

Town of Sherman
Board of Selectmen
Regular Monthly Meeting
25 April 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,J. Riley, M. Lord and audience of approximately 5.

CLERK: Linda Whitney

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Lowe Called the Meeting to Order at 7:01p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

CORRESPONDENCE:
None

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Regular Monthly Meeting minutes of 28 March 2019 was made by: K. Keenan.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky.

Vote For: Unanimous

Motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Budget Hearing Minutes of 2 April 2019 was made by B. Ostrosky.

Seconded by: K. Keenan.

Vote For: Unanimous

TAX REFUNDS:

D. Lowe **made a motion** to accept the property tax refunds in the amount of \$5,051.24 and motor vehicle tax refunds in the amount of \$448.49.

Seconded by: K. Keenan.

Vote For: Unanimous.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY REVIEW:

L. LaVia reported that we are in the 10th month of the budget. There are several items running close to budget and a few are over budget that continue to be closely monitored. These include building and ESF maintenance, and court and counsel costs, heating oil and pavilion operating expense. On the Accounts Receivable side, there is an outstanding invoice to Happy Acres farm tenant, John Motsinger of Full Circle Farming, for Happy Acres Farm Barn Plumbing Improvements in the amount of \$2,977.28. The

invoice is now 60 days past due and a reminder notice has been sent. On the 2019/2020 Proposed Budget, we received a notice of increased expense for Housatonic Probate Court for just over \$1,000.00 more than originally requested. We are in alignment with Brookfield and Bridgewater that we will not pay the increase due to the fact that we funded the amount originally requested, our budget has been published and we have warned it and are set to vote on it in the next week. .

HOUSING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:

D. Lowe made a motion to reappoint Bruce Hoag to a 2 year term to the Housing Commission.

Seconded: B. Ostrosky.

Vote For: Unanimous.

D. Lowe made a motion to appoint Catherine Cook to a 2 year term to the Housing Commission.

After discussion it was **Seconded by:** K. Keenan.

Vote: 2 For, 1 Abstain

D. Lowe made a motion to appoint James Philipakos to a 2 year term to the Housing Commission.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky.

Vote For: All

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

SVFD MONTHLY REPORT:

J. Riley reported that we currently have officers at Water Rescue Training. There are 15 new people that have received EMT certification. The annual HAZMAT training has been done. He reminded people as we enter hurricane season to please be careful and stay away from any downed power lines.

WATER PRESSURE TANK AT CHARTER HALL:

The water pressure tank at Charter Hall needs immediate replacement as there is no water currently. The total cost for a new, custom tank, submitted by Romelli and Sons, is \$19,263.25 with a \$9,000.00 deposit required. There was discussion led by K.Keenan as to whether a custom tank is required at Charter Hall. J. Riley explained that as Charter Hall supplies the water to the Playhouse it is considered a water supply company and does require the custom tank. There was discussion considering that once Charter Hall has a new well dug, the Playhouse use the old well thus keeping Charter Hall from being a water supply company. The approximate cost of a new well at Charter Hall is expected to be about \$15,000.00. Gary Robbins is expected back at the Senior Center soon and could be consulted as to placement of the new well. It will be 3 to 4 weeks before the replacement water tank is installed at Charter Hall.

LOCAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PLAN:

J. Riley prepared and presented the Local Emergency Medical Services Plan. The plan outlines Sherman's Services. We have a volunteer fire department, we utilize LCD Dispatch, Paramedic Intercept

System through Danbury Hospital, LifeStar, we also have trained EMTs and follow LCD disaster codes. The state requires annual reporting to the First Selectman regarding the number of calls the fire department has responded to.

A motion to approve the Local Emergency Medical Services Plan was made by: B. Ostrosky.

Seconded by: K. Keenan.

Vote For: All.

DOGS IN OUR PARKS AND BEACH:

There is a growing problem with unleashed dogs in the parks and on the beach as well as people neglecting to clean up after their dogs at these public locations. B. Ostrosky spoke about the lack of anyone enforcing the dog ordinances and suggested both short term and long term solutions. For the short term he suggested increasing the State Trooper patrol at the parks and beach with tickets issued to violators. For the long term solution he recommended installing video surveillance systems at the town parks and the beach with signs posted warning of the surveillance. This may deter vandalism and loitering as well as dog violations. D. Lowe will investigate the cost for this before the next Board of Selectmen meeting. D. Lowe has spoken with the dog warden and requested that he be more of a presence at the town parks.

STATE ROAD SIGN PLANS REVIEWED:

D. Lowe shared digital photos of proposed sign postings on state roads. The plan includes 5 chevron style signs from Cozier Hill to Leach Hollow and a sign on Old Greenwood. The state has requested that D. Lowe let them know by 11 May 2019 if he would like them to present the sign plan to the town at a town meeting. The Selectmen were all in agreement that a presentation at a town meeting was unnecessary.

T-MOBILE FARM SILO INSPECTION:

T-Mobile has concerns that the silo at HAF will not support their equipment. They are planning an engineering study to inspect the silo. The inspection would require custom scaffolding to study the silo. The cost for this study is \$36,000.00, which includes \$5,000.00 for small repairs. T-Mobile is requesting the town share the cost. After discussion, which included: a close reading of the T-Mobile lease; consideration that the town has already had the silage removed from the silo and is funding air quality testing in the silo, it was decided that the town will not contribute to the inspection cost but may consider contributing to any repair costs deemed necessary.

HAPPY ACRES INTERNATIONAL 856 TRACTOR REPAIR:

The engine for the International 856 tractor has seized. The estimate from Giddings Garage is \$5,000.00 to repair. This tractor is used to cut the hay needed to feed the cows at the farm. J. Motsinger has requested that the Happy Acres Fund pay for the repair. There was discussion between the Selectmen and E. Holub about the any advantage to fixing the tractor and the decision was made to not fund the tractor repair. D. Lowe will notify J. Motsinger of the decision.

HAPPY ACRES FARM REPORT:

There was a farm report emailed to the First Selectman which he read in the meeting. The herd count is at 51 with calving about to begin next month. The tenant appealed to the town for approval to use \$5,000.00

from the Happy Acres Farm Account to fix the International 856 tractor as he needs it to cut and bale hay to feed the cows.

Mason Lord reported on the scope of work required to repair the barns at the farm. There are 3 scopes of work:

Structural

Painting

Repair to windows and woodwork

There are 3 barns included in the scope of work:

Barn #1 is the north/south facing barn: This barn has a wall being pulled by Barn #3 so it needs the wall abutting Barn #3 reinforced.

Barn #2 is the hay barn: This barn needs the floor reinforced and the eave joinery reinforced at each post.

Barn #3 is the goat barn: The cost to repair this barn exceeds the cost of tearing it down and replacing it with a new barn so the recommendation is to do nothing with it at this time but to plan to build a new replacement barn in the future.

M. Lord reported that there is a safety issue with electrical wires running across the barns that should be addressed but is not included in his scope of work. He will have bids prepared for the barn work by next week.

D. Lowe has met with F. O'Rourke and gotten a draft of the painting bid.

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

D. Lowe is carefully watching to see how the Teacher Pension fiscal responsibility will be resolved. The issue of what the fair way to deal with this was discussed. The town has never been a part of teacher negotiations therefore having the responsibility of funding the negotiated pensions seems unfair. The Selectmen will sign a petition, along with other municipalities, opposing this legislature.

The plan for School Regionalization does not appear to be an item that will be pushed through.

The plan for the state to take control from local municipalities over motor vehicle tax also seems to have been tabled.

OTHER BUSINESS:

B. Ostrosky reported that the sidewalk site plan will be ready for review at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

L. Freedman, Happy Acres Farm, commented that organic vegetables and flowers will be available from the Happy Acres perennial garden soon.

S. Zeitler, Curtis Drive, questioned if there had been any push back against the 5-G coverage spreading through town. She reported that the FCC is forcing the change and that telephone poles around town have already been modified to support the small tower boosters needed for the 5G coverage. Although there have been zero health studies formally done, S.Zeitler reported, there are studies showing evidence that the 5G service causes damage to DNA in plants and animals, including humans. She would like to see discussion in town and push back against 5G coverage as there has been in Brussels and other communities around the world.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn: B. Ostrosky at 8:45 PM

Seconded: D. Lowe

Vote For: Unanimous

The next Board of Selectmen Regular Monthly Meeting is scheduled for 23 May 2019 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Whitney