

Town of Sherman
Board of Selectmen
Regular Monthly Meeting
September 27, 2018
7:00 p.m. Mallory Town Hall

DRAFT

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

Audience and Invited: Treasurer Erik Holub, Business Administrator Liz LaVia, and audience of approximately 7.

CLERK: Ruth Chen Byrnes

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman (FS) Lowe called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Cable Advisory report will be read later in meeting as an agenda item.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **Selectman Keenan moved** to approve the minutes of the 8/23/18 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting minutes. **Seconded: Selectman Ostrosky. Vote: For: Unanimous.**

First Selectman Lowe moved to approve the minutes of the 9/18/18 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting minutes. **Seconded: Selectman Ostrosky. Vote: For: Unanimous.**

MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY REVIEW: Business Manager Liz LaVia stated everything is tracking as it should.

APPOINTMENT: **Selectman Ostrosky moved** to appoint Pat Werme to the Commission on Aging for a 3 year term to expire 1/1/2021. **Seconded: Selectman Keenan. Vote: For: Unanimous.**

SVFD MONTHLY REPORT: This will be a new addition to regular monthly reports going forward. Chris Fuchs, SVFD Captain, shared the following: To date as of 1/1/18 there have been 313 calls requesting fire or ambulance assistance; training is every Monday evening from 7-9pm; 10 new members this year, 5 of whom will take EMS training; SVFD is reapplying for a FEMA Assistance for Firefighter's grant (if awarded, monies will go towards 30 portable radios).

ADA ACTION ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE FINDINGS: FS Lowe and Director of Social Services Beth Trott reviewed recommendations for all Town buildings and agree on starting with addressing the stone steps at Old Town Hall by resurfacing them, and installing a ramp for the North door in the kitchen.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING POLICY: **First Selectman Lowe moved** to accept the Employee Training Policy for inclusion in the Town of Sherman Personnel Policy, effective 11/1/2018. **Selectman Ostrosky seconded. Vote: For: Unanimous.**

SIDEWALKS: Selectman Ostrosky shared that Rich Lenihan has spoken to the state on requirements for installing a sidewalk from the crosswalk at the school to the firehouse. The sidewalk would continue to

the firehouse parking lot. The guidelines state a “5 foot walkway with brush broom finish meeting ADA requirements.”

BUILDING INSPECTOR’S NEW CONTRACT: The building inspector has not had a raise in 12 years and this new 4 year contract includes a 3% increase. It does not require Board of Selectmen approval, however FS Lowe wanted to give the other selectmen an opportunity to share their opinion. All three selectmen support the new contract.

FOX RUN DETENTION UPDATE: Expected to finish next week. Currently 90% completely, and within budget.

WATER/WELLS GARY ROBBINS PROJECT UPDATE: UConn and well drilling company will be here tomorrow and through the weekend to drill the final 2 wells (MTH and one at the Sherman School). Town Hall will not be able to use the toilets and sinks. ESF restrooms will be available.

ROUTE 37 CLOSING REPORT: FS Lowe has been checking in with DOT and the contractors regularly. The sign on the south side of Route 37 has been removed, possible due to malfunction. DOT hopes to have the project finished in 2 weeks (Friday 10/12).

HAPPY ACRES FARM UPDATE: John Motsinger’s emailed report was read. Participation in farmers markets are winding down with HAF’s Sunday Farmers market to conclude with 4th Annual Chili Cookoff on 10/14. The herd was downsized by selling 17 cows. Mr. Motsinger requests the Town’s assistance in painting the barn and farmhouse, supplying replacement fence rails, repairing/replacing damaged gutters, replacing broken windows, and insulation of pipes to prevent freezing. The selectmen noted that Hudson Valley Preservation and an engineering company have been hired to look at barn repairs which will take place in the spring.

STATUS OF T-MOBILE INSTALLATION OF HAPPY ACRES: Has not started yet, expected to finish in January. T-Mobile could not start until a permit was issued (completed today). The Town will receive monthly payments when transmissions start. The Town should receive a \$4000 signing bonus shortly.

STATUS OF EMERGENCY SERVICES EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION ON AQUARION TOWN ON BIG TRAIL EXTENSION: Chris Fuchs, SVFD Captain stated Aquarion had only 2 minor changes on the drawings submitted. Once resubmitted, a lease will be created. Eversource continues to work on the easement at Timber Trails.

PROGRESS ON POSSIBLE CELL TOWN SITES IN SOUTHERN SHERMAN: There are 2 private properties that cell tower companies are interested in. FS Lowe has walked one of the sites with the cell tower staff and plans to walk the second property.

CABLE ADVISORY REPORT: Frank Copsidas, having owned two television stations amongst other businesses, recently volunteered to be the town’s representative to the Cable Advisory Board. After having attended September’s meeting, Mr. Copsidas encourages the town to take advantage of internet based technology rather than cable (expected to become outdated in the next few years).

ELDERLY TAX DEFERMENT PLAN: After discussing it all year, FS Lowe noted that BoS needs to decide whether or not to add the Elderly Tax Deferment Plan to the Annual Town Meeting warning on 10/13/18. Selectman Ostrosky feels that putting it on the warning gives it exposure and will allow for feedback from Sherman residents. Selectman Ostrosky moved the proposed Elderly Tax Deferment Plan

for approval at the Annual Town Meeting on October 13th, 2018 at 10.am to be held at Mallory Town Hall (change from Charter Hall). Seconded: Selectman Keenan. Vote: For: Unanimous.

SUGGESTIONS BY SELECTMEN FOR FUTURE AGENDAS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: First Selectman Lowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54pm. Seconded by Selectman Ostrosky. Vote: For: Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Chen Byrnes