

Town of Sherman
Board of Selectmen
Regular Monthly Meeting
24 Jan. 2019
7:00 p.m. Mallory Town Hall

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

AUDIENCE AND INVITED: E. Holub, L. LaVia and an audience of approximately 9 were in attendance.

CLERK: Linda Whitney

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Lowe Called the Meeting to Order at 7:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

CORRESPONDENCE: D. Lowe read a letter from Dennis Paradiso regarding the abundance of signs (64) that have been installed on Wakeman Hill Road by the state. He is asking for the town's help in reducing the amount of signs and to preserve the country beauty of Wakeman Hill Road. D. Lowe heartily agreed and will work on a solution.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

A. Motion to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes from 20 Dec. 2018 made by K. Keenan.

Seconded by D. Lowe

Vote : Two For and 1 Abstention

Motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes from 12 Jan. 2019 made by B. Ostrosky.

Seconded by K. Keenan.

Vote For: Unanimous

B. TAX REFUNDS:

A Motion to Approve the tax refund requests totaling \$458.24 was held.

Motion to Approve: B. Ostrosky

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote For: Unanimous

C. MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY REVIEW:

L. LaVia spoke to the Monthly Financial Review and reported that we are at the seven month mark and are on track with the budget. The budget letters and requests have begun coming in. They are due by Feb. 15th. The budget hearings will begin at the end of February. A discussion was held regarding checks that are being held for the repairs done on a tractor from Happy Acres. The discussion centered on whether the cost of the repairs and labor were the responsibility of the tenant or the town. The tractor had been abandoned in a neighboring farm for approximately 3 months. The Board of Selectmen agreed that, in accordance to the lease, the town can contribute to large repairs necessary at the farm totaling over \$3,000.00 but that this repair is not the town's responsibility. Rather than hold payment to the vendors who towed and fixed the tractor, the BoS will send the checks to the vendors with 2 Selectmen's signatures and then investigate billing the tenant.

A Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was scheduled for 26 Jan. 2019 to have signatures notarized with Carol Havens for the sale of town property to P. Korsant and to hold an executive session regarding the Happy Acres lease and tenant agreement.

First Selectman Lowe made a motion to put the Air Monitoring System, Public Health Ordinance and LOCIP funding on an agenda to go to town meeting on Feb. 9th. The motion was seconded by K. Keenan. Vote For: All

D. Bring to Town Meeting: Health Dept. Relocation Protocol

A discussion was held regarding the state requirement that each town have an ordinance regulating Relocation Protocol. Further discussion will be held with Tim Simpkins at the 9 Feb. 2019 Town Meeting.

Motion to bring to Town Meeting was made by B. Ostrosky.

Seconded by D. Lowe

Vote For: Unanimous

A Motion to bring to Town Meeting was made by D. Lowe.

Seconded by K. Keenan

Vote For: Unanimous

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

A. SVFD Monthly Report:

Bob Acosta gave a summary of the emergency calls the SVFD have responded to. He asked that everyone save the date for the Annual Fireman's Ball to be held the first weekend in August. Jim Riley reported that the SVFD has held first aid and CPR classes and currently has 3 people attending Emergency Services classes.

B. Status of Emergency Equipment on Aquarion Tower :

The Emergency Equipment is ready to go. The town is still working on an easement needed from Timber Trails Association.

C. Frank Copsidas's report on wireless service on Town grounds:

As a member of the Cable Advisory Board, F. Copsidas reported on the state required public access TV available to Sherman through Spectrum. There are 3 available public access stations: One for the Public, One for the Schools (although Sherman does not qualify for this as we do not have a high school), One for Government. The stations would require local managing. F. Copsidas gave a comparison of cable network service, which Sherman currently has, and a fiber optic network through the Nutmeg Network. The ESF currently has a fiber optic network and F. Copsidas explained how the town could connect to that network for a cost of about \$5,000.00. He also showed the BoS a device that can be used to boost wireless service in areas of the town that currently have little or no service. L. LaVia recommended a future meeting with F. Copsidas be scheduled to further investigate the advantages and constraints to changing from the current cable network to a fiber optic network.

D. Discussion on the formation of a Senior Center feasibility study:

A discussion was held on the advantage of having members with a variety of backgrounds on the Feasibility Committee. The COA has not yet come up with a list of needs but D. Lowe reminded the BoS that a new Senior Center may be a consideration. K. Keenan expressed interest in serving on the Committee and B. Ostrosky and D. Lowe expressed interest in being advisories for the committee. J. Wey reported that S. Berger, B. Trott and the COA were working on forming the committee and would keep the BoS in the loop.

E. Discuss \$200.00 disbursement to help fund a speaker for the showing of the documentary: *Aging in America*

The speaker for the *Aging in America* documentary costs \$600.00. The Library will fund \$200.00, the COA will fund \$200.00. The Board of Selectmen were all in agreement to fund the final \$200.00.

F. LOTCIP funding for application of first phase of Wakeman Hill Road project:

A motion was made to bring to Town Meeting on 9 Feb. 2019 to appropriate \$20,000.00 from the capital non-recurring fund for field investigation, sieve analysis, and drainage investigation of Wakeman Hill Road and completion of LOTCIP application to be submitted to WESTCOG and the DOT and to respond to any comments from them toward the completion of that application was made by D. Lowe.

Seconded by B. Ostrosky.

Vote For: Unanimous

There was discussion regarding the BoS holding off on moving forward with this until a comparison could be made as to the cost of fixing the road privately.

G. Town Defined Benefit Pension discussion and possible action:

E. Holub presented an offer to move the Town Defined Benefit Pension from Brinker (our current carrier) to Ritholtz Wealth Management. The Town's 457-B plan was previously moved to Ritholtz Wealth Management. E. Holub reported that his experience with them testifies to closer contact and more transparent sharing of information. He recommends that the Board approve this change which will save the town about \$5,000.

A motion to move the Town Defined Benefit Pension plan to Ritholtz Wealth Management was made by B. Ostrosky.

Seconded by K. Keenan

Vote For: Unanimous

H. Modification to agreement to Public Works Contract:

The union will formalize a policy requiring workers to be ready to report to work when a storm is forecast.

I. Wells/Water Update:

K. Keenan requested that G. Robbins be invited to a BoS meeting to discuss his findings and recommendations to the Board. The findings seem to indicate that the Firehouse is need of a new well. This item will remain on future agendas as the findings are ongoing.

J. Telecommunications Committee update:

The south end of Town continues to be without reliable coverage. Emergency call boxes have been investigated and more research continues. There is now good coverage from AT&T at Happy Acres and White Silo Farms. T-Mobile expects to be broadcasting from Happy Acres in April.

K. Happy Acres Farm Report:

Leia Friedman submitted the farm report. The herd count is currently at 51 with the cows in good health. She reported on some repairs that are needed but may not be the responsibility of the town.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS: Suggestions by Selectmen for Future Agendas:

Budget meetings are scheduled to begin in Feb. R. Byrnes will send out the schedule to the Board of Selectmen.

Public Comment:

M. MacKinnon, 14 Bridgeworth Lane, expressed concern that the Wakeman Hill Road project may be too large a project to be handled privately but is excited that the road will be fixed.

There was a discussion about a bill before the state senate that would do away with the property tax on vehicles and institute a statewide mill rate. This would take away the majority of the town's revenue and leave us to rely solely on state funding.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn: D. Lowe at 9:08 PM

Seconded: B. Ostrosky

Vote For: Unanimous

The next meeting is scheduled for 28 Feb.2019

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Whitney