



**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Mallory Town Hall
Thursday, May 23, 2013**

Attendees:

Clay Cope, First Selectman Andrea O'Connor, Selectman Chris Jellen, Selectman

Call to Order:

Meeting is called to order by First Selectmen Cope at 7:03pm conference room Mallory Town Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Led by First Selectman Cope (FSC) at 7:04pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Special Board of Selectman Meeting to be scheduled before the Town Meeting on May 31, 2013 to approve minutes.

Correspondences:

- Letter from Bob Gamper, Board of Education
- Letter from Joanna Cook dated May 23, 2013
- Email from Jessica Horkan regarding school sports
- Letter from Carol Horkan regarding failure of the budget
- Letter from Mel Horkan regarding school sports
- Letter from Jim Munch regarding Timber Harvest
- Notification from the CLA's CLEAR Open House

Public Comments:

- Selectman Jellen spoke to the letter submitted by Bob Gamper.
- MaryAnn Tarby asked what the reasoning was for the BoS to remove the \$20,000 from the school budget.
- Joanna Jebesen asked if the school budget will remain whole.
- Karen Cushnie was concerned about the \$5000 decrease to the Library Grant.
- Rich Lenihan was concerned about the reduction to the Library also and what happens when the Town takes on Happy Acres along with the other properties that have been/will be taken off the tax rolls.

- John O'Connor wanted to know how much was taken out of the budget.
- Barbara Ireland was concerned with the monies being removed that will affect the Town's bonding rating.
- Chris Pitcher stated that essential services need to be funded, maybe the mill rate cannot stay under 17.
- Katie Berlandi suggested that the school budget should be looked at creatively so that the Town can move forward.

Old Business:

a. 2013/2014 Town of Sherman and Board of Education Budgets discussion:

- All in favor of maintaining the \$20,000 cut to the to the BoE budget; Selectmen O'Connor and Jellen , Aye, FSC Nay: 2 to 1 approval. Warning will be signed after the meeting.
- Selectman O'Connor moved the Town expenditure budget of \$4,403,084 subject to potential redistribution of any proposed salary increases following contract negotiations. Selectman Jellen second; All in Favor.
- Should be \$4,792,478.
- Combined budget of \$13,644,738. Selectman O'Connor moved to approve, Selectman Jellen Second; All in Favor.

b. Progress Report on Town Projects:

1. Emergency Services Facility Project:

- ❖ FSC gave an update on the ESF.
- ❖ Waiting for Zoning to give its approval so that a TCO can be given.
- ❖ A list of all jobs that the Town has agreed to do and its costs has been asked for.
- ❖ It is hoped that Silver Petrucelli is to provide this list tomorrow.

2. Sherman Library Expansion Project: Karen Cushnie

- ❖ Mrs. Cushnie provided an update of all items that have been completed and/or soon to be completed to include but not limited to; the cupola, electrical, HVAC, etc.
- ❖ Millie Loeb added updates about the technological components and furnishings.
- ❖ BBQ has been postponed until June 14th.

3. Fox Run Detention Basin Project:

- ❖ Language has been provided for the bid specs. The work will be done during the driest months of the year.

c. Public Safety Communications Update: David Hopkins

- Mr. Hopkins provided an update regarding this project.
 - ❖ Received from RCC a draft proposal and are reviewing.
 - ❖ AT&T has served notice that they are preparing a proposal to build a 170' +/- cell tower at 16 Coote Hill Rd.
 - ❖ Public Safety would like to speak with Town Attorney to get an estimate for wording for the bid proposals. Mr. Holub stated that money has not been allocated for this.

d. Housing Commission Update:

- A letter was submitted by Stephen Roffwarg
- A call has been place to the Town Attorney by FSC.

e. Farm Road:

- First layer is down, final coat and curbing to done on Tuesday.

f. Spring Lake Road:

- There will be a drive/walk on June 7th at 10:00am to determine areas of repair, catch basins, curb, etc.

New Business:

a. Tax Refunds:

- Property Tax \$14.13, Selectman Jellen moved, Selectman O'Connor Second; All in Favor.

b. Historic District Commission - Discussion of Lamppost:

- Janet Hopkins asked that the Lamppost repair be put on the agenda Town Meeting.
- Playhouse windows were discussed. Information is being gathered to go into the bid specs.

c. Blue Cross/Blue Shield Renewal:

- 8.77% combined
- FSC will pursue Connecticare as an option.

d. Discussion on possible policy for food reimbursement for volunteers during emergencies:

- FSC will reach out to HEVCO about town policies regarding this.

e. Memorial Day Parade:

- Meet at Judd's Corner at 12:15pm
- Selectmen are walking

f. Candlewood Lake Clean Up Event:

- 1 day event, June 15, 9:00am - 2:00pm

g. Parks and Recreation personnel matter (possible executive session):

- There was much discussion regarding this matter. It has been deferred to the June meeting.
- It was asked that proper warning be given.

General Discussion:

Email anything to be added to future agendas.

Public Comment:

- Carol Havens spoke regarding Fran Fratini and the Boy Scouts
- MaryAnn Tarby followed up on Mrs. Havens remarks.
- Alvin Tuck asked what are the laws regarding Eagle Scout projects that benefit the Town.
- Veronica Sheer asked about the AT&T cell tower.
- Bob Gamper spoke to the school sports program and the reduction in the school budget.
- James Maharg asked about the additional hours for the Business Administrator.
- Joe Keneally asked that the Selectmen to ask the townspeople to vote yes at the next budget vote.
- MaryAnn Tarby asked about the petitions signed by the parents regarding the \$20,000 reduction to the school budget.
- Barbara Ireland hoped that the Town is not putting itself in jeopardy of losing the Town's rating by reducing the funding of \$100,000 to \$50,000.
- Kathy Grant asked that when construction is blocking road access to notify Litchfield dispatch of this situation just in case of emergencies.

- Fran Frattini spoke to the removal of the funding to repair the boat docks.
- Chris Pitcher added to Mrs. Grant's comments about road blockages during emergencies.
- Kris Fazzone spoke about the P&R, Eagle Scout project and needing more information from the Zoning Enforcement officer.
- Scott Weisner asked for clarification on the \$20,000. Was it kept out or added back to the school budget.
- Chris Pitcher asked if it was possible to add to the ballad; too high or too low.
- MaryAnn Tarby concurred with Mr. Pitcher's request.
- **Motion: Slectman O'Connor moved, if it is feasible to structure the budget vote ballad as such, Selectman Jellen Second; All in Favor.**
- Bob Ostrosky spoke to the dugout situation.
- Rowland Hanley stated that there will be SPTO and BOE meetings on June 5th.
- Doris Clark spoke to the petitions.

Adjournment:

Adjournment for the special meeting was called by First Selectman Cope at 9:30pm. Selectman Jellen moved, Selectman O'Connor second; All in Favor.

Respectfully submitted by,
Tabitha Fazzone, Clerk



Clay Cope, First Selectman



Andrea O'Connor, Selectman



Chris Jellen, Selectman