

**SHERMAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2012**

Present: Clay Cope - First Selectman Chris Jellen - Selectman Andrea O'Connor - Selectman

Call to Order: First Selectman Cope calls the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Agenda: Changed, in lieu of a petition received (see below)

1. To consider and act upon a petition for a Special Town Meeting to rescind the appropriation of \$1 million for the Sherman Library grant.

First Selectman Cope changes the meeting agenda, in light of a petition the Town received. The petition (dated February 8, 2012) is signed by 20 electors from the Town of Sherman, and requests that a Special Town Meeting be held at the Sherman School within 21 days. The petition supports the Town of Sherman rescinding the appropriation of \$1 million for the Library, as previously approved by voters on June 9, 2007.

First Selectman Cope notes Town Attorney, Jeff Sienkiewicz, determined that the petition is legally acceptable, and recommends that the Selectman move to hold a Town Meeting regarding the petition on Friday, February 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sherman School multipurpose room. First Selectman Cope so moves, and also moves that a referendum be held on March 3rd with voting at the Sherman School cafeteria from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The vote itself will be coordinated with the Town Clerk. Selectman O'Connor seconds the motion for purposes of discussion, noting that the dates are within the correct statutory timeframe. Selectman O'Connor inquires if other non-urgent issues (which would normally be addressed at the May 2012 meeting) should be added to the vote, specifically the lease with the playhouse and the technical correction to the driveway ordinance. First Selectman Cope notes the seriousness of the library petition, and believes the March 3rd vote should be limited to the library petition. Selectman O'Connor has no problem with this.

All three Selectmen vote in favor of a Town Meeting on February 24th, and Selectman O'Connor moves to bring the issue to referendum on March 3rd, with Selectman Jellen seconding, and First Selectman Cope agreeing.

2. To discuss and possibly vote to approve the revised library Grant Agreement

First Selectman Cope notes that the Library and Town were close to reaching agreement on the grant, and he believes the new draft to be a good agreement. However, he notes there is no point in the Selectmen voting on the agreement, in lieu of the dangling issue of the petition to rescind the grant.

Selectman Jellen is curious as to why the agreement changed after the former Board of Selectmen agreed on it. First Selectman Cope explains that the Library Board had not agreed with a few things on the last draft, and the document was still under negotiation when the 'changing of the guard' occurred. He explains that Selectman O'Connor spent time on the grant, and he did as well when he was on the Library Board, and the grant as drafted now seems to meet the Town's needs, and the library is happy as well.

P. 4, number 3 - Implementation of library expansion. Selectman Jellen wants to know why the wording was changed from the library being open 51 weeks to 50 weeks. Selectman Cope believes this has to do with holidays, and based on the library hours, it would be 50 weeks, not 51. Selectman O'Connor notes this is referencing the minimal level of use that would appropriate for the townspeople. She perceives this to be odd - another week of closure when the purpose of the expansion was to provide enhanced services to the town, specifically the library being closed no more than one week per year, open no less than 20 hours per week, 4 days per week.

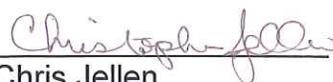
P. 4, item 4 – additional language following expenses incurred by town up to a maximum of \$50,000. Selectman Jellen is concerned that this could cost the town above the up to \$1 million dollar amount. First Selectman Cope explains that the library wanted to put a cap on this, and that he and Town Attorney Jeff Sienkiewicz put a cap on this, and felt it was generous. Selectman O'Connor mentions making a call regarding the issuance fee for bonds, her recollection was \$70,000 (but don't quote her on that). She thinks Selectman Jellen makes a valid point that the town should not be subsidizing this beyond the \$1 million dollars. The town's concern is the taxpayer, although she understands the Library's concerns. First Selectman Cope says he will discuss this point with Jeff Sienkiewicz again, since there will be more discussion on this.

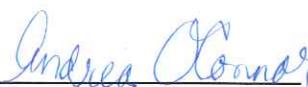
P. 6 item 4 (a) and (f) in reference to the amortization chart – Selectman Jellen questions why the end date changed to 12/31/33 from 12/31/37. First Selectman Cope explains that Jeff Sienkiewicz based this chart on the way bonding was structured. Selectman O'Connor has no problem with the agreement going to 2033, as the idea was to have the payback coincide with the borrowing period, which was 20 years. She does not think this is a substantive change.

Adjournment: First Selectman Cope moves to adjourn the February 9, 2012 Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 4:19 p.m., and the motion is carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura J. Pettinato, BOS Clerk


Clay Cope


Chris Jellen


Andrea O'Connor

Minutes are not considered official until they have been approved and signed by a minimum of two Selectmen