

Town of Sherman
Board of Selectmen
Regular Monthly Meeting
22 February 2018
7:00 p.m. Mallory Town Hall

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

Audience and Invited: R.Byrnes, Liz LaVia, E.Holub and audience of approximately 25.

CLERK: Linda Whitney

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Lowe Called the Meeting to Order at 7:04p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT:

S.Zeitler, Curtis Drive, questioned as to when the decision of whether or not to join the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities would be made.

D.Lowe responded that it would be discussed at the budget meetings and then again at the budget hearing meeting on 4/3 and that public comment is welcome at the 4/3 meeting.

JULIA'S WINGS PROCLAMATION

D. Lowe read his proclamation supporting Julia's Wings for the admirable work they do and proclaiming the week of 2/25 – 3/4, 2018 as Aplastic Awareness Week in Sherman

MINUTES:

Motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting minutes of 25 January 2018 by B. Ostrosky
Seconded by K. Keenan.

Vote: Unanimous

FINANCIAL SUMMARY REVIEW:

D. Lowe is watching costs for litigation in an ongoing lawsuit, land use and the ESF.

TOWN MEETING ITEMS:

Dates for the town meeting will be proposed for late March to discuss:

Replace monitoring wells at the school. 2 out of the 4 required do not work. The cost for this is not to exceed \$15,000.

Changes in the Sherman sanitary code. The proposed change will drop the slope percentage required for leach fields and make changes to the Septic Walkover System management

Motion to accept: B. Ostrosky

Seconded: D. Lowe

Vote: Unanimous

Revisions to the Health Department fees will be investigated further prior to being presented at a town meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jeannie Burrzano, Farm Road, commented that P&Z will be changing their fees as well

COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS:

The Conservation Commission nominated Rolf Martin to serve on their Commission for a three year term,expiring 1/1/2021.

Motion to Approve: D. Lowe

Seconded: B. Ostrosky

Vote: Unanimous

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

Water issue regarding sodium content- no update at this time due to the state report detailing the winter reading has not been issued yet.

D. Lowe met with a geologist to investigate solutions to the water sodium content problem. On 9 March 2018 at 1:00 PM, D. Lowe will have a meeting with Lori Mathieu (CT Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Section), M. Cohen, T. Simpkins and the geologist to discuss the problem and brainstorm solutions.

There will soon be a portal on the town website to provide updates on this issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A.Thompson, Edmonds Road, asked if there was a different sodium content used on state roads in Western CT.

D. Lowe will ask at the meeting on 3/9

D. Clark, Smoke Ridge, appreciated the inquiries into this matter

ESF Maintenance- D. Lowe met with K. Beatty, C. Beatty and C. Fuchs and requested a prioritized list of needs for the ESF. This list will be presented at the next meeting. K. Keenan noted that they should include regular maintenance contracts and need to follow the town bidding procedure for all jobs over \$10,000.

All work orders have to go through the First Selectman’s office prior to committing to service.

Tower Hill- D. Lowe has a meeting scheduled for 28 February 2018 at 9:00AM with Dan Rosemark from NF to work out the details of the Tower Hill lease.

T-Mobile lease at Happy Acres Farm- T-Mobile is uncomfortable with the lease between the town and the residents of Happy Acres. D. Lowe proposed having M. Willis, lawyer, to change the wording in the lease with regard to the cell tower lease and the lease renewal. The projected date for this to be completed is 1 May 2018. The Happy Acres tenants may be in favor of this as it allows them, as well as the town, to be compensated by T-Mobile. All Selectmen agreed to D. Lowe’s proposal. The town would receive a one- time payment of \$4000 and monthly payments of \$2200. The Happy Acres tenants would receive a one-time payment of approximately \$21000.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

J. Freed, Church Road, asked if the cell tower income would be used for maintaining the farm.

S. Zeitler, Curtis Drive, asked if any research had been done on the health risks associated with cell towers.

B.Ostrosky, Selectman, recommended S. Zeitler meet with the Sherman Telecommunications Committee.

J. Motsinger, Happy Acres Farm, doesn’t see any negative impact

E. Holub, town treasurer, reported that as per the agreement made with T. Hapanowich that the income generated by the cell tower can go to the town general fund or to maintain the farm. This distribution is to be determined annually by the Selectmen.

J. Freed, Church Road, voiced concern that the farm would use up its trust funding and requested that the funding be monitored.

HAPPY ACRES FARM REPORT:

J. Motsinger reported that the herd is doing well. The vet recently visited, the herd is not given vaccines or any antibiotics that are not necessary. The needs at the farm are:

Painting on the exterior of the house and barns

Windows, 20+ windows are broken or have fallen out in the barns

The back stairwell in the house has a door that opens directly into a staircase

Water leak in the lower barn- a pipe burst, it needs insulation and a shut-off valve (this may be the tenants responsibility)

More rails are needed to repair the split-rail fencing

CANDLEWOOD LAKE NOISE ORDINANCE:

The DEEP rejected Sherman's draft of the Limited Lake Ordinance. The jurisdiction of the DEEP and the DMV over this ordinance is in question.

Jay Adolph, Orchard Rest and member of Citizens for Peaceful Candlewood Lake, has worked with D. Lowe to redraft the ordinance and requested that the Selectmen adopt the ordinance if it falls in their jurisdiction.

D. Lowe will discuss the newly worded ordinance with K. Keenan and B. Ostrosky before deciding to go to a town meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

N. Volkmar, Deer Run Shores, would like clarification from the DMV and DEEP that the ordinance can be adopted by the town

B. Beutler, suggested that a decibel limit may not have to be defined in the ordinance as Danbury has a noise ordinance determined by the judgement of the attending officer

A. Thompson, Edmonds Road, questioned that this doesn't fall under the DMV as the boats must be registered with the DMV and questioned how the ordinance would be enforced

R. Martin, Barlow Farm Road, requested that a draft of the ordinance be available on the town website prior to a town meeting

J. Freed, Church Road, questioned if a town- wide noise ordinance could cover the lake

K. Thompson, Edmonds Road, asked who would have to pay for the boat the trooper enforcing the ordinance would use

Bathrooms at Veterans Field:

Park and Rec are collecting bids to repair the bathrooms. The quotes should be submitted to the Selectmen before the next BOS meeting. The work should take about 2 weeks to complete.

The job of cleaning and maintaining the bathrooms needs to be assigned. If regularly maintained, the bathrooms can be open year round.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

R.Byrnes, suggested that perhaps the cleaner used for the ESF could be contracted

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

First Selectman, D. Lowe suggested talking about the Audubon Society located off Wakeman Hill Rd. at the next meeting. There are guided tours available at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

K. Thompson, Edmonds Road, read a letter expressing concern over feeling targeted by the request for a noise ordinance at the last BOS meeting and made an appeal to work together as neighbors

A. Thompson, Edmonds Road, against a noise ordinance for the town

S. Zeitler, Curtis Drive, appreciated the discussion of a noise ordinance at the last BOS meeting

D. Lowe, First Selectman, responded that there is no plan other than the Limited Lake Ordinance at this time being pursued

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn: K. Keenan at 9:10 PM

Seconded: B. Ostrosky

Vote For: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Whitney

