



**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman
Regular Monthly Meeting
August 24, 2017
7:00 p.m.
Mallory Town Hall**

DRAFT

Members Present: First Selectman C. Cope, Selectman B. Ostrosky, and Selectman D. Lowe

Members Absent: None

Audience & Invited: Treasurer E. Holub, Fire Marshal S.B.A. Larson, Tax Assessor A. Garzi, R. Hudson, G. Linkletter, J. Siegel, J. Bruzinski, K. Keenan, S. Greenbaum, C. McDermott, G. Maletz, S. Maletz, and A. DiDomenico (Town Tribune)

Also: C. Branson, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman C. Cope Called the Meeting to Order at 7:00 pm

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

III. CORRESPONDENCE:

E. Beatty- Letter of resignation from the Assessor's Board of Appeals as of August 2, 2017.

H. Hochholzer, Fire Supervisor, Division of Forestry of CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection announcing the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department has been awarded a Volunteer Assistance grant in the amount of \$2,358.00.

Sherman Fire Chief, J. Reilly- Confirming receipt of above correspondence and stating the funding will go toward the purchase of a new hose for the truck.

E. Neunzig- would like the support of the BoS to produce and distribute 500 lawn signs "No room for hate here" in response to the act of hate toward the Thompson family. (The BoS agreed to unanimously support Mrs. Nuenzig's request for support)

IGA- M. Lugi- stating in response to the recent act of violence toward Mr. & Mrs. Thompson, Bridges owners he would like to distribute anti hate signs at his store.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

A. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Monthly Meeting of May 25, 2017-	Tabled
Regular Monthly Meeting of June 22, 2017-	Tabled
Regular Monthly Meeting of July 25, 2017-	Tabled

B. Tax Refunds:

Selectman D. Lowe Moved to Approve Refund of property taxes in the amount of \$ 551.35.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

C. Monthly Financial Summary Review:

There was nothing new to report.

D. Financial Controls:

Will be discussed under item "K."

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to reorder the Agenda and move item "K" under Information and & Discussion to become item "G" under Administrative.
Seconded by: D. Lowe **Vote: For: Unanimous**

E. Appointments:

Board of Assessment Appeals:

First Selectman Cope read an email from S. McMahon stating her willingness to serve on the Board of Assessment Appeals to complete the vacancy created by E. Beatty's resignation. There was a brief discussion regarding previous procedure when recognizing potential new board members. Selectman Lowe stated he will vote in favor for Ms. McMahon but was troubled that the procedure was not being followed. First Selectman Cope recognized the procedure was not being followed due to the close proximity of their annual meeting being in just a few weeks. From the audience, G. Linkletter (RTC) stated the Board only meets twice a year and would not have the ability to hold their September 16th meeting. J. Bruzinski (RTC), also from the audience stated he would like to be afforded the same opportunity to put forth a name for recommendation.

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to appoint Sheila McMahon to fill the vacancy on the Board of Assessment Appeals, to complete the term of E. Beatty, set to expire January 1, 2018.

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote: For: Unanimous

F. DEMHS Authorization:

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve the resolution that the BoS enter into with and deliver to the State of CT DEEP Services and Public Protection Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and Further Resolved, that Clay Cope, as First Selectman of the Town of Sherman, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote: For: Unanimous

G. General Fund/ Surplus Assignment discussion:

Treasurer E. Holub presented to the BoS a summary of the Municipal Aid from the State of Connecticut for the 2017-18 fiscal year, noting that the State has not yet approved its budget for the new fiscal year. At this point in time the Town would normally have received the grant for Town Aid Roads. Mr. Holub also pointed out the fact that the State was still discussing shifting responsibility for up to a third of the Teacher's pension funding to the towns and cities. The BoS discussed the unassigned General Fund Balance and possible movement of an amount in excess of the fund balance policy to the Capital Non-Recurring Fund. Mr. Holub reminded the BoS that the Auditor's do not recommend holding funding in the Capital Non-Recurring Fund unless it is for a specific purpose. Mr. Holub also recommended assigning \$88,000.00 of the unassigned General Fund Balance for future Employee Defined Benefit pension liabilities.

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to take to the October 21, 2017 Town Meeting a Motion to approve the transfer of funding in the amount of \$750,000.00 from the Unassigned fund to Assigned Fund.

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote: For: Unanimous

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to assign \$88,000.00 of the unassigned General Fund Balance for future Employee Defined Benefit pension liabilities.

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote: For: Unanimous

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to reorder the Agenda and move item "B" under Information and & Discussion to become item "B".

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote: For: Unanimous

Progress report on Town Projects:

**Housing Commission Tax Deferment program presentation to BoS by Tax Assessor A. Garzi
Progress report on Town Projects:**

Tax Assessor A. Garzi came forward to speak to the BoS. First Selectman Cope read into record the Tax Deferment Program criteria. Mr. Garzi stated to the BoS an ordinance would need to be approved at a Town Meeting for this program to move forward. Mr. Garzi recommends the creation an Ad Hoc committee of five member s to be appointed by the BoS. The program perimeters were discussed. The BoS agreed that it would be prudent to first hold a few informational forums to educate the property owners and see if there is a need.

Water issue regarding elevated sodium content:

First Selectman C. Cope read into record a note from Health Director Tim Simpkins requesting the BoS the status update meeting be rescheduled to either September 8th or 15th.

Fox Run Detention Basin:

First Selectman C. Cope stated OPM has approved the new design plan and a bid package will be completed by next week.

Basketball & Tennis Courts at Veterans Field:

First Selectman C. Cope reported the practice board and pickle ball nets have been installed.

Happy Acres Farm Report:

First Selectman C. Cope received an email from J. Motsinger announcing the annual chili cook off and race will be held on Sunday October 1st, 2017. The Sunday Farmers Market has been well attended. The herd count is at 52.

Residents for Reliable Cell Service in Sherman:

First Selectman Cope read into record correspondence received from Sherman Fire Capitan C. Fuchs regarding an update on the cell tower co-location proposal at the Tower Hill site. There are no updates regarding the Happy Acres Tower.

Website and Digital Communications:

Selectman Ostrosky stated training sessions will begin over the next couple of weeks; an exact date is to be determined.

DoT paving project on Route 37 status:

First Selectman C. Cope reported that the paving along Route 37 is complete. DoT is currently backfilling and striping. They are looking into cleaning the overspray on the sidewalk at the school parking lot.

Noise Ordinance:

First Selectman Cope read the preliminary draft of the proposed ordinance into record. This was also reviewed with State Trooper Saraceno, Ron Barnard, and DEEP. This is the first time the BoS is getting the chance to look at the draft; they would like to place it as an action

item for the next BoS meeting. The BoS suggested holding a Town forum in the future to allow questions and input from the public. The BoS agreed to place the proposed ordinance on the Town website.

Fire Marshal:

First Selectman Cope read email correspondence from Fire Marshal Larson into record. The BoS discussed a request from Fire Marshal S.B. A. Larson regarding a budget request to further educational training and possibly fund a vehicle. First Selectman Cope recommended the approval to fund the required training and requested Ms. Larson come up with cost for the training. Additionally Ms. Larson shared concern regarding elderly residents in Sherman that may be at risk. Ms. Larson stated that under the Obama administration, there was an act put into place that allows any cell phone the ability to dial 911 even if it is not connected to a plan or a carrier. She would like the ability to be reimbursed if she provided cell phones to these elderly individuals to use under emergency circumstances. The BoS suggested Ms. Larson reach out to the Director of Social Services with this concern. The BoS declined the request for a vehicle, stating they do not have the type of administration or ability to approve furnishing employees with vehicles. Ms. Larson thanked the BoS for approving reimbursement for mileage. The BoS requested Ms. Larson find out the cost for the required continuing education classes.

Cozier Hill paving project:

The BoS discussed anticipated costs; the scope of the work was budgeted at \$ 280,000. It looks like it will be closer to \$ 175,000. First Selectman Cope stated the project is shovel ready.

LoTCIP update:

First Selectman Cope stated he will be meeting with the Technical Advisory Group along with Public Works Superintendent D. Borkowski to explain the funding originally set aside for Taber Road would better serve the needs for improvements on Wakeman Hill Road as it was determined to be a collector road, they will be asking the State provide needed additional funding to complete this project.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Selectman Lowe- notified the BoS and audience that the New Milford Substance Abuse Prevention Council will hold an open house on September 28th, 2017 from 7:00 pm to 8:30pm at the Sarah Noble school cafeteria. Mr. Lowe asked the status of the clean-up of tar overspray at the school. Additionally, Mr. Lowe stated he would like to recommend creating a Cell Tower Committee with one member of the BoS and others. The BoS agreed to put on the agenda for next month.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

R. Hudson: Would like to share the information with the Commission on Aging regarding the Substance Abuse Prevention Council Open House at the Sarah Noble School.

S. Greenbaum- requesting a status update of the tree in the road at 39 South and Leech Hollow Road. Also asking about the Db levels mentioned in the proposed Noise Ordinance, stating that the level is very low. Additionally Mr. Greenbaum stated that the Town of New Milford provides a vehicle to the Fire Marshal.

Selectman Ostrosky: stated the number in the ordinance was not what would be reflected in the final draft.

A. Zeisler- requesting the full support of the BoS to oppose hate groups in light of the recent event regarding an event in New Milford restaurant which is owned by a Sherman resident.

T. Hahn- asking if the Noise Ordinance will include other bodies of water or other parts of Sherman. Additionally Ms. Hahn asked if there could be some kind of notice sent to the public regarding awareness that any cell phone, even if it does not show it has a signal will be connected to an operator if 911 is dialed.

J. Adolf- agrees that the Noise Ordinance should encompass other bodies of water in the Town as well as land.

First Selectman Cope - in response to the questions regarding the Noise Ordinance; the BoS is just seeing the draft for the first time tonight. They intend to look it over and offer a public forum for discussion and feedback.

G. Maletz- stated she contacted Kyle Richers regarding the T-Mobile co-location at Happy Acres Farm and was told T-Mobile intended to move forward by the end of the year. Also stating she is in support of forming an Ad Hoc Committee for Cell Towers.

J. Siegel- does not see the point in only targeting the Candlewood Lake area for the Noise Ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT:

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to Adjourn the Meeting at 8:46pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Christine Branson, Board Clerk
August 4, 2017