

TOWN OF SHERMAN
SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026
12:00 PM
VIA ZOOM

Presentation Link: <https://youtu.be/WPOLanEehr4>

The school building committee (SBC) special meeting was called to order by Kerry Merkel at 12:01 PM.

⇒ **PRESENT**

For the committee: Kerry Merkel (Chair), Bob Gamper (Vice Chair), Jim Best, Christian, Dacunha, Tim Laughlin (BOE member), Matt Vogt (BOE Chair)

BOS & Treasurer: Don Lowe (First Selectman), Bob Ostrosky (Selectman), Andrea Maloney (Treasurer)

Sherman School: Dr. Pat Consentino (Superintendent)

Antinozzi Associates: Michael LoSasso (Principal Architect)

Newfield: John Flis (Project Executive), Benjamin Chasse (Assistant Project Manager)

⇒ **ADDITIONS & MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

T. Laughlin requested the addition of an agenda item regarding recently raised community concerns. Per K. Merkel it will be added to the end of the new business section of the agenda.

⇒ **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None at this time.

⇒ **APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLS & CHANGE ORDERS**

K. Merkel stated the first invoice is for owner's management group, Construction Solutions Group (CSG), for total project management services for this month in the amount of 1,120.00. The central administration portion of that total is \$7762.00. The fee is for monthly invoice management and liaison with the state's Department of Administrative Services (DAS).

K. Merkel **made a motion** to approve CSG's invoice dated 2/5/2026 totaling in the amount of \$1,120.00.

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote For: All in favor

The next invoice is for Antinozzi Associates dated 1/25/2026 for a total of \$35,177.50 for CA services. The central administration portion is \$239.21 with the balance being for the Sherman school portion of the project.

K. Merkel **made a motion** to approve the Antinozzi Associates invoice dated 1/25/2026 in the total amount of \$35,177.50.

Seconded by: J. Best

Vote For: All in favor

The third invoice is a progress payment for Newfield Construction dated 1/31/2026 in the amount of \$1,432,940.78.

K. Merkel **made a motion** to approve Newfield Construction's invoice dated 1/31/2026 in the amount mentioned of \$1,432,940.78.

Seconded by: C. Dacunha

Vote For: All in favor

The fourth invoice dated 1/31/2026 is for move management services from Meyer for the monthly storage fee in the amount of \$847.24. The central administration portion is \$5.76 with the remainder for the Sherman school portion of the project.

K. Merkel **made a motion** to approve Meyer's invoice dated 1/31/2026 in the total amount of \$847.24.

Seconded by: B. Gamper

Vote For: All in favor

The final invoice dated 11/30/2025 is for special inspections and testing from Special Testing Laboratories in the amount of \$1,325.00. They performed five different soil samples and sieve and proctor testing which has to do with soil compaction, density, moisture, particle size and structural stability.

K. Merkel **made a motion** to approve the invoice for Special Testing Laboratories dated 11/30/2025 in the amount of \$1,325.00.

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote For: All in favor

As regards the change order summary, T. Laughlin advised the change orders for today's discussion are approved and ready. There is another queue of change orders that are in process owing to final determinations with respect to credits and pricing. The request today is to utilize \$18,879.16 in total for the approved change orders of owner's contingency and \$23,938.00 of construction management contingency. The balance for owner's contingency would then be approximately \$1,660,000 which was confirmed by CSG. The balance for construction management contingency is approximately \$800,000. T. Laughlin then walked committee members through each of the change orders listed on the Sherman PCO event log.

T. Laughlin **made a motion** to approve the change event log for a utilization totaling \$18,879.16 from owner's contingency and \$23,938.00 from construction management contingency.

Seconded by: K. Merkel

Vote For: All in favor

⇒ **NEW BUSINESS:**

⇒ **CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS UPDATE (NEWFIELD)**

B. Chasse advised that presently, as it pertains to the exterior, they are working on the water room, I-foundation, and retaining walls. The footings and foundations for the music room, art room and west classroom additions have been poured. They also have the north vestibule formed and ready to pour. Subsequently, they will be ready for structural steel in late February or early March.

For the interior, drywall was removed from the main level east classrooms to enable framing modifications with allowances made for any bracing or studs that need to be fixed. They are also proceeding with overhead mechanical, engineering and plumbing (MEP) rough-ins. They have also completed some walls in the gymnasium space and main level corridors. Under slab utilities are ongoing in addition to the installation of sanitary lines with the big push involving masonry for interior partition walls.

The next focus will be on column reinforcing, beam replacements, cross bracing, and footing replacements. B. Chasse next shared photos of the work completed to date in each of the areas. J. Flis emphasized that it represents a tremendous amount of work that is not visible from the outside but is critical. He also underscored that the project is on schedule despite tight timelines. K. Merkel, on behalf of the committee, thanked the Newfield team and trades for their work on site despite the recent weather, snow and freezing temperatures to keep the project on schedule. C. Dacunha asked B. Chasse to describe the extensive efforts they undertook to preserve the concrete forms for the committee to understand. D. Lowe also thanked Newfield and the contractors for their efforts on behalf of the town.

⇒ **ARCHITECTURAL PROGRESS UPDATE (ANTINOZZI)**

M. LoSasso said Antinozzi is still in the process of responding to critical requests for information (RFIs) and submittals. They have now re-focused more on the furniture, fixtures, and electrical (FF&E) and technology development package. They have begun to draft the necessary documents for procurement and are coordinating with the state on their new bid lists. Their interior design team has been collecting pricing data on selected items and is almost finished on that aspect.

⇒ **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL STATE APPROVALS**

T. Laughlin advised that the FF&E package will go through the same PCR review with the state that the project underwent with that work ongoing. He said he and Dr. P. Consentino met with the DAS on the 1049R submission, which comes via the school superintendent and Board of Education (BOE) and will be submitted this week. They hope to receive a positive approval from the DAS and commissioner for the additional project cost reimbursement.

⇒ **ADDED AGENDA ITEM – DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

T. Laughlin explained there was communication from a neighbor that lives on Saw Mill Road near the school expressing concerns about traffic and congestion during drop-off times. The administration is working on the matter. T. Laughlin said the period of time in

question is roughly ten minutes each time per day. He also advised that there is an educational communication going out to parents to dissuade parents from queuing early in the roadway.

In addition, there was a safety and security meeting held with the local state police in which there was a discussion regarding first responder response in the event of an emergency (e.g., medical, fire). The trooper and Troop A have requested lights on in the interior to facilitate response to the job site in the event of an emergency. This is a requirement for the duration of the project.

The only exterior lights are on the trailer on the job-site near each door. As there have been prior complaints about exterior lighting impacts they will meet with the town's land use enforcement officer (LUEO) this week to discuss section 322.8 of the zoning regulations. T. Laughlin added that the school has a special permit for the exterior light fixtures at the back of the building for safety and security reasons. However, they have turned off many of the exterior lights – including in the parking lot – with exception of those near entrance points due to a complaint from the same neighbor.

Lastly, T. Laughlin explained there was miscommunication on social media about a potential risk to the plumbing in the gym area of the building due to the recent low temperatures. The gym is a staging area currently and there is no water/plumbing. The project site, which must be accessible for workers, is weather proofed and has been reviewed per OSHA, local land use and the insurance carrier and is compliant per their respective requirements. The committee understands the potential impacts on the local community but must adhere to superseding regulations.

⇒ **COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

None at this time.

⇒ **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Monday, March 16, 2026 – Regular Meeting
TBD – Special Meeting if Required

ADJOURNMENT

K. Merkel adjourned the meeting at 12:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Christine D. Aruza, clerk for the School Building Committee, on
February 16, 2026.