our talented and friendly staff provided outstanding service that was essential to reaching our goals
- A dedicated Library Board of Trustees remained committed to thoughtful stewardship and advocating for the Sherman Library

Programs at a Glance

ADULT

- Art Show Talk-The Art of Fashion- Jeanne McRoberts
- Author Talk- *When Russia Was Opening Up* by Colette Shulman
- Art Jam- Bethe Bogues
- Big Band Music- Charles Gerard
- Book Discussion- monthly
- Candle Making Class- T&M Rustic Home
- Classic Book Discussions- monthly
- Coffee, Kids, and Menuets: Johann Sebastian Bach's Music and His World- Professor Markus Rathey
- Collecting Robert Frost- David Lowenherz
- Composting 101- Jennifer Heaton-Jones
- Coyotes of CT- Paul Colburn
- CT's Favorite Son: Mark Twain- Mike Allen
- Dahlias- Michele MacKinnon
- The Danbury Fair-John Cilio
- Decked Out for the Holidays- Jana Milbocker
- The Dogs of Chernobyl- Stephen Quandt
- Don't Lose Your House- Lynda Lee Arnold
- Drum Circle- Jack Licatra of Jack's Waterfall
- Early CT Inns & Taverns- John Cilio
- Eclipse Glasses- Library Staff
- Estate Planning Documents- Linda Lee Arnold
- Flora and Fauna of the High Andes- Angela Dimmitt
- Gentle Yoga- Paul Jaehnig
- Gerard Duo Concert- Charles Gerard
- A Ghost Hunter's Favorite Cases- Barry Pirro
- Grow Your Own Veggies- Michele MacKinnon
- Gut Health: Fact vs Fiction- Monica Moriello of RVNAHealth
- The Greatest Showman on Earth: P.T. Barnum- Mike Allen
- History of Early Rock n' Roll Vocal Groups- Charles Gerard
- Knitting And Needle Craft- Caitlin Mandracchia & Tal Pease
- Mediterranean Diet- Monica Marcello of RVNAHealth
- Leatherman: Western CT Legend- Mike Allen
- Ongoing Free Books Cart
- Magical Gardens of Bunny Mellon- Jennifer Yates
- Mahjong weekly
- Passport to Ct Libraries- Library Staff
- Protect and Preserve- Oliver Tobin
- Putting Your Garden to Bed- Michele MacKinnon
- Recycled Sweater Workshop- Pat Corrigan
- Residential Energy Storage Solutions- Ed Kranich



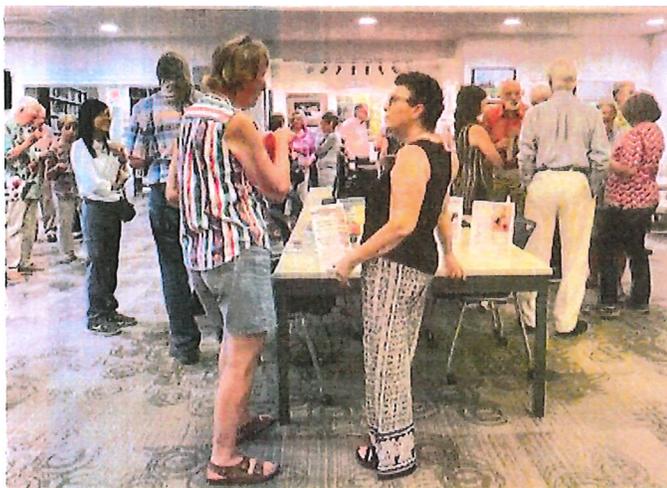
Programs *(continued)*

- Senior Visits to View Art Shows- Senior Center
- Sherman Library Digital Resources- Derek Pearson
- Solar Eclipse Experience- Bill Cloutier
- Sound Bath- Jeanine Chayka
- Summer Reading Challenge-Library Staff
- Take Home Craft: Gingerbread Card Display- Ashleigh Blake
- Take Home Craft: Mandala Rocks- Ashleigh Blake
- Take Home Craft: Origami Star Jar- Ashleigh Blake
- They're Here: the Spotted Lanternfly- Tara Ewer
- Transatlantic Airships- Jason Scappaticci
- Visible Mending- Pat Corrigan
- When the Earth and Moon Collide- Dr. Tyler Nordgren
- Wine 101- Barbie Messa
- Winter Reading Challenge- Library Staff
- Winter Sowing- Michele MacKinnon
- Writers' Group
- A Year in Kimono- Sono Kimono
- A Year in the Life of a Beekeeper- Rom Duckworth
- Yoga Nidra- Mariya Hurwitz
- Program Collaborations: Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy, McCarthy Observatory, Sherman Artists Group, Sherman Conservation Commission, Sherman Historical Society and White Memorial



BOOK DISCUSSIONS

- *Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner led by Ashleigh Blake
- *Amsterdam* by Ian McEwan led by Suzanne Ashley
- *Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles led by Bob Gamper
- *I Raise My Eyes to Say Yes* by Ruth Sienkiewicz-Mercer and Stephen Kaplan led by Bernie Kaplan
- *Hidden Valley Road* by Robert Kolker led by Marge Josephson
- *Women Talking* by Miriam Toews led by Stephanie Spinner
- *Pachinko* by Min Jim Lee led by Pat Corrigan
- *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich led by Elaine Litwack
- *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams led by Chris Keenan
- *10 Minutes, 38 Seconds in This Strange World* by Elif Shafak led by Corinne Kevorkian
- *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin led by Pat Corrigan
- *These Precious Days* by Ann Patchett led by Suzanne Ashley



ART SHOWS AND EXHIBITS

- K. Adler- "The Art of Fashion" ink illustrations
- Max England- "The Rhythm of Flowers" photography
- Steve Habersang- "Black and Wit" ink drawings
- Charlene Lechter- "Water's Calming Peace" watercolors
- Sherman Artists- "Sherman Artists Open Studio" various mediums
- Various Artists- "Great Hollow Invitational" various mediums
- Various Artists- "Inspired to Create" various mediums
- Lynn Slonaker- "Natural Rhythms" oil paintings

CLASSIC BOOK DISCUSSIONS

- *The Big Sleep* by Raymond Chandler led by Suzanne Ashley
- *Dead Souls* by Nicolai Gogol led by Mariya Hurwitz
- *The Tin Drum* by Gunther Grass led by Sheila Kaplan
- *A Swim in the Pond in the Rain* by George Saunders led by Suzanne Ashley
- *The Princess of Cleves* by Madame De Lafayette led by Corinne Kevorkian
- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott led by Marge Josephson
- *Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare led by Bernie Kaplan
- *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Sallinger led by Suzanne Ashley
- *Collected Poems* by Robert Frost led by Catherine D'Andrea
- *The Sea, the Sea* by Iris Murdoch
- *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll
- *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens led by Suzanne Ashley



- A Story and A Stroll: Spring Nature Scavenger Hunt with NCLC
- A Story and A Stroll: Winter Lantern Stroll with NCLC
- The Story of Barbie and the Woman who Created Her with Cindy Eagen
- SVFD Fire Safety Visit
- Teen Anti-Valentine's Day
- Teen Candle Pouring
- Teen Movie Night: Beetlejuice
- Teen Pour Painting
- Teen Winter Bingo Bash
- Tell a Joke!
- TYCTL: Elephant and Piggie Storytime
- TYCTL: Elephant and Piggie Drop-In Crafts and Games
- Wanted: The Dinosaurs Scavenger Hunt

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- Bee Pollinator Water Station Craft with the Sherman Conservation Commission
- Children's Winter Bingo Bash
- College Application Timeline with Priyanka Shingala of Let's Talk College
- Creature Features with The White Memorial Conservation Center
- The Digital SAT vs ACT with Priyanka Shingala of Let's Talk College
- Dinovember Photo Display
- Do the Locomotion with The White Memorial Conservation Center
- Finding Scholarships with Priyanka Shingala of Let's Talk College
- Ghost Guessing Jar
- Gnome Scavenger Hunt
- Guess that Book!
- Halloween Trick or Treat
- How to Find the Right College with Priyanka Shingala of Let's Talk College
- Kids Drum Circle with Jack's Waterfall
- Kids Winter Sowing with the Sherman Conservation Commission
- Lego Play
- Nature Potions
- November is Picture Book Month!
- Potion Play
- Paint a Pumpkin!
- Rainbow Scavenger Hunt
- Rising Seniors College Application Timeline with Priyanka Shingala of Let's Talk College
- Signing Rocks! with SIGNING Basics
- Silent Book Club: Teens
- Snowflake Scavenger Hunt
- Snowy Science
- Solar Eclipse Glasses
- A Story and A Stroll: Leaves with NCLC

SCHOOL YEAR STORY TIME AND CRAFT PROGRAMS

- Baby Breakfast Club
- Blow off STEAM
- Bookish Play
- Build a Snowman Game
- Chalk it Up!
- Clay Play
- Color by Number Coloring
- Delicious Dines
- Detective Days
- Drop-In Craft: Circle Flower
- Drop-In Craft: Coffee Filter Turkey
- Early Dismissal Dinovember
- Early Dismissal: Japanese Cherry Blossoms
- Early Dismissal: Pack with CT Humane Society
- Early Dismissal Winter Solstice
- Eclipse Story and Craft with Girl Scout Troop 40072
- Eric Carle Caterpillar Scavenger Hunt
- The Hangout: Teens
- Kindness Coloring



- Little Munchkin Preschool Storytime
- Mindful Monsters
- Nature Art
- Pour Painting: Winter Decoration
- Quiet Storytime
- Read Across America Day Craft
- Sherman School 1st Grade Visit
- Sensory Story and Craft
- Spooky Story and Spider Snack Storytime
- Stuffy Tea Party and Sleepover
- Take and Make: Beaded Snowflakes and Heart Wands
- Take and Make: Popsicle Snowman
- Take and Make: Recycled Art
- Take and Make: Ghost Window
- Take and Make: Summer Bird
- Valentine's Cardmaking: Drop-In Craft

SUMMER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- Animal Program with Furry Scaly Friends
- Buildwave
- Children's Art Show
- Children's Concert with the Sherman Chamber Ensemble
- Cool-ology
- Music and Movement
- Nursery Rhyme
- School's Out: Sidewalk Chalking
- Sensory Story and Play
- Slime Scientists Part I
- Slime Scientists Part II
- Story and Craft: Dinosaurs
- Story and Craft: Rocks
- Story and Craft: Space Jars
- Summer Storywalk
- Summer Reading Registrants
- Summer Reading Bingo
- Teen Beading
- Teen Pour Painting
- Teen Taste-Testing
- Tie Dye

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- 4th Annual Golf Tournament
- Annual Winter Gala
- Book Sale- Summer and Fall
- Bags & Baubles
- Golden Ticket
- Women's Soiree

Statistical Review 2023–24

Circulation	23,924
Adult Book Circulation	14,114
Children's Book Circulation	8,696
Audiovisual Circulation	1,114
Sherman Circulation Per Capita	6.8
Population Served*	*3,527
Library Visits	17,742
Patrons Registered	1,415
borrowIT Borrowing by Sherman	3,064
borrowIT Loans to Non Residents	2,234
Interlibrary Loan from other libraries	2,208
Interlibrary Loan to other libraries	1,537
Library Holdings	24,057
Library Holdings Adult Books	12,658
Library Holdings Children's Books	11,399
Downloadable eBooks & Audio Books Available	1,354,638
Adult Programs	171
Adult Programs Attendance	2,798
Children's Programs	276
Children's Programs Attendance	5,172
Days Open	253
Tax Dollar Support Per Capita	54.67

*U.S. Census Bureau, 2020

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STUDENT PAGES, Eden Bruzinski, Anna Flood, Susan Hackett, Makayla Jones, Emma Mandracchia, Katie Smith, Marisa Swan

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The Sherman Library Association thanks all volunteers for their outstanding support of the library. Our indispensable adult and student volunteers contributed hundreds of hours of their time and energy this past year. Whether participating as a member of our Board of Trustees, assisting with programs or helping with fundraising events, volunteers are an integral part of our library each and every day. These dedicated volunteers also work behind the scenes on a myriad of tasks. They help maintain our building, organize the book sales, design print material, lead book discussions and present adult and children's programs. They vacuum, help with repairs, weed gardens and move heavy boxes. Sherman Library volunteers are committed and enthusiastic. They give our library its character and personality. This devoted group ranging from age 9 to ninety, helps to keep our library operating smoothly year after year. **Our appreciation for all they do runs deep!**



2023 Volunteer of the year recipient, Laura Jagodzinski

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Many volunteers participate in more than one library activity

Support of the Sherman Library comes in many forms. We thank everyone who donated funds and materials and volunteered time to enrich our services. Please accept our apologies for any omissions or errors in this report.

Memberships, Gifts and Grants

The Sherman Library Association is most grateful for the generosity of our many supporters. Although we function as a public library for the Town of Sherman we are a not-for-profit library. This means that our annual appropriation from the town provides a portion of our operating budget. The remaining funds come from other sources, principally from our annual membership campaign, fundraising events, grants and other donations.



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 The Pickleball Barn
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Valley Golf Center

Winter Gala "A Starry Night"

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BD Provisions
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Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
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Taleo Handmade
The Mail Drop
The Old Store Gift Shop & Museum

Special thanks to all of the people who donated books for our book sales and items for our Women's Soiree.

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THE SHERMAN LIBRARY

The Sherman Library Mission Statement

The Sherman Library is a community resource, freely available to all. The library responds to the public's need for information, education and recreation. With books at its core, the library provides a wide range of materials, both print and non-print. It is the community's center for lifelong learning. By incorporating new developments in technology the library ensures that its resources are accurate, timely and responsive to those it serves.



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

Preserving and Protecting Candlewood Lake Since 1972

Annual Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

During the 2023/2024 fiscal year the CLA moved into its new on-water office in New Fairfield, added their second purpose-built patrol boat and launched the first nutrient budget for Candlewood Lake to help determine the lake's primary sources of nutrient pollution. We continue to dedicate ourselves to protecting the environmental values of Candlewood Lake and providing a safe recreational environment for all users. The lake is in constant change, both environmentally and recreationally and the CLA is the only agency dedicated to understanding and addressing those changes so that this invaluable natural resource will remain so to the lake municipalities and region, for generations to come.

The CLA has a 15 member board of delegates, an office staff and a Marine Patrol of seasonal officers. The below report contains some highlights from the 2023/2024 fiscal year of the CLA.

Public Safety and Marine Patrol

The Candlewood Lake Authority patrols the waters of the lake throughout the week and on weekends from May to October. Candlewood's beauty, appealing waters and numerous recreational opportunities, combined with its proximity to local and regional population centers, make for a very popular lake that faces a lot of recreational boating pressure.

Lake Activity: The lake remains a busy body of water with users interested in a range of recreational opportunities, which can create user conflict. The islands are popular gathering spots, which become a challenge when trash is left behind and noise affects other users and residents. We have been working with our municipalities, the CT DEEP and FirstLight to address these challenges.

Jet Ski Task Force: The CLA Marine Patrol trained 10 additional officers on the Patrol jet skis this past year. The Patrol jet skis are a unique and useful tool, allowing officers to get in closer to islands and gathering areas, to interact with the public.

Vessels: The CLA's second Silver Ships AM-600 patrol vessel arrived in August of 2023. Equipped with a FLIR camera to detect slight variations in temperature, this vessel provides the CLA Marine Patrol with a valuable tool to help in search and rescue operations as well as the ability to "see at night" on the lake, while on patrol.

The CLA has returned to stationing their Patrol vessels around the lake, now at three locations: Sherman, New Fairfield and Danbury. This allows for better response times, visibility and operational efficiency.

Event Safety: The CLA continues as the lead organization for on-water events held on the lake, reviewing Marine Event Permit Applications submitted to the CT DEEP. For the annual fireworks display the CLA coordinated public safety efforts with Danbury PD, the CT DEEP EnCon Police and multiple municipal fire department boats. Similarly, for the New Fairfield Lighted Boat Parade, the CLA provided a public safety presence on the water, working in collaboration with the other municipal fire department vessels.

On-board Software: We have begun testing a new on-board software system which will improve efficiency, eliminate transcription errors and improve data collection, reporting and analysis, as well as provide our officers with other important information to effectively do their jobs.

Water Quality and Ecology

The Candlewood Lake Authority works to understand what is happening with the lake's ecosystem and understand how it is changing over the years and decades to be able to make better management recommendations for the long-term health of the lake.

Nutrient Budget: We began the first phase of a more comprehensive water chemistry sampling this year to inform the Lake Management Plan about nutrient pollution sources for Candlewood Lake.

Water Quality: The summer of 2024 has provided us with good water clarity and very few algae blooms to report and we are in our second year using UConn to analyze our water samples.

Plant Life: We have working closely with the CT DEEP fisheries to help the plant community in Candlewood Lake return to a healthy level, while ideally not approaching nuisance levels again. This is being done through continued small-scale removals of sterile grass carp by the CT DEEP, as well as the CLA deployment of improved plant protection "exclosure" areas for the 2024 season, building off the program in 2023.

Lake Stewards: The summer of 2024 was the 4th season for the CLA Lake Stewards. Run by the CLA and funded by a CT DEEP grant, we offer voluntary inspections for invasive species to boaters launching in Candlewood Lake. This has been an effective educational and invasive species prevention program.

Zebra Mussels: While zebra mussels are reproducing throughout the lake, we have not yet seen the population rise to the point where it has become a severe nuisance. We are working to better understand the effectiveness of the winter drawdowns as a zebra mussel population management tool.

Beach Testing Partnerships: We continued our summer testing program for E. coli with the help of the New Fairfield Senior Center who gathers the samples from around the lake. WestConn continues the blue-green algae testing at the municipal beaches and we disseminate those results to the public.

Public Awareness and Equipment & Facilities

New CLA Office: We moved our administrative office to the former Candlewood Isle Causeway Marina in New Fairfield and are realizing the many operational and organizational benefits that come with this move back on the water. Our Sherman Base continues in its role for Marine Patrol use and operations staff.

Public Engagement and Education: We launched a new educational initiative this year, using professionally produced short videos featuring our staff and officers teaching viewers about the lake's environment and boating safety. We put them out through our social media and they can also be found on our website. They are also available with Spanish and Portuguese subtitles.

We spoke at various gatherings and schools, attended events and held a webinar about the zebra mussels in the lake. We maintain an informative website and send out electronic newsletters as well.

Buoys and Boats: The CLA operations department deploys and maintains over 80 hazard, speed and navigation buoys for the safety of the boating public as well as our Sherman and New Fairfield office locations. We ensure that our patrol, science and work vessels are properly maintained and ready for service and we conducted the annual boat count of all of the resident boats on the lake, which totals over 6,000 vessels. In May, on the morning of our annual lake clean up, the Ark (our buoy and work boat) had an engine failure. It remained out of service until a replacement engine arrived several weeks later, delaying some projects and work, however all of the buoys were installed prior to that engine failure.

Candlewood Lake Authority Staff

Mark Howarth - Executive Director

Nick Mellas - Marine Patrol Chief

Neil Stalter - Director of Ecology

Dee Wright - Administrative Coordinator

Michael Gasperino - Operations Manager

Candlewood Lake Authority Board of Delegates

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Marianne Gaffey - Vice Chair

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