

TOWN OF SHERMAN
SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, May 18, 2026
12:00 PM
VIA ZOOM

Presentation Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzmlY_FjUAU

The school building committee (SBC) special meeting was called to order by Kerry Merkel at 12:03 PM.

⇒ **PRESENT**

For the committee: Kerry Merkel (Chair), Bob Gamper (Vice Chair), Jim Best, Tim Laughlin (BOE member)
BOS & Treasurer: Don Lowe (First Selectman), Andrea Maloney (Treasurer)
Sherman School: Jake Siciliano (Information Technology)
Antinozzi Associates: Michael LoSasso (Principal Architect)
CSG LLC: Samantha D'Agostino (Project Manager)
Newfield: John Flis (Project Executive), Max Halberg (Project Engineer)

⇒ **ADDITIONS & MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None at this time.

⇒ **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None at this time.

⇒ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

K. Merkel advised the committee had the following meeting minutes to review/approve: March 16, 2026.

D. Lowe **made a motion** to accept the March 16, 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) for professional and financial services. There are two invoices dated 3/6/26 and 4/10/26 respectively in the total amount of \$4,340.28 for the Sherman School portion. The same invoices reflecting the Central Administration portion are for a combined total of \$29.72.

K. Merkel **made a motion** to approve CSG's invoice dated 3/6/26 and 4/10/26.

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote For: All in favor

[J. Flis joined the meeting at 12:05 p.m.]

Per K. Merkel the second set of invoices for approval are from Antinozzi Associates. The first invoice is dated 3/31/26. There are also two other invoices dated 4/30/26. The Sherman School total inclusive of all invoices/dates is \$60,259.13. The Central Administration portion is \$412.57.

K. Merkel **made a motion** to approve Antinozzi's invoices dated 3/31/26 and 4/30/26.

Seconded by: J. Best

Vote For: All in favor

Per K. Merkel the third set of invoices is for Newfield Construction for progress payments. The first invoice is dated 3/31/26 and the second invoice is dated 4/30/26. The total amount is \$5,009,652.21.

K. Merkel made a motion to approve Newfield's invoices dated 3/31/26 and 4/30/26.

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote For: All in favor

The next set of invoices are for move management for monthly storage services. The first invoice is dated 3/31/26 and the second invoice is dated 4/30/26. The Sherman School portion is \$1,682.96 and the Central Administration portion is \$11.52.

K. Merkel **made a motion** to approve Meyer's invoices dated 3/31/26 and 4/30/26.

Seconded by: T. Laughlin

Vote For: All in favor

The next set of invoices are for special inspections and testing from Special Testing Laboratories (STL). The first invoice is dated 3/31/26 and the second invoice is dated 4/30/26. The Sherman School portion for both invoices is \$19,180.23 and the Central Administration portion is \$131.32.

K. Merkel **made a motion** to approve the STL invoices dated 3/31/26 and 4/30/26.

Seconded by: J. Best

Vote For: All in favor

The final invoices are for builder's risk insurance from CIRMA. The invoice is dated 12/23/25. The Sherman School portion is \$115,071.16 and the Central Administration portion is \$787.84.

K. Merkel **made a motion** to approve CIRMA's invoice dated 12/23/25.

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote For: All in favor

K. Merkel went on to discuss another cost with respect to Amendment #15 for Antinozzi Associates for Pennoni's services in the amount of \$1,000.00 for testing of material discovered at the D-Wing which was non-hazardous.

K. Merkel **made a motion** to approve Amendment #15 for \$1000.00 for the Pennoni's services for testing and sampling in the D-Wing.

Seconded by: J. Best

Vote For: All in favor

⇒ [Current Change Order Summary](#)

The committee reviewed the most recent change log summary which has been verified and confirmed. All change events have been treated as a cost estimate reconciliation per T. Laughlin. There are two contingencies: owner's management and construction management. From a billing perspective the project is 30% at end of April, 40% at end of May and 50% at end of June. T. Laughlin stated at present they are at approximately \$1.7M in terms of combined contingency reserves if the change orders reviewed today are approved.

T. Laughlin walked the committee through each of the proposed change events/orders to be paid from the construction management contingency in the amount of \$120,471.00.

T. Laughlin **made a motion** to approve an amount not to exceed \$120,471.00 for construction management change orders indicated on the Sherman Open PCO Log dated 5/13/2026.

Seconded by: K. Merkel

Vote For: All in favor

T. Laughlin then walked the committee through each of the proposed change events/orders to be paid from the owner's management contingency in the amount of \$295,419.17.

T. Laughlin **made a motion** to approve an amount not to exceed \$295,420.00 for the owner's contingency's items listed on the Sherman Open PCO Log dated 5/13/2026.

Seconded by: K. Merkel

Vote For: All in favor

NEW BUSINESS:

⇒ [CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS UPDATE \(NEWFIELD\)](#)

J. Flis gave his perspective on the list of change orders and believes that while it represents a tremendous amount of work, the number of change orders will diminish from this point forward as part of the natural progression of the project. With respect to on-site work, he said they are within the 30-40 percentile range of work in place. The structure is in place and most of the work, which is underground, is not visible from the street. As regards interiors, progress varies based on whether it is relation to existing buildings or new additions. Roof work has also commenced. They are trying to move

certain items from Phase 2B to Phase 2A where possible. The winter conditions and equipment delivery dates that impacted the timeline have been incorporated into schedule with move-in to the renovated area planned for Christmas time of this year. Phase 2B remains largely the same with a completion date of Spring 2028. M. Halberg added that OSHA safety consultant visits the site on a regular basis and has identified no notable safety concerns. K. Merkel, D. Lowe and T. Laughlin thanked Newfield for their work in contending with the unforeseen weather conditions and working to keep the project moving forward as expeditiously as possible.

⇒ **ARCHITECTURAL PROGRESS UPDATE (ANTINOZZI)**

M. LoSasso talked briefly about the positive working relationship with Newfield and how the teams partner with each other to come up with practical solutions. On another note, Antinozzi met last week with their technology group and the school's technology director (Jake Siciliano). This information will be submitted, along with the FF&E package details, on June 17th for a PCR review.

⇒ **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE BUDGET REVISIONS FOR THE DAS-1049R**

T. Laughlin thanked CSG for pulling together the information to move this item forward. There are meetings this week with the school. In addition, A. Maloney and Liz LaVia (Business Manager) are pulling together the requisite data on their end. T. Laughlin believes this agenda item should be discussed at a special meeting after those meetings are completed. The committee concurred.

⇒ **COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

None at this time.

⇒ **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Monday, June 15, 2026 – Regular Meeting
TBD – Special Meeting if Required

ADJOURNMENT

K. Merkel adjourned the meeting at 12:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Christine D. Aruza, clerk for the School Building Committee, on May 25, 2026.