

Town of Sherman
Board of Selectmen
Regular Monthly Meeting
28 March 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, and audience of approximately 5.

CLERK: Linda Whitney

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Lowe Called the Meeting to Order at 7:03p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT:

D. Lowe extended best wishes to G. and S. Maelitz as they are moving from Sherman this month.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Pre-Budget Meeting minutes of 23 Feb. 2019 was made by B. Ostrosky.

Seconded by K. Keenan.

Vote For: Unanimous

Motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Pre-Budget Meeting minutes of 27 Feb. 2019 was made by K. Keenan.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky.

Vote For: Unanimous

Motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Regular Monthly Meeting minutes of 28 Feb. 2019, with a correction in the spelling of NIXLE, was made by K. Keenan.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky.

Vote For: Unanimous

Motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Budget Workshop Minutes of 11 March 2019 was made by B. Ostrosky.

Seconded by: K. Keenan.

Vote For: Unanimous

Motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Budget Workshop Minutes of 13 March 2019 was made by B. Ostrosky.

Seconded by: K. Keenan.

Vote For: Unanimous

Motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Budget Workshop Minutes of 20 March 2019, with the clarification of Selectman K. Keenan's last comment to read: *In lieu of a facilities manager we adopt a procedure NM uses where bids are submitted by different tradesmen who are then designated as the*

provider of the service. This will develop maintenance consistency and a familiarity with the systems.:
was made by B. Ostrosky.

Seconded by: K. Keenan.

Vote For: Unanimous

TAX REFUNDS:

B. Ostrosky **made a motion** to grant the tax refunds in the amount of \$263.10.

Seconded by: K. Keenan.

Vote For: Unanimous.

TAX SUSPENSION LIST:

On the recommendation of the Tax Collector, B. Ostrosky **made a motion** to move a total of 13 uncollected tax items, totaling \$883.50, to the Tax Suspend List.

Seconded by: D. Lowe.

Vote For: unanimous.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY REVIEW:

L. LaVia reported that we are in the 9th 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. New accounting software will soon be necessary. On the Accounts Receivable side, there is an outstanding invoice (30 days) to John Motsinger for Happy Acres Farm Barn Plumbing Improvements in the amount of \$2,977.28.

E. Holub reported that the transfer of pension funds have gone through and are now with Ritholz.

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT:

A revision of the appointment of Lynda Arnold to serve as a full commission member for a 3 year term expiring on 1/1/22 to the Commission on Aging was made by: D. Lowe.

Seconded: B. Ostrosky.

Vote For: Unanimous.

TOWN MEETING ITEMS:

Discussion was held to authorize an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 from the Capital Non-recurring fund for a new boat dock for the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department.

Motion to bring to Town Meeting: K. Keenan.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky.

Vote For: Unanimous.

Discussion was held to approve an increase in building fees of \$2.00 per \$1,000.00 of additional value (from \$10.00 to \$12.00) to take effect on 1 July 2019.

Motion to bring to Town Meeting: B. Ostrosky.

Seconded by: K. Keenan.

Vote For: Unanimous.

Discussion was held to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 from the Capital Non-recurring Fund for field investigation, sieve analysis, drainage investigation, core boring and related Wakeman Hill and completion of LOTCIP application to be submitted to WESTCOG and the DOT and to respond to any comments from them toward completion of that application.

Motion to bring to Town meeting: D. Lowe.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky.

Vote For: Unanimous.

A Town Meeting will be scheduled for Saturday, 13 April 2019 at 10:00 AM.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

SVFD

B. Acosta reported that the SVFD has responded to 15 fire calls and 18 EMS calls so far this month. There is a Fire/Police course underway as well as a Swift Water Rescue course scheduled.

On 25 April 2019 the SVFD will participate in a show and tell with other fire departments to share ideas and compare services.

The Fire Department Appreciation Dinner was a success and honored 13 people who responded to over 100 calls in a year.

SALT AND CHLORIDE REMEDIATION IN TOWN WELLS:

The water is being tested today and results will be shared at the next BoS meeting.

MTH and the Senior Center wells have been showing results under the safe limit and now produce potable water. The school wells are almost at a positive limit. Sticking to the best practices outlined by Gary Robbins appears to be working and the town will continue to follow these practices. D. Lowe led a discussion, based on the recommendations of Gary Robbins, to look into a new well for the Firehouse with a deeper casing and better productivity. The Firehouse well is still well below the potable limit and has very low productivity. The Board of Selectmen are in agreement to invest in drilling a new well for the ESF. D. Lowe reported that the State is forming a coalition to investigate the impact of the salt/chloride use on state roads. They are influenced, in part, by Sherman's vigilant efforts to protect our wells and will look for solutions. E. Holub suggested placing a \$25,000.00 placeholder in the budget to fund the ESF well.

RECYCLING STICKERS ADMINISTRATION:

There will no longer be a charge for recycling stickers. The stickers will be sent out with the Town Motor Vehicle Tax bills and be available at Town Hall.

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

E. Holub reported that the current budget proposal has a 2.5% reduction in the mill rate. The budget proposal is now posted online for the town to review.

BUDGET MAILER DISCUSSION:

L. LaVia reported that the Board of Education will be sending out a separate budget mailer. The Town budget mailer will still include a summary of the School budget and will be printed and sent out soon.

CURVE SIGNS ON ROUTE 37 IN A LOCATION NEAR THE TRAFFIC LIGHT:

There is a high frequency of accidents on the curve near the traffic light. D. Lowe has repeatedly requested that the state post a curve sign. Homeowners near the curve have been instrumental in helping this effort and the state will be posting a curve sign near the traffic light.

UPDATE ON STATE BILL PROPOSALS THAT EFFECT SHERMAN:

The regionalization of schools bill has been tabled. The teacher pension bill is still alive, as well as the bill to remove the motor vehicle tax. The toll bill seems likely to pass but to what degree is still unknown.

SENIOR CENTER BUILDING FEASIBILITY COMMITTEE:

D. Lowe will organize an initial meeting sometime in April.

HAPPY ACRES FARM REPORT:

There was no farm report submitted by the tenant other than a herd count of 51. A discussion was held on the silage removal. The funding for this removal will come from the Happy Acres Operating Fund. There was discussion on the fence repair needed at the farm. The town attorney will be consulted and notice will be given to the tenant, then the town will repair the fence and bill the tenant.

OTHER BUSINESS:

B. Ostrosky reported that the top soil at Volunteer Park is eroded, rendering the fields unusable. A discussion was held regarding whether this is a Park and Rec repair or a town maintenance job.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn: D. Lowe at 8:17 PM

Seconded: B. Ostrosky

Vote For: Unanimous

The next Board of Selectmen Regular Monthly Meeting is scheduled for 25 April 2019 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Whitney

