

Town of Sherman
Board of Selectmen
Regular Monthly Meeting
28 February 2019
7:00 PM. Mallory Town Hall

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

Audience and Invited: Liz LaVia, E.Holub, Gary Robbins, and audience of approximately 25.

CLERK: Linda Whitney

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Lowe Called the Meeting to Order at 7:02p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

CORRESPONDENCE:
A letter from the Commission on Aging will be read during the commission appointment.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

MINUTES:

Motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting minutes of 24 January 2019 was made by K. Keenan.

Seconded by B. Ostrosky .

Vote For: Unanimous

Motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Minutes of 26 Jan. 2019 was made by K. Keenan.

Seconded by B. Ostrosky.

Vote For: All.

TAX REFUNDS:
None

MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY REVIEW:

L. LaVia reported that we are in the 8th month of the budget. There are several items running a little high that will be closely monitored. These include building and ESF maintenance, pavilion, and court and counsel costs. The 2019-20 budget requests are currently being reviewed.

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT:

A letter was read from Linda Arnold expressing her intent to serve as an alternate on the Commission on Aging.

Motion to Approve: B. Ostrosky

Seconded: K. Keenan

Vote For: Unanimous

JULIA'S WINGS PROCLAMATION

D. Lowe read his proclamation supporting Julia's Wings for the admirable work they do to support families and research fighting Aplastic Anemia and proclaiming the week of March 3rd - March 9th as Aplastic Awareness Week in Sherman. Please visit www.wearred.org to view ways to support this movement.

TOWN MEETING ITEMS:

Discussion was held, with input from C. Fuchs, regarding authorization of an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 from the Capital Non-recurring fund for pump repairs, pressure relief valve replacement, lighting and backup camera upgrades to Engine 3 (1995 Pumper).

Motion to bring to Town Meeting: D. Lowe.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky.

Vote For: Unanimous

Discussion was held, with input from C. Fuchs, regarding authorization of an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 from the Capital Non-recurring Fund for a Photo ID printer and software for SVFD members and Town employees to have proof of identification.

Motion to bring to Town Meeting: K. Keenan.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky

Vote For: Unanimous

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

SVFD

C. Fuchs reported that the SVFD has responded to 65 calls so far this year. Fire Department members have completed a cold water rescue course. There are 15 members currently taking the EMS class. The Annual Fireman's Ball is in the planning stages. Any ideas can be submitted to Linda Oppenheimer. The Fire Dept. is currently in the process of designing a new tanker.

PATRICK DWYER: Eagle Scout Presentation:

Patrick's Eagle Scout Project is to increase the number of people in town with displayed house numbers in accordance with the town ordinance. The ordinance requires house numbers to be reflective, at least 4 inches tall and displayed on both sides of your mailbox. This will make it easier for emergency services to locate townspeople. His plan is to offer the house numbers to residents at cost and to visit the Senior Center to offer the house numbers for free with installation help if it is needed. Patrick asked for any ideas from the Selectmen as to how to advertise this service. B. Ostrosky offered to help with a Nixile alert and adding Patrick's contact email address to the town website. K. Keenan suggested putting up posters at Town Hall and the IGA. E. Holub suggested setting up a table at the town referendum on May 4th.

GARY ROBBINS: WATER/WELL PRESENTATION:

On Jan. 7, 2019 a report was submitted on the elevated salt content in 5 town wells. The pumps were all removed and water was tested at different depths in each well.

The well at the Firehouse is deep but has low productivity. The salt content is likely to come from road treatment coming in through shallow fractures. There was also septic contamination indicated in the testing results. The recommendations for this well are to not pile snow near the well and to put in a deeper casing.

Well #1 at the school (near the parking lot) is a very deep well and testing indicated that the water is OK for drinking .The recommendation is to not pile snow near the well and to flush the well after the snow season.

Well #2 at the school (on the back hill) has high salt levels. It already has a double casing, likely due to weak rock surrounding the well. The recommendation is to reroute the water coming down the hill.

The well at Town Hall needed a new pump as the old one broke during its removal. The water from the roadway runs directly over this well and it tested positive for elevated salt content as well as septic contaminants. The recommendations are to put in curbs, don't pile snow near the well and to install a deeper casing.

The well at the Senior Center has shallow fractures and tested positive for high levels of salt as well as septic contaminants. The well is located directly next to the entrance to the Senior Center and is covered with a manhole cover. The UCONN team will flush the well and continue to test and monitor this well to determine if the flushing helps with the salt levels. The recommendations are to extend the casings and conduct a trace study to determine where the septic contamination is coming from.

LOTICIP PERTAINING TO WAKEMAN HILL ROAD:

F. Pickering and K. Mahoney from the COG were in attendance to clarify the benefits and constraints to using the Capital Improvement Grant. The LOTICIP funding comes from the state. K. Mahoney explained that the road improvement plan would have to meet the state geometric design criteria. State funded projects are more restrictive than locally funded projects. The funds are available for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the road. The town's investment is the initial design cost as well as the cost of the application. The grant will fund all construction and related incidental costs.

T. Idarola spoke about the need to follow stringent state criteria to qualify for the grant funds. The town will need to prepare and submit a detailed application as well as hire an engineer to create a bid package. Once the application is approved, the state will fund the project. The actual cost of the project is estimated to be approximately an 80/20 split, with the state covering 80% of the cost and the town covering 20% of the cost due to design and engineering work needed to meet state standards.

BRIDGE REPAIR:

D. Lowe received a letter from the state rating 4 bridges in town as "Fair or Worse". T. Idarola explained that the state conducted an inspection of bridges under 20 feet long in 2016 but did not send out the results until 2018. The bridges inspected and reported are:

Spring Lake Road: This is a steel culvert built in 1955 that has been worn down over time.

Mauweeho: This is a concrete culvert that has worn over time.

Old Greenwood Ext.:This is an actual bridge and is in need of an inspection.

Evan Hill Road: This may be a New Milford road.

D. Lowe requested a formal proposal on inspection and repair costs from T. Idarola in order to bring a request to a town meeting.

HAPPY ACRES FARM BARN REPAIR AND PAINTING:

M. Lord is preparing a scope on the project and will present it to D. Lowe in the next few weeks. The project will include stabilizing the barn supports, fixing and replacing windows, patching the siding and painting the barn. The house will also be repainted. Once the scope has completed, the job will go out for bids. Then the approval for funding will go either to a town meeting or be a referendum item.

SENIOR CENTER BUILDING FEASIBILITY COMMITTEE:

A discussion was held on the Senior Center Building Feasibility Committee. This is to be an informal, ad hoc, advisory committee. The Selectmen all are interested in participating on this committee. The meetings should be advertised and perhaps recorded.

MODIFICATION TO AGREEMENT TO PUBLIC WORKS UNION CONTRACT/PERSONNEL MANUAL:

The following addition was made to the contract with the help of the Public Works Union Representative:

Under Duties and Responsibilities:

#5. Is on call for all predicted winter weather events unless otherwise excused by the Public Works Supervisor or the First Selectman. If absent for illness occurs during winter operations a doctor's note may be required. This will be up to the First Selectman's discretion.

Motion to accept the modification was made by B. Ostrosky.

Seconded by K. Keenan.

Vote For: Unanimous

DISCUSS A RESOLUTION OPPOSING STATE TOLLS:

A discussion was held regarding making a resolution opposing state tolls. D. Lowe made a point of being concerned that state tolls would increase traffic through Sherman as a way of bypassing the toll on 84. K. Keenan agrees with the state tolls as we are the only east coast state without tolls and the revenue from the tolls will pay for the road maintenance.

D. Lowe made a motion to create a resolution opposing state tolls.

Seconded by B. Ostrosky.

Vote For: D. Lowe, B. Ostrosky Vote Against: K. Keenan

Motion to create a resolution opposing state tolls passed.

HAPPY ACRES FARM REPORT:

J. Motsinger reported that the herd count is at 51. One bull has been sold and the first calf of the season was born today. There was a brief discussion on the line item regarding water drainage over the pastures from the Happy Acres Farm 5 Year Projected Capital Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

S. Zeitler, Curtis Drive, read an informative letter she wrote against school regionalization. She urges people to write letters to the state opposing school regionalization.

D. Lowe agreed with S. Zeitler's point of view and has written letters to the state.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn: D. Lowe at 9:25 PM

Seconded: K. Keenan

Vote For: Unanimous

The next Board of Selectmen Regular Monthly Meeting is scheduled for 28 March 2019 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Whitney