

VILLAGE OF SHERMAN

HOME OF THE YORKER MUSEUM

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

WWW.SHERMANNY.ORG

October 15th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

Dear Ms. Utz,

I became committed to the Village of Sherman as mayor in 2017, having seen the condition of the near failing infrastructure and the lack of budget to financially support the different departments, which combined led to significant operational challenges.

The members of the Village of Sherman Board of Trustees are each equally and personally committed to the future of the Village. They understand the decisions made are required and affect people not only today, but also 10, 20, 30+ years from now. They have chosen to accept responsibility, often at their own sacrifice. It is together through their selfless, nonpolitical actions that Sherman has been so successful. The Trustees are always focused on what needs to be done, knowing the risks, willing to make the hard decisions, even during difficult times.

This has resulted in financial preparedness, substantial grant awards, the completion of public improvement projects, and engagement of stakeholders, further strengthening the Village's purpose to serve. The adopted policies and initiatives drawing the community's awareness and support of this timely opportunity.

We planted the seeds and gathered the data with the Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Market Analysis, Feasibility Study and the like. Now we are watching the restoration and the opening of new businesses, our library rejuvenated, and our community getting excited! The NY Forward application process is fueling the momentum that is inspiring creativity and collaboration, bringing interest and investment to Sherman.

With the work the Village has done to date, we have developed a great network of people available to us from numerous supportive agencies across Chautauqua County, professionals from various planning, legal, and engineering firms, and contacts of experts in the field; all of which have and will contribute to our future success. We will look to these resources in the administration of the NY Forward Award and any other projects that reinforce the Village of Sherman's stability and sustainability.

These are the two words I continually use to describe all our efforts: **stable and sustainable**. Be it financial stability (of the municipality or local economy), infrastructure, energy efficiency, climate resiliency, historic preservation, support of small businesses and non-profit missions, housing security, building a healthy community with walkable & bikeable streets and accessibility for all, **the decisions we make are to ensure the Village of Sherman is stable and sustainable beyond our service to the community.**

Sincerely,



Colleen M. Meeder
Mayor

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

THE HONORABLE COLLEEN MEEDER, MAYOR

DEPUTY MAYOR RYAN SANDERS

TRUSTEES DENNIS WATSON, GARY EMORY & DANIEL CRANE

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER