

Local Real Estate Agencies:

Perrin Realty - 463-2127 Or 463-2200

Chickadee Realty - 528-2000

Rockwell Properties - 463-2444

Katahdin North Enterprises -365-7666

First Choice Realty - 463- 3232

Hometown Realty - 532-2986

Mooers Realty - 532-6573

United Country McPhail Realty

Peter Qualey—Broker

Ph: (207) 267-0400-Cell

Brochure Created
in Cooperation with:

**St John Aroostook
Resource Conservation & Development
Council**

735 Main St., Suite #3
Presque Isle, ME 04769
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A Guide To Starting or Expanding your Business in Sherman,

- ◆ How do I find space?
- ◆ What are the steps I need to follow?
- ◆ Where do I find help?

Upper Valley Economic Council
www.uvec.org

The Town of Sherman is located off exit# 264 from I95 in Southern Aroostook County. Sherman is home to approximately 934 residents. The Sherman exit off from I95 will take you to the Northern Entrance to Baxter State Park. Sherman is 81.4 miles from Bangor and 39.5 miles to Houlton and the Canadian Border. Interstate access, Rail access, Broadband and Wireless Internet, and two cell towers in neighboring communities are some of the assets that are available in this community for businesses looking to relocate in Sherman. The Town also owns land that is available for development to businesses and offers a Tax Increment Finance Policy for an incentive package. Some of the many resources in Sherman are the North Woods General Practice Medical Center, Sherman Public Library, a Recreation Department, UVEC Food Pantry and a Recycling Center for waste disposal. If you are considering relocating to Sherman, you will have a reliable workforce to choose from, quality education for your children and a safe environment for families to raise their children in. Sherman offers a quality of life unsurpassed in the "County".

The **Maine Office Of State Fire Marshall** is responsible for all facilities licensed through the Department of Human Services. The office is responsible for construction reviews, sprinkler plan reviews, ADA compliance, child care inspections, health care inspections, place of assembly inspections, fire prevention, investigations and other services. Contact Greg Day at 441-0622 or the Plan Review Office in Augusta at 626-3880. www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/index.htm

The **Tax Assessing Agent, Herb Dickey** determines the valuation and assessment of all taxable real and personal property within the town. Contact number is 207-848-2625

FAQs:

I need a sign for my business. What do I do?

The Maine Department of Transportation is responsible for the regulation of Official Business Directional Signs that are installed and maintained by the Department throughout the State of Maine. The Department's website includes examples, a checklist, forms and FAQ. Contact the MDOT Division Office at 764-2060. www.maine.gov/mdot/traffic-counts/obds.php

Who do I contact regarding locations and zones for starting a business?

The Town of Sherman does not have zoning ordinances other than the Maine Shoreland Zoning Ordinance.

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Permits, Licenses & Approvals

Contact the **Code Enforcement Office** as to how the town's codes, ordinances and statutes may affect your business.

The **Code Enforcement Officer & Plumbing Inspector for Sherman** is: **Barry Higgins, 757-8556.**

The **Sherman Municipal Office** has copies of local ordinances available to the public. Contact Town Manager Debra O'Roak or Town Clerk Linda Smith at 365-4260

The **Maine Department of Health and Human Services** licenses and inspects eating establishments (including temporary), lodging establishments, campgrounds, body artists and numerous other establishments. If not on public water, businesses must comply with the State's plumbing, wastewater and drinking water programs. For more information including licensing contact Don McAllister 592-7459 www.maine.gov/healthinspection

The **Maine Department of Agriculture's Division of Quality Assurance** issues licenses and permits to retail food establishments, all food processing, weights & measures, fuel pumps and for many other purposes. Contact Joe Booker 764-2115 - Augusta main Office 287-3841 www.maine.gov/agriculture/qar

More on permitting...

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Resources to Help You Start or Expand Your Business:

The single most important step in ensuring a successful business is the development of a business plan. Developing the plan requires that you think through your venture to ensure that you have considered all of your options and have considered possible difficulties. Your plan will be a crucial part of any loan application. A business plan serves as an operating guide that helps turn an idea into a viable business.

The **Small Business Development Centers** provide business management assistance, training, resource and information services to Maine's business communities. The centers provide no-cost, confidential quality business management assistance to both starting and established businesses. www.mainesbdc.org Rod Thompson, 498-8736

Maine Business Works is an online clearinghouse for information on business workshops and training opportunities statewide. Access to events, business news, programs, financing, resource providers, publications and research is also available at Maine Business Works. www.mainebusinessworks.org

New Ventures Maine

Helping Maine people succeed in their jobs, businesses, and communities. **Toll Free in Maine:** 800.442.2092

Maine Business Answers Online exists to make it easier to start and conduct business in Maine. At the site you may request publications including the highly recommended "A Guide To Doing Business in Maine and Business Start-Up Kit". Among numerous items, Business Answers provides information on what Maine licenses and permits you may need. www.maine.gov/online/businessanswers or 1-800-872-3838.

More resources.....

Resources (cont.)

The Upper Valley Economic Corporation, a 501-(c) 3, non-profit corporation, is a consortium of the two communities of Sherman and Stacyville whose mission is to provide the best possible environment for local investment and entrepreneurial activity; to promote existing business expansion; to market the area to new industries; to complement the valued aspects of the local lifestyle and to provide a point of contact/access (office) for inquiries from individuals and local, state and federal officials. Contact Jeff Packard 365-7631 www.uvec.org

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Locating Your Business:

Consider locating your business where it makes the most sense for your business to be. Is your venture a service or retail business? Do you need high traffic or high visibility? Or does your business need an office setting? Sherman currently does not have any building ordinances but please make sure that it is up to code. Doing your homework can help prevent unanticipated space issues for your business.

Sources to help you locate space include the local newspapers, the Upper Valley Economic Council and real estate agencies. You can also contact the Sherman Municipal office to determine property ownership.

Sherman now has Fiber Optics available in some areas to offer high speed Internet, Phone & TV service.

Pioneer Broadband—Houlton Maine:

Ph. (207)532-1254

Fax (207) 532-7195

The **Sherman Selectmen are the Town's Planning and Development Department. The Selectmen are the ones** to see if you need approval for any subdivision. The Sherman Selectmen meet twice monthly, the first Tuesday of the month and the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Sherman Municipal building. Contact the Sherman Town Office to be added to the agenda for the selectmen's meetings. 365-4260

Financing and Incentives:

UVEC's

Revolving Loan Fund Program

To provide capital to small businesses unable to obtain credit through conventional sources. Minority entrepreneurs, woman business owners and self-employed individuals with limited incomes are encouraged to apply. Anyone interested in applying for a loan or want more details can call (207) 365-7631 to schedule an appointment or stop by the UVEC Office . The hours are: Monday thru Friday from 8:30 am. To 1:30 pm.

The **Business Finance Department** at the **Northern Maine Development Commission** in Caribou assists with creating and refining business plans, expanding existing businesses, developing financial projections and securing funding. Contact Duane Walton 498-8736 www.nmdc.org

The **Aroostook County Action Program** provides loans of up to \$10,000 to low and moderate-income Maine residents to start, strengthen, or expand small businesses. Management training and technical assistance are offered as part of this program. Contact Jeff Heron 764-3721 www.acap-me.org

Banks:

Bangor Savings Bank, 532-4001

Katahdin Trust Company, 528-2211

Eastmill Federal Credit Union, 528-6222

Millinocket Federal Credit Union, 463-3661

Machias Savings Bank, 532-7996

Key Bank, 532-6557

USDA Rural Development offers Guaranteed Business and Industry Programs for loans made to conventional lenders and guaranteed by Rural Development to improve, develop or finance business, industry and employment. It also offers other business programs that include grants to facilitate the development of small emerging businesses in rural areas and grants to promote sustainable economic development in rural areas with exceptional needs. Contact Judy Gengler at 764-4157, Ext. 103. www.rurdev.usda.gov/me .

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