

Town of Sherman
Board of Selectmen
Regular Monthly Meeting
January 25, 2018
7:00 p.m. Mallory Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Don Lowe, Selectman Bob Ostrosky, Selectman Kevin Keenan.

Audience and Invited: Business Administrator Liz LaVia, and audience of approximately 70.

CLERK: Ruth Byrnes

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Lowe Called the Meeting to Order at 7:02p.m. FS Lowe welcomed Selectman Keenan to the Board of Selectmen.

FS Lowe moved to have Item IV. B. Cricket Valley become the first item on the agenda. **Seconded by Selectman Ostrosky. Vote For: Unanimous.**

FS Lowe will allow public comment and questions after each agenda item.

CRICKET VALLEY: The Dover Plains Town Supervisor and a Cricket Valley representative were invited to attend and speak tonight and chose not to come tonight. Three members of the Dutchess County Progressives (Charles Davenport, Johanna Fallert, Joe Lowenbraun) each spoke to the health concerns created from pollution generated at natural fracked gas power plants and gas compressor stations. Of special concern are the 1100 students within 2 miles of Cricket Valley Electric Plant.

Linda Yannone, 12 Echo Road North, Faith Leader of United Church of Christ, spoke of “basic moral principal” to take action to protect our children, the need to pressure Governor Cuomo, and to march in Albany on April 23rd.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Collette Shulman, 109 Route 39 North, Conservation Commissioner, suggested holding a forum to educate a larger group on energy issues. Inquired how to get Board of Selectmen approval to hold a symposium in March, and if approval was needed.
- Rolf Martin, 1 Barlow Farm Road, shared data on various parts of the US where mortality rates are highest in area downwind to natural gas fired power plants (potentially hundreds of miles away from plant). He recommends linking up to colleges in Massachusetts that are located downwind to get more data.
- Alex Thompson, 16 Edmond Road, spoke to the “not in my backyard” thinking, using the example that no one wants a cell tower in their back yard, yet no one is willing to give up their cell phones. He felt that conveniences come at a cost.
- Pat Bailey, 34 Big Trail, Vice Chairman - Conservation Commission, stated that Sherman should pass an ordinance not allowing any fracking materials to be stored in Sherman.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter from Jeannene Burrano, P & Z Chairman, endorsing the appointment of Joe Chiamonte as the Land Use Hearing Citation Officer (Alternate).

- Letter from Samantha Addonizio-Butts, ZBA Chairman, recommending appointment of Ann Chiaramonte as an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- An email from Connecticut Council of Small Towns listing “New Laws Affecting Municipalities effective January 1, 2018”.

MINUTES:

Selectman Ostrosky moved to approve the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting minutes of December 21, 2017. **Seconded by FS Lowe.** Discussion: correct one typo and delete a question from the clerk on the minutes.

Vote For: FS Lowe and Selectmen Ostrosky. Abstain: Selectman Keenan.

FS Lowe moved to approve the Board of Selectmen Special Meeting minutes of January 5, 2018. **Seconded by Selectman Keenan. Vote for: Unanimous.**

TAX REFUNDS: Selectman Ostrosky moved to approve 1 property tax refund in the amount of \$3,805.58. **Seconded by Selectman Keenan. Vote For: Unanimous.**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY REVIEW: FS Lowe and Business Administrator Liz LaVia have reviewed the summary line by line. Court & Counsel Cost and ESF are two lines that they are watching.

APPROPRIATION TRANSFER: Business Manager LaVia stated that only 1 interdepartmental appropriation transfer per each grouping may be made in each fiscal year. Will revisit in next couple of months. Will put the ESF maintenance line and Counsel & Court group on watch list. Selectman Ostrosky noted that since cell phone revenues at Happy Acres Farm have been moved to the General Fund line, legal fees for HAF should be charged to the General Counsel & Court line.

COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS:

- **Selectman Ostrosky moved** to reappoint Patricia Bailey to the Conservation Commission for a 3 year term, expiring 1/1/2021. **Seconded by Selectman Keenan. Vote For: Unanimous.**
- **Selectman Keenan moved** to reappoint Donna Tuck to the Housing Commission for a 2 year term, expiring 1/1/2020. **Seconded by Selectman Ostrosky. Vote For: Unanimous.**
- **Selectman Ostrosky moved** to appoint Ann Chiaramonte as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 2 year term, expiring 1/1/2010. **Seconded by Selectman Keenan. Vote For: Unanimous.**
- **Selectman Ostrosky moved** to appoint Joe Chiaramonte as the alternate Land Use Citation Officer for a 2 year term concurrent with the First Selectman, expiring 1/1/2010. **Seconded by Selectman Keenan. Vote For: Unanimous.**

SHERMAN PLAYERS LEASE: Betsy Scholze and Ann Brennan were in attendance on behalf of the Sherman Players. The current lease was for 5 years and expired on 12/31/17. The Town will have electrician add meter to determine the Scout House’s monthly electricity usage.

Selectman Ostrosky moved to bring to Town Meeting, the agreed upon revised Sherman Players lease to split out the Scout House’s electricity usage (Town to pay Scout House’s portion), and Sherman Players to pay their portion for entire year. **Selectman Lowe seconded the motion. Vote For: Unanimous.**

TOWN MEETING ITEMS:

- Tax Deferment Program – Tabled until next meeting in order to check with Tax Collector’s concern with participation in program if the senior was delinquent in payments.

- Housing Commission ordinance change – the commissioners would like to increase the number of Housing Commission members from “5” to “5 to 9”. **FS Lowe moved** to bring the Housing Commission ordinance change to Town Meeting. **Seconded by Selectman Ostrosky. Vote For: Unanimous.**
- SVFD Dock – Chief Reilly spoke to the dock failed last year, the floorboards are rotted and sinking. The dock is old and does not accept the newer floats. It needs to be replaced. Chief Reilly will get an additional quote using TREX type composite decking. The current quote is pressure treated wood decking. **Selectman Ostrosky moved** to bring to Town Meeting, an approval from Capital NonRecurring Fund, not to exceed \$12,000 for purchase and installation of new SVFD dock. **Seconded by Selectman Lowe. Vote For: Unanimous.**

CCM PRESENTATION: Kevin Maloney from Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (167 of 169 towns in CT are members of CCM) spoke to services that CCM offers, and asked for an opportunity to show what CCM can do for Sherman e.g., training and workshops, provide advocacy support at the State Capitol, large research division to answer questions). Offering an incentive to join: free until 7/1/18, half dues at \$1000 for following year, then \$2,035 (calculated per capita) the year after next.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Susan Zeitler, Curtis Drive, asked the Board of Selectmen to consider CCM’s philosophy before making a decision to join or not. She believes that our country is moving towards “Agenda 21” “Regionalization” and “Sustainable Development” which will result in losing local control.

2018-2019 BUDGET SCHEDULE: FS Lowe reviewed key dates for the upcoming budget meetings and workshops.

PROGRESS REPORT ON TOWN PROJECTS:

- Water issue regarding sodium content – Lori Mathieu (CT Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Section) along with 2 assistants will be meeting here in the next 2 – 3 weeks. Using data compiled, the George Washington University undergrad students emailed an informative 46 page report. FS Lowe will forward this report to the selectmen. The last round of testing indicates the sodium content is trending down in all town buildings in center of town. FS Lowe will post the water testing results on the town website.

Public Comment: Ashleigh Blake, 4 Route 37 Center, noted that the last round of water testing was in November which is prior to winter salting of the roads. Typically the tests show a decrease in the summer and fall months, and rises in the winter and spring months.

- Fox Run detention basin rehabilitation – if weather cooperates this project should be finished in June.

ESF MAINTENANCE: Selectmen Keenan and FS Lowe went through the ESF with Dave Raines. Items in the building that needs to be addressed: low water flow, minerals/sediment on gauges and pipes, appliances not working properly, boiler, preventative maintenance, ventilation system, well, etc. Selectman Ostrosky suggested getting preventative maintenance agreements as soon as possible for budgeting for FY 18-19.

HAPPY ACRES FARM REPORT: FS Lowe read email from John Motsinger of Happy Acres Farm.

T-MOBILE LEASE PROGRESS: FS Lowe met with all parties and negotiated an initial agreement. Town is slated to receive \$2200 a month from T-Mobile. FS Lowe thanked Gail and Steve Maletz for their help.

TOWER HILL LEASE: Construction is ongoing, and FS Lowe will have more information in a couple of weeks from the New Fairfield officials.

Public Comment: Pat Bailey, Big Trail, has Verizon service and noticed a much stronger signal on her cell phone in the last two weeks.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE NOISE ORDINANCE: Nothing new to report.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AD HOC COMMITTEE: This committee will consist of 5 to 7 members, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. This committee will disband once their work is finished. **FS Lowe moved** to form the Sherman Telecommunications Committee (STC). **Seconded by Selectman Keenan. Vote For: Unanimous.**

SHERMAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (STC)

MISSION STATEMENT: The Sherman Telecommunications Committee will act as a clearinghouse of information pertinent to help facilitate cell service for all of Sherman.

OBJECTIVES:

- *To explore options that may enable cell service in areas lacking service.*
- *To bring findings and recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.*
- *To assist in awareness and public outreach for matters pertaining to cell service.*

STC BYLAWS:

1. *Consist of 5 to 7 members.*
2. *STC members appointed by the Board of Selectmen.*
3. *Meets monthly (or) on as “as needed” basis.*
4. *One STC member to be a member of the Board of Selectmen.*
5. *Officers include: Chairman and Secretary.*
6. *Officers serve a two-year term and are nominated and elected by STC members.*
7. *Committee members must identify themselves as STC and not as an official agent of the Town when dealing with third parties.*
8. *Meetings follow Robert’s Rules of Order.*
9. *Committee can be disbanded by the Board of Selectmen on grounds that the STC’s efforts are deemed unnecessary.*

Public Comment: Terry Hahn, Timber Trails, would like to include “broadband” to be included in the work that STC. Sherman is part of 17 towns (and 4 surrounding towns) that received \$250,000 grant from the state. NWCOG and Northwest Connect will be representing the towns.

Committee appointments: **FS Lowe moved** to appoint the following Sherman residents to the STC – Terry Hahn, Gail Maletz, Steve Maletz, Zoe Sochor, Al Zeisler. **Seconded by Selectman Ostrosky. Vote For: Unanimous.**

OTHER BUSINESS: Selectman Keenan suggested adding Veterans Field facility to next agenda. FS Lowe announced that on 1/31/18, the Library will host a workshop for CTTV on how to make your own TV show. Hoping to get someone to tape future meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jerry Siegel, Timber Trails, spoke to his concerns with the Town Center's high sodium content. Would like to see the Board of Selectmen start looking at remediation whether it be funded by a grant or bond. Mr. Siegel also suggested a Sherman noise ordinance that would apply to the entire town.

Jen Freed, Church Road, spoke to the need for a town noise ordinance to protect property values.

Alex Thompson, Edmonds Rd, spoke to everyone having an equal right to enjoy their hobby, and to "tread lightly" as we move forward with regard to a noise ordinance.

Rolf Martin, Barlow Farm Rd, spoke to a compromise where possibly certain activities are allowed at certain times.

James Maharg, Church Road, spoke to the need for a noise ordinance.

Catharine Cooke, Church Road, spoke of exercising common neighborly consideration, and that noise of any kind (dirtbikes or opera) being blasted and loud enough to negatively affect neighbors is unacceptable.

Terry Hahn, Acting President of Timber Trails, shared that Timber Trails has a covenant in place for all 130 homes specifying what is allowed. She suggested looking at the other private home associations' covenants.

Susan Zeitler, Curtis Road, offered for anyone who is interested to contact her for links to CCM and Cricket Valley.

First Selectman Lowe committed to listening to all concerns.

ADJOURNMENT: First Selectman Lowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:12PM. Seconded by Selectman Keenan.

Vote For: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Chen Byrnes