

TOWN OF SHERMAN
SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026
12:00 PM
VIA ZOOM

Presentation Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0u1tipRjtPg>

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), Andrea Maloney (Treasurer)

Antinozzi Associates: Michael LoSasso (Principal Architect)

CSG LLC: Samantha D'Agostino (Project Manager)

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

⇒ **ADDITIONS & MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

See below under 'Discussion of Specialized Testing Services.'

⇒ **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None at this time.

⇒ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

K. Merkel advised the committee had the following meeting minutes to review/approve: February 9, 2026 and February 27, 2026.

D. Lowe **made a motion** to accept the February 9, 2026 and February 27, 2026 minutes.

Seconded by: B. Gamper

Vote For: All in favor

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

⇒ Current Bill Summary

K. Merkel stated the first bill for approval is from the owner's project manager, Construction Solutions Group (CSG) dated March 6, 2026 with the Sherman School portion of the invoice in the amount of \$6,225.05 and the central administration space portion in the amount of \$17.95. The total amount is \$2,640.00.

K. Merkel **made a motion** to approve CSG's invoice dated March 6, 2026 in the total amount of \$2,640.00

Seconded by: M. Vogt

Vote For: All in favor

Per K. Merkel the second set of invoices for approval are from Antinozzi Associates and both are dated February 28, 2026. The Sherman School portion for the two separate invoices is \$9,336.08 and \$100,652.81 respectively. The central administration portions are accordingly \$63.92 and \$698.13. The total amount is \$110,741.94.

K. Merkel **made a motion** to approve Antinozzi's invoices dated February 28, 2026 in the total amount of \$110,741.94.

Seconded by: M. Vogt

Vote For: All in favor

K. Merkel stated the next invoice is for Newfield Construction's progress payment dated February 28, 2026 in the amount of \$2,347,229.13.

K. Merkel **made a motion** to approve Newfield Construction's invoice dated February 28, 2026 in the total amount of \$2,347,229.13.

Seconded by: J. Best

Vote For: All in favor

The next invoice for approval is for Meyer for move management services dated February 28, 2026 with the Sherman School portion amount \$841.48 and the central administration portion in the amount of \$5.76 for a total of \$847.24.

K. Merkel **made a motion** to approve Meyer's invoice dated February 28, 2026 in the total amount of \$847.24.

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote For: All in favor

The final invoices for approval are for special inspections and testing from Special Testing Laboratories. The first invoice is dated January 31, 2026 in the amount of \$13,218.68 for the Sherman School portion and \$90.50 for the central administration portion. The second invoice dated February 28, 2026 is in the amount of \$5,596.33 for the Sherman School portion and \$38.32 for the central administration portion. The total amount for both invoices is \$19,943.83.

K. Merkel **made a motion** to approve both invoices for Special Testing Laboratories dated January 31, 2026 and February 28, 2026 in the total amount of \$19,943.83.

Seconded by: J. Best

Vote For: All in favor

⇒ Current Change Order Summary

B. Chasse stated there were no new change orders to present and review at this time.

⇒ **NEW BUSINESS:**

⇒ **CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS UPDATE (NEWFIELD)**

B. Chasse provided a construction progress update stating the major focus over the last month for the west addition classrooms, music room and art room has included finalizing foundations and footings and excavating to prep for concrete pours. He added that the under-slab utilities for electrical and plumbing were installed, inspected, and backfilled. The expectation is to complete the pours at the end of the week per weather conditions.

As regards the east wing of the school, B. Chasse said with respect to the gym they are continuing brace frame steel work with concrete pours occurring today for some infills in old staircases coming up from the lower level and for the data/IT closets on the back side of the stage. In addition, interior wall framing and masonry wall work in the corridors is occurring on the main level in the east wing as well as in-wall roughing for electrical/plumbing and overhead fire protection.

On the lower level they are finalizing steel replacement and column reinforcing details. In-wall rough for electrical for all data/AV/IT needs is ongoing and the kitchen slab will be poured at the end of this week or beginning of next week.

Building envelope and roof work will begin soon. J. Flis advised they are getting data on actual delivery dates for materials and will factor this into the schedule, while keeping an eye on any potential impact to the forecasted school start date.

C. Dacunha thanked the Newfield team for addressing a zoning complaint from a resident. There was no zoning violation, however, Newfield on its own accord blocked out some light pollution coming from inside the building.

⇒ **ARCHITECTURAL PROGRESS UPDATE (ANTINOZZI)**

M. LoSasso said Antinozzi's role at this stage of construction is a support position to keep things moving forward. They are working through submittals and are continuing preparation of Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) and technology documents for submission with input from the school. They expect to use state procurement for these products, which will streamline the process.

⇒ **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL STATE APPROVALS**

T. Laughlin advised they are in the process of completing the 1049R submissions. The intent is to finalize the FF&E package for submission to the state at the same time. They are looking at the end of the month for finalization and a review meeting with all of the boards. D. Lowe thanked T. Laughlin for the team's efforts in this area, which as articulated by T. Laughlin may result in statutory relief for the town's taxpayers for the cost of the overall project due to the town's unique position.

⇒ **DISCUSSION OF SPECIALIZED TESTING SERVICES**

K. Merkel stated she had originally added this item to agenda for additional discussion. However, she is comfortable with the additional discussion regarding this item during the bill approvals agenda section. She asked the committee for additional comments/questions for which there were none at this time.

⇒ **COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

B. Gamper inquired if it would be possible to take a tour of the building after the first few weeks in April. J. Flis informed the committee about the beam signing ceremony for the raising of the final beam. B. Chasse advised it will occur somewhere between April 7 and April 10. K. Merkel suggested that ceremony for a full building committee tour.

⇒ **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Monday, April 20, 2026 – Regular Meeting
TBD – Special Meeting if Required

ADJOURNMENT

K. Merkel adjourned the meeting at 12:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Christine D. Aruza, clerk for the School Building Committee, on March 24, 2026.