

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

DRAFT

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** First Selectman Don Lowe, Selectman Bob Ostrosky

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Selectman Kevin Keenan

**ALSO INVITED:** G.Robbins, UCONN Hydrogeology Professor, Meredith Metcalf, Eastern CT State University Professor, L.LaVia, E.Holub

**Audience:** An audience of approximately 20 were in attendance.

**CLERK:** Linda Whitney

**CALL TO ORDER:** First Selectman Lowe Called the Meeting to Order at 7:03 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

A letter from Selectman K.Keenan was read explaining his absence due to his attendance at his daughter's college graduation in Maine.

A letter from J.Freed was read requesting a Town Resolution against Cricket Valley.

**PRESENTATION ON TOWN WATER:**

G.Robbins and M.Metcalf presented their DRAFT PROPOSAL TO ASSESS FRACTURE FLOW CONDITIONS IN 6 WELLS IN THE TOWN OF SHERMAN. They have been analyzing where the salt content in the town's water is coming from since 2016. The presentation began with an overview of how wells get water through rock fractures. They are proposing to go into 6 wells to determine where the contamination is originating and then assess how to remediate the problem. The proposed wells for study are:

One at the daycare

Two at the school

One at the Firehouse

One at Town Hall

One at the Senior Center

The proposal is for the town to contract a team that will include a driller and hydrogeological experts along with undergraduate students at a cost of approximately \$55,000.00. The field work could be completed during the summer with a report of their findings and recommendations for

possible solutions available by the end of August. This assessment will help determine the best solution for the continuing water contamination problem in town.

A motion to bring the proposed study on 6 wells at a cost not to exceed \$60,000.00 to a town meeting was cast by B.Ostrosky. It was seconded by D.Lowe. The vote to bring this to a town meeting was unanimous.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

S.Zeitler, Curtis Drive, asked if the salt content in the water was related to the winter salting of the roads.

G.Robbins explained that it certainly was part of the problem but the solution must start with pinpointing exactly where the contamination originates.

R.Martin, Barlow Farm Road, asked if the water in Candlewood Lake could be assessed at the same time.

S.Zeitler, Curtis Drive, expressed concern that the town has joined the CCM as she feels that there is an agenda behind the CCM's regionalization that will lead to a lack of local governmental control.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

- A. Motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes** from 26 April 2018 made by B.Ostrosky.

Seconded by D.Lowe

Vote: Unanimous

- Motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes** from 26 April 2018 made by B.Ostrosky .

After discussion the motion was seconded by D.Lowe.

Vote: Unanimous

- Motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes** from 12 May 2018 made by D.Lowe.

Seconded by B.Ostrosky

Vote: Unanimous

- B. Monthly Financial Summary Review**

L.LaVia presented the summary review. Counsel, court and litigation costs are currently slightly over budget as is the ESF maintenance. The budget balance is about \$450,000.00 to carry us to the fiscal year end in June. E.Holub presented the revenue review. We are currently \$35,000.00 better than budget and may likely receive the second TAR(Town Aid for Roads) payment from the state in the amount of \$102,000.00 by June.

- C. TAX Suspense List:**

**A Motion to Approve** the tax suspense list was made by D.Lowe.

**Seconded by:** B.Ostrosky

**Vote:** Unanimous

**INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**

- A. The Conservation Commission member, R.Martin, gave a presentation on the dangers of airborne pollution that included tips on how to protect yourself from dangerous pollutants. This presentation was prepared out of concern that Cricket Valley will

contribute dangerous airborne pollutants that will affect our community members, especially children as they are the most vulnerable.

**Public Comment:**

C.Schulman, 109 Rte.39, is concerned about Cricket Valley and would like the public to be educated on and advocate for more renewable power sources, such as solar power.

B.McCann requested that the town adopt a resolution against Cricket Valley that has been drafted by the Conservation Commission. The BoS could not vote as Selectman K.Keenan was not present. The resolution has been tabled until the next BoS meeting.

P.Bailey, Conservation Commission member, expressed concern that Cricket Valley will be detrimental to our property values and that it will become increasingly difficult to attract new people to our town.

R.Martin, Barlow Farm Rd, noted that the drafted resolution is particularly strong as it has citations for all of its claim evidence.

S. Zeitler, Curtis Drive, would like to see more communication and action against Cricket Valley.

**B. Town 457 Plan**

E. Holub recommended, after comprehensive research and analysis, that the town employee 457 Plan be moved from Nationwide to Ritholz Wealth Management at the beginning of the new fiscal year in Sept. After reviewing the report Selectman B.Ostrosky made the motion to change the town employee 457 Plan from Nationwide to Ritholz Wealth Management in Sept. D.Lowe seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**C. Happy Acres Restricted Fund Draft Investment**

E.Holub presented an investment policy for the Happy Acres Restricted Fund. The current balance of the fund is 1.54 million dollars. After thorough discussion, D.Lowe made the motion to accept the Happy Acres Restricted Fund Investment Policy. B.Ostrosky seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. E Holub recommended Ritholz Wealth Management as the investment policy manager. D.Lowe made the motion to approve Ritholz Wealth Management as the investment policy manager. B.Ostrosky seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. E.Holub asked that the Board of Selectmen consider for discussion at the next meeting whether they prefer investing all of the funds monies at one time or spread out their investment over time.

**D. T-Mobile Update at Happy Acres**

There is no update at this time as the town has submitted all of its paperwork and T-Mobile's legal department has not yet finalized their part of the contract.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

S.Zeitler, Curtis Drive, expressed concern regarding the health hazards of cell towers.

S. Maletz, 2 Pepper Pond Rd, responded that the Telecommunications Committee has reached out to her and will continue to try to make contact to share information regarding the benefits and necessity of good cell service in town. She also clarified that there is already an existing cell tower at Happy Acres.

**E. Tower Hill Update**

We may not be using Tower Hill for our emergency equipment as the cost to the town is \$1,600.00 per month. There is an alternate spot being investigated at this time. C.Fuchs has been instrumental in this search.

**F. Policy on training/workshops**

A draft is in the works regarding how to consistently manage and approve workshops that are attended at the town's expense. A discussion including input from L.LaVia and E.Holub emphasized the need for such policy.

**G. Happy Acres Farm Report**

J.Motsinger sent in a letter reporting that there have been 14 calves born so far this spring with more expected. The garden is looking good and the Farmer's Market at Happy Acres will open on Sundays from 11:00 AM-2:00PM beginning June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The herd count is currently at 46. D.Lowe and M.Lord recently visited the farm. M.Lord made some recommendations for improvements.

**H. Emergency Services False Alarm Ordinance**

This item was tabled until the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

**I. Discussion about Council of Government membership**

We are currently members of WestCOG and First Selectman Lowe would like the Board and public to consider changing to become members of the Northwest COG. The WestCOG seems to consist of mostly towns around Candlewood Lake. The Northwest COG seems to consist of towns with issues and interests more in line with Sherman's issues and interests. There was discussion and the BoS will look over the information and vote in June. The WestCOG membership was decided at a town meeting so this change may also be decided at a town meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

S.Greenbaum, 9 Peace Pipe Lane, wasn't aware that we could change memberships but feels it may be more advantageous to join the Northwest COG.

A motion to bring the choice of changing membership from the Western CT COG to the Northwestern CT COG to town meeting was made by D.Lowe. It was seconded by B.Ostrosky. The vote was unanimous.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

The LoCIP award will be put on the June agenda.

There will be a presentation by P. Korsant outlining his plans for the Town Green at the next meeting.

The First Selectman asked that ways to better utilize our town website be considered for future discussion.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

R.Martin, Barlow Farm Road, thanked First Selectman, D.Lowe, for being available and making time to help people stuck in last week's storm to get home safely.

S.Greenbaum, 9 Peace Pipe Lane, asked if the bathrooms at Veteran's Field would be operational by this weekend.

D.Lowe responded affirmatively.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion to Adjourn: B.Ostrosky at 9:10 PM**

**Seconded: D.Lowe**

**Vote For: Unanimous**

**The next meeting is scheduled for 28 June 2018**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Linda Whitney