



**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman
Regular Monthly Meeting
October 26, 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, Business Administrator, L. LaVia, K. Keenan, Dr. & Mrs. Braverman, G. Linkletter, G. Maletz, S. Maletz, J. Jenner, R. Handley, School Superintendent J. Melendez, S. Greenbaum, T. Hackett, J. Giordano, C. Diotte, C. Shulman, L. Bilbrough, A. Chiaramonte, S. Moga, R. Hudson, Mr. & Mrs. Hoag, and C. McDermott

Also: C. Branson, Board Clerk

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

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to Amend the Agenda to re-order item V, Information & Discussion - J- Board of Education(*) to be heard first on the Agenda and item V, Information & Discussion- A Presentation on the Roger Sherman Trail (**)
by J. Jenner to follow.

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote: For: Unanimous

*

Board of Education-

School Superintendent- Principal J. Melendez was present to speak in reference to the Multipurpose Room air conditioning installation project. Mr. Melendez stated they are requesting the support of the Board of Selectmen to move forward on this project. At the BoE October meeting the Board voted 6-0 to recommend that the Town consider moving forward with the Multi-Purpose Room air conditioning project anticipated to cost \$ 126,148.00. Also present to speak was Mr. Lombardozzi, School Custodian stating he feels the bid amount is appropriate and scaled for the scope of work involved. Following a brief discussion, First Selectman Cope stated that this will need to be voted on at a Town Meeting. First Selectman Cope stated he will add this as an action item in November to move to a Town Meeting. J. Melendez stated he would like to have this go to a Town Meeting before winter. Selectman Ostrosky requested the bids that were received regarding the work. J. Melendez stated they were submitted to the First Selectman's Office. R. Handley stated the room is being updated with a new audio visual system and the air conditioning will add to the general comfort of the room.

**

Presentation on the Roger Sherman Trail by J. Jenner-

J. Jenner presented to the BoSa new program the Sherman Historic Society will offer to raise awareness about Roger Sherman. Roger Sherman, appointed in 1735 as a Land Surveyor for Litchfield County, was known in Sherman (then, Dilloway) as a Farmer and shoe maker, and one time, largest land holder in Litchfield County. He went on to become a lawyer and then on to a long career of public service, contributing writer of the Declaration of Independence, Mayor of Hartford, etc. The Historical Society will have a permanent installation on the second floor with documents relating to the time that Roger Sherman lived here in Sherman. The community and visitors will have the ability to download an audio application to accompany their visit to the exhibit as well as several other Historical Societies through-out Connecticut from Sherman, New Milford, Litchfield along a "trail" leading to Hartford. The Sherman Historical Society is seeking support of this program and hopes this program will attract tourists who will visit the businesses in town. Sherman Historical Society will hold an Open House to the public on December 3rd on the second floor of the Historical Society.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT:

S. Greenbaum- Stated he submitted a FOI request on October 18th, 2017 requesting the Minutes of the last BoS meeting. As a point of interest, he added that the State Statute requires Minutes of a Meeting be submitted to the Public within 7 days following the meeting. Mr. Greenbaum requested information

regarding the hiring of Town Engineer, T. Iadorola. Mr. Greenbaum asked if a job description was posted. Additionally Mr. Greenbaum requested more information regarding the billing process for the tennis courts. He stated the Town paid the "Twins of the Taurus" approximately \$20,000.00 for the engineering of the courts. He stated the engineering should have been built into the cost. Mr. Greenbaum stated it would have taken 317 hours billed at \$ 70.00 to come to \$20,000.00.

A.Blake- Requested audio tapes from the Town Meeting last week to find out that these Meetings are not taped. She stated she feels it would be beneficial to those who are unable to be in attendance to have the opportunity to hear what went on. She requested the BoS consider purchasing a recording system as well as a system for the hearing impaired for the Charter Hall.

S. Zeitler- asking why the BoS has chosen to do nothing regarding Cricket Valley Power Plant in Dover NY. She stated it has been confirmed, Eversource met with the Sherman BoS on December 9, 2015. Eversource petitioned Cricket Valley on February 5, 2016. Ms. Zeitler is requesting an explanation as to why the Citizens of Sherman were not informed regarding Cricket Valley Ms. Zeitler stated she feels the residents water and air quality will be directly impacted by Cricket Valley.

First Selectman C. Cope- in response to Ms. Zeitler's request; Cricket Valley is an item on the Agenda and will be discussed later in the meeting tonight.

J. Freed- requesting information regarding the Happy Acres Farm Trust be published for public viewing on the Town website. Ms. Freed read in the newspaper that the Treasurer was moving funds out of the Farm fund to another account. Ms. Freed stated she feels that Mr. Hapanowich left in his trust, funds that should go to the improvement of the Farm, not the resident farmers.

Town Treasurer E. Holub- in response to Ms. Freed's request, stated that she is misinformed. The estate that was left when Mr. Hapanowich passed away is intact. Mr. Holub stated annually the cell tower lease produces \$ 14,400.00, these revenues can be directed to the General Fund. At a Town Vote, this funding can be approved to move to the General Fund to offset a potential rise in taxes. The BoS agreed to moving this question to a Town Meeting during the Budget meetings this past spring.

III. CORRESPONDENCE:

Town Treasurer E. Holub-an email was read into record regarding the FY 2018 State Budget Approval- Mr. Holub stated the final figures came in lower than the Town anticipated. There was a 13 % overall reduction, or \$40,242.00. The Education Budget was listed incorrectly.

United Way- Invitation to attend a dinner honoring distinguishing citizens. First Selectman Cope stated he has nominated Theodore Hollander. The dinner will be Saturday, December 12, 2017 beginning at 6:00pm. Tickets are \$125.00

Cuddy & Fedder, LLP- to Melanie Bachman, Executive Director CT Siting Counsel- on behalf of New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC ("AT&T")requesting an extension of time for one year to allow completion of construction and installation of the facility.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE:

A. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Monthly Meeting August 24, 2017

Selectman D. Lowe Moved to Approve the Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting August 24, 2017, as written.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

Special Meeting September 28, 2017:

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to Approve the Minutes of Special Meeting September 28, 2017, as written.

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote: For: Unanimous

Regular Monthly Meeting September 28, 2017:

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to Approve the Regular Monthly Meeting September 28, 2017, as amended. (2nd pg. Town Engineer: D. Lowe Voted Against)

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

B. Tax Refunds:

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to Approve refund of combined Motor Vehicle Taxes and Property Taxes in the amount of \$ 705.67.

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote: For: Unanimous

C. Monthly Financial Summary Review:

The BoS discussed a transfer of \$750,000.00 to the Capital Non-Recurring Fund which was approved at the October Town Meeting. Selectman Ostrosky noted that he did not sign a check that was cut to "Unique Twist". First Selectman Cope stated he believed it was for an invoice from Parks & Rec. Selectman Ostrosky stated he would like to have more information regarding this check.

D. 2018 Calendar Approval

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to Approve the 2018 Calendar as presented.

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote: For: Unanimous

V. INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

A. *Presentation on the Roger Sherman Trail

Heard at the beginning of the meeting

B. Progress Report on Town Projects

i. Water Issue Regarding Elevated Sodium Content

First Selectman C. Cope read a letter from Thomas Mazzuchi, a professor at George Washington University to L. Mathieu, Chief of the Drinking Water Section of the CT DEEP. The BoS discussed an accompanying student presentation from George Washington University.

ii. Fox Run Detention Basin

First Selectman C. Cope stated that additional funds for this project were approved at the October Town Meeting. The bid was awarded to BPM and the project is anticipated to begin in the spring.

C. Happy Acres Farm Report

First Selectman C. Cope read an email from resident farmer, J. Motsinger. Mr. Motsinger writes they have had a successful summer of events with their third annual chili cookoff, and second annual Run for the Farm sponsored by the Friends of Happy Acres. Both events bringing in over a hundred people in support. They are excited to support an open burn demonstration this Saturday evening in partnership with the Sherman Fire Marshal and SVFD. The herd count is currently at 49, two were processed on September 26, 2017.

D. Cell Service

First Selectman C. Cope read an email from Dan Rosemark regarding the T-Mobile tower installation in New Fairfield. Currently the construction drawings are being reviewed. Captain Fuchs stated he had nothing new to add to the report.

E. SVFS Radio Communications

First Selectman C. Cope read an email from Captain Fuchs regarding a lease from East Mountain. This will be moved to a Town Meeting in New Fairfield. Captain Fuchs states once the lease is finalized and approved at a Town Meeting they will need approximately six to eight weeks to order equipment.

F. Website and Digital Services

Selectman B. Ostrosky stated he has been working with K. Rettor and have made approximately thirty five updates. They have reached out to 200 local businesses for information and updates in hopes to rebuild the Sherman Businesses page and links. First Selectman Cope thanked K. Rettor and R. Byrnes for getting the letters out to the local businesses.

G. Lake Noise Ordinance Draft

First Selectman Cope reported the draft Ordinance is in the process of being reviewed by DEEP, he expects to get a redline copy back by the December meeting.

H. Cozier Hill Paving Project

First Selectman Cope reported the project is complete, on time and on budget.

I. LoTCIP update: Wakeman Hill Road

First Selectman Cope reported he and DPW D. Borkowski met with WCCOG to complete the grant application.

J. ** Sherman School Multi- Purpose Room HVAC project BoE presentation-

Heard at the beginning of the meeting

K. Cell Service Ad Hoc Committee

Selectman D. Lowe had emailed the BoS a draft template for discussion. Selectman B. Ostrosky had notes that were discussed. One point made was that the word “Committee” or “Commission” needs to be clarified. Another point discussed was the need for the group to be formal to be most effective. There were a few questions that may require legal advice as well. The BoS discussed the possibility of a formation of a “Utilities Commission” that was brought up a few years ago. Selectman Lowe agreed to make changes reflected by tonight’s discussion in the “By-Laws” and will have another draft ready by the next meeting. G. Maletz spoke, regarding updates from the Residents for Reliable Cell Service in Sherman, stating there is no visual evidence of development at the Tower Hill site. Mrs. Maletz requested First Selectman Cope contact Verizon for an update. First Selectman Cope reported the T-Mobile project on Taber Road is in the process of acquiring Building approval.

L. Cricket Valley Power Plant in Dover NY

First Selectman Cope stated he would like to hold a Public forum to allow information to be shared with the community regarding Cricket Valley Energy Center and allow the concerns of the residents to be heard. He has reached out to Scott Curry and Rachel Lee (of Cricket Valley Energy Center) and will invite them to attend the forum. The forum will be held in Charter Hall Meeting room at the ESF. First Selectman Cope stated he will request an air quality monitoring system for the Town. Additionally Mr. Cope has reached out to Kent’s First Selectman B. Adams and New Milford’s Mayor Grombach. Selectman D. Lowe contacted Emily at Senator C. Murphy’s office to see what information they could provide. First Selectman Cope stated he plans on reaching out to DEEP for any information they can provide. The BoS agreed to move forward with planning the forum as soon as possible, the date will be determined in the very near future.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Selectman B. Ostrosky- keep sending web change proposals to the BoS

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT;

A. Chiaramonte- stated her name is misspelled on the Town website.

A. Blake- requesting the years previous to 2016 and 2017 be available on the Town website.

Selectman B. Ostrosky- stated they can be accessed through an archive folder. In addition, the documents moving forward will be saved as “searchable”.

C. Shulman- in reference to Cricket Valley, handed out material relevant to methane gas use, and requested if there were any way the Towns and States could better communicate with each other when a facility like this is proposed.

Selectman D. Lowe- stated he contacted E. Estee’s office requesting the process be reviewed.

Treasurer E. Holub- requesting information on the Park & Rec. installation of the cooking grills at the Town Pavillion by Mr. Greenbaum’s son.

S. Greenbaum- speaking on behalf of the Park & Rec Commission- stated the grills were ordered in the spring, and disappeared. They were re-ordered and then learned they needed to obtain permits from Zoning and Building. Mr. Greenbaum stated he was tasked to fill out the permits. He reached out to Public Works as well as several local contractors to no avail. So he asked if his son would be able to install the grills. The ZEO signed off on the location compliance and they were installed. The Fire Marshal has requested their removal. In response to Mr. Holub’s reaction about his son being hired for the installation, Mr. Greenbaum stated that he was turned down by 6 local contractors, and spent eight hours applying for permits. Mr. Greenbaum stated he was told by the Fire Marshal that they were a foot too close to the pavilion.

Selectman B. Ostrosky- stated he would like to see the Fire Marshal’s report.

J. Freed- regarding Cricket Valley, stated there is not a lot of knowledge about these gas plants. When she first learned that First Selectman Cope was informed of the proposed facility back in 2016, she stated she was shocked that nothing was said or done to inform the Public. Ms. Freed stated that it is not too late to react to this facility. She feels it will be a really big problem and will impact the quality of life of the residents in Sherman.

S. Zeitler- requested the First Selectman’s response regarding Cricket Valley two weeks ago. She disagrees with inviting Cricket Valley representatives to the Forum. She requests the First Selectman as the Town’s leader request the advice of the Atty. General.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to Adjourn the Meeting at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Christine Branson, Board Clerk
November 7, 2017