



Town of Sherman  
Board of Selectman  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
January 22, 2015  
7:00 p.m.  
Mallory Town Hall

FINAL

Members Present: First Selectman, C. Cope, Selectman B. Ostrosky and Selectman A. O'Connor

Audience & Invited: E. Holub (Treasurer), F. Spaziani (Facilities Manager), A. Von Plackecki (Housing Commission), B. Hoag (Housing Commission), J. Keneally (BoE), G. Seigel, H. Berger, S. Maletz, G. Maletz, C. Jellen, S. Randall (Candlewood Lake Initiative), T. Hahn, J. Bruzinski, and A. Sakal (Citizen News)

Call to Order:

First Selectman C. Cope Called the Meeting to Order at 7:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to approve the Minutes of Special Meeting of December 18, 2014 as written.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 18, 2014 as amended.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous



Correspondence:

State of Connecticut, Office of Policy Management: Secretary, B. Barnes, dated November 20, 2014, in reference to Public Act 13-247, Section 329- Land Value Taxation.

Northeast Utilities: Notification of change of name: to Eversource Energy, effective February 2, 2015.

G. Siegel- read a letter into record regarding his feeling of the BoS' lack of communication to the community of Sherman in reference to removing the illuminated cross from Town owned Happy Acres Farm.

G. Maletz- requesting any update regarding the request to rescinding the BoS letter to AT&T showing Municipal preference of the proposed cell tower site.

D. Lowe- email read into record stating his opposition regarding the proposed Septic Walk-over Ordinance.

Candlewood Lane Authority: January 2015 Monthly Minutes, correspondence in reference to the Grass Carp & Zebra Muscle update, and various related reports.

G. Albert- read into record a letter requesting the illuminated cross be re-considered and placed back on the silo, located at Happy Acres Farm. Also provided; information regarding a Town Ordinance from Walpole MA which allows religious displays on Town owned property during holiday months.

**Public Comment:**

S. Maletz- reiterating the need for cell coverage in the Southern end of the Town of Sherman, pointing out several road accidents with related injuries between 2012 through 2014; in those three years, there were 1,393 accidents and incidents. 17 of those accidents involved injuries and 1 fatality. This evidence supports the need for improved cell coverage in Southern Sherman.

S. Randall- Spoke in favor of the proposed Septic Walk-over Ordinance- stating the implementation would greatly benefit the health of Candlewood Lake. He recommended three modifications to the proposal;

- Publish on the Town website weekly the areas that are anticipated to be inspected, keeping the residents apprised to the locations of inspections
- Accept pump- out notification from licensed septic removal contractors when residential systems are serviced.
- Approve the Ordinance on a trial basis and after three years re-visit the viability to determine if the program is indeed necessary.

T. Hahn- (Spoke on behalf of the Timber Trails Property Owners Association)- in favor of improving the cell service to the Southern end of Sherman.

**Old Business:**

**Progress report on Town projects:**

**Playhouse Bathrooms-**

Selectman C. Cope reported he anticipates completion of the project in approximately three weeks .

**School Roof Project-**

W. Jenks, Town Building Inspector conducted a final inspection and approved the completion of the project.

**SVFD Tires**

Selectman C. Cope read email correspondence from Chief, Chris Pitcher- the SVFD has chosen the bid proposal from Belardinelli Tire Company, and requested the Town complete exemption certificates for sales tax and Federal excise tax prior to the purchase. With the BoS approval, Mr. Pitcher will schedule the installation.

**Spring Lake Road update-**

Selectman C. Cope reported he is working on the continuing issues with NJR regarding the inspection on December 5, 2014 which revealed that the crack seal and swales have failed.

#### Emergency Services Facility -

First Selectman Cope read into record a letter from D. Raines dated January 22, 2015 which reported, the air drops are in place and he is actively seeking quotes for a scissor lift.

#### Emergency Radio Communications report-

D. Hopkins read into record a report entitled "Public Safety Communications Project, Status Report, January 22, 2015", this comprehensive report is appended herewith. Northeast Communications has submitted an estimate for the first step. Diagnostic reports provided in 2012 show areas of deficiency at the Northern and Southern ends of Sherman. Mr. Hopkins requested the BoS add \$33,000.00 to the FY 2015-16 Budget to cover the cost to place antennas at deficient areas. First Selectman C. Cope informed Mr. Hopkins he has submitted a STEAP request for \$500,000.00 which would be eligible to use toward the funding needs for the Emergency Radio Communications needs.

#### Briar Road Bridge Update-

First Selectman Cope reported the findings of Engineer R. Wolff, the repairs to the structure serve only as a temporary fix. Mr. Cope requested the BoS consider the following points for the February meeting:

- put together a Bid request for an Engineer
- agree on a functional and economic design

#### Public Works Wash Station:

The Town received STEAP grant funding this past July. Engineer R. Wolff has prepared a design. The Request for Bid documents have been prepared.

#### Resident State Trooper-

The Resident Trooper has been in the ESF office for the past three weeks. There has been a continuing issue regarding on duty Troopers continuing to use the Public Works Station office for breaks. The BoS agreed the ESF is the best place for the Troopers.

#### Housing Commission update:

Art Von Plachecki, Housing Commission Chair, read a letter into record which the Commission will present to the P&Z's at their February Meeting in reference to a draft proposal for new regulations for alternative housing options for Seniors as well as accessory dwellings and modifications to existing Regulations for Accessory Apartments. Discussion followed regarding tax deferments, abatements and incentives for accessory dwellings as well as innovative styles of subdivisions.

#### Monthly Financial Review-

Business Manager, L. LaVia provided the BoS with the monthly summary report. Treasurer, E. Holub stated the current budget revenues were close to where it was last year, approximately 5% higher. Mr. Holub pointed out the Building Department's projected revenue was down approximately \$14,000.00.

#### Disbursement Controls Policy

Selectman B. Ostrosky deferred this discussion to the Park & Recreation and Public Works section, later in the meeting.

#### Draft Ordinance for Septic inspection program-

First Selectman C. Cope reported there were approximately 25 people in attendance on the January 10th, 2015 informational forum with Health Director, T. Simpkins, representatives from CLA and S. Randall of the Candlewood Watershed Initiative to discuss and present the proposed Ordinance to the Public before the Town Meeting. S. Randall expanded on the three recommendations made earlier in this meeting during the Public Comment section. Mr. Randall requested permission to present a slideshow with the implemented recommendations at the next forum on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The BoS agreed.

#### HVECO/ SWRPA/ WCCOG

Sherman hosted the bi-monthly meeting of HVECO/ SWRPA/ WCCOG today at the ESF. There were 16 Towns represented at today's meeting. First Selectman C. Cope shared a report of the Housatonic Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization, which outlines the organizations operations and objectives of the Board and also included a detailed map of the Towns merging.

#### Park & Recreation Finance Review:

Selectman Ostrosky met with P&R Director, J. Wrenn in reference to the implementation the Auditor's recommendations from the 2013-14 FY Audit Report. At the December Meeting, the BoS made a formal request that Mr. Wrenn and Mrs. Frattini utilize Quickbooks to improve bookkeeping practices and record retention. Mr. Ostrosky and Mr. Wrenn discussed the procedure of account reconciliation for each P&R program showing revenues coming in and expenditures going out as well as projecting revenue for the end of the Fiscal-year. A formal 6 Month SPARK finance report is expected to be presented to the BoS at the February meeting as was discussed during the Budget workshops of February of 2014. The BoS discussed concerns as to why the accounting program was not implemented when it was originally recommended 6 months ago and questions were raised as to where the records were kept and who has access to them.

#### Department of Public Works improvement strategies:

Selectman Ostrosky met with Public Works Director, D. Borkowsky to discuss the Capital Plan, equipment assessment, and asset inventory. Mr. Ostrosky will follow up to discuss the purchasing process as well as the procedures to dispose of an asset.

#### Happy Acres Farm Committee:

First Selectman C. Cope reported he has confirmation of Sue Moga and Ralph Gorman as willing candidates to serve on an Ad Hoc Committee.

**Happy Acres Farm:**

First Selectman C. Cope read into record email correspondence received from Full Circle Farming, LLC Managers, A. Mantzaris and J. Motzinger. The BoS. Discussed 4 specific expenditures accrued previous to the farm tenants arrival. A Town Meeting will need to take place to approve the expenditure of funds to cover the bills discussed.

**New Business:**

**Tax Refunds:**

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve refund of \$763.22 of combined Real Estate and Motor vehicle taxes.  
Seconded by: A. O'Connor      Vote: For: Unanimous

**Appointments:**

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to appoint Alternate Samantha Addinizio to serve as a full Commissioner on the Zoning Board of Appeals, for a five year term, to expire January 1, 2019.  
Seconded by: B. Ostrosky      Vote: For: Unanimous

**School Boiler Issue:**

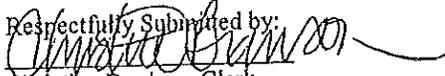
Board of Education Chair, J. Keaneally and Facilities Manager, F. Spaziani presented the BoS with report of a failing boiler system at the elementary school. The school is currently operating on only 2 boilers, the system is out-dated receiving numerous repairs over the past eight years. The BoE and Facilities Manager are seeking approval of the BoS to begin a two part request for Bids to seek an engineer's design proposal and a proposal to replace the boilers to the heating system for the elementary school. Mr. Spaziani handed out a brochure showing specs for a high efficiency seal combustion boiler. The Engineering study should be around \$ 22,000.00 to \$ 25,000.00, but is anticipated to save the Town approximately 20% of fuel costs annually. The BoS discussed timeline details as well as technical questions regarding the existing system.

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to authorize the BoE and Facilities Manager to proceed with publishing a Request For Proposal for an Engineered Design to integrate a new high efficiency seal combustion boiler to the existing heating system at the Sherman elementary school.  
Seconded by: B. Ostrosky      Vote: For: Unanimous

**Adjournment:**

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:20p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Christine Branson, Clerk  
January 29, 2015

\*Approved as Amended at the Regular Monthly Meeting of February 26, 2015