



Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 23, 2014

FINAL

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

Call to Order

First Selectman C. Cope Called the Meeting to Order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of Regular Monthly BoS Meeting , December 19, 2013

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to approve the Minutes of Regular Monthly BoS Meeting of December 19, 2013 as written. Seconded by: First Selectman C. Cope
Vote: For: 2 (C.Cope and A. O'Connor) Abstain: 1 (B. Ostrosky)

Correspondence

Attorney Richard Sperry, in reference to the Happy Acres Farm Trust, notice of termination of Insurance effective March 19th, 2014.

Planning & Zoning Commission Chair, Jeannene Burruano, Notification of Board Vacancy to fill term of Monty Clark effective immediately to January 2016.

Helen Bray, Letter of resignation as Clerk from the Conservation Commission.

Patricia Werme, in reference to denial of compensation.

Cuddy & Feder, Atty. Chris Fisher, in reference to RCC's request to research alternate location.

Public Comment

Stephaine Warren spoke in reference to Happy Acres Farm, requesting the Town to consider seeking requests for Proposals from interested farmers.

Willy Knaak spoke in reference to seeking bid proposals in reference to Happy Acres Farm.

Steve Maletz spoke in reference to seeking better telecommunications for all of Sherman.

Old Business

a. Progress report on Town projects

1. Emergency Services Facility project

First Selectman C. Cope reported he has been in contact with Charlie Gross from Depco, Bonding Company. Mr. Gross understands the Town's frustration in reference to completing the construction of the ESF building and recommended using local contractors to finish the projects. Depco has agreed to compensate the contractors and the full completion at no additional cost to the Town. David Raines has agreed to act as a "General Contractor" and will facilitate the completion of the project. There are a few items that will still need to be completed by the original contracting companies such as work to the floor drains.

2. Sherman Library expansion project

Karen Cushnie read a progress report from Director Millie Loeb, last week the temporary library officially closed and has moved back into the original location. Finishing touches are being completed. The official "Grand Opening" will occur sometime in February. Helen Garrison has agreed to head the book sales donations begin May 24th. They hope to raise an additional \$35,000.00 for the Capital Campaign.

3. Public Works equipment update

First Selectman, C. Cope reported progress on the truck, Morrola has received the chase and the truck is anticipated to be complete within 35-40 days. The Town has published a Request for Bids for a Kubota.

4. SVFD equipment update

Chris Hughes spoke in reference to the progress of the Rescue Committee. The Committee is currently making revisions to the specs for the proposed pumper and hope to publish the Request for Bids in February. Additionally, 10 breathing apparatus have been ordered.

5. Sherman Playhouse lower level renovation update

First Selectman, C. Cope reported a meeting with the Sherman Players, Charlie Reppenhagen has submitted plans to Building & Health. The plans will be reviewed by the Atty. and then to the State.

b. Public Safety Communications update

David Hopkins spoke in reference to an update on the AT&T telecommunications facility. He stated no new information has been shared in reference to the Coote Hill site or the Wagon Wheel Road site. He understands there is still discussion between NAROMI Land Trust and AT&T. The RCC report shows possible communications improvement for Sherman with addition of the alternate Evans Hill location, however AT&T had in the past rejected the location. Mr. Hopkins added with the newly proposed communications site located at the Bulls Bridge section of Route 7, may change AT&T's thinking in relation to Evans Hill Road. Mr. Hopkins recommended an informational meeting where public could learn more if the BoS found it necessary. First Selectman C. Cope said he would contact AT&T's Atty. Chris Fisher of Cuddy & Feder tomorrow and ask if there was any news in reference to the new analysis sent from RCC.

c. Housing Commission update

First Selectman, C. Cope read communication from Steve Roffwarg informing the BoS the Sherman Housing Commission was in unanimous agreement with the Town Atty, David Bertow, and the Sherman Housing Trust to request the BoS consider a Town Referendum Vote in support of the proposed Affordable Senior Housing.

d. Facilities Manager search committee update

First Selectman, C. Cope reported the Committee made a decision to recommend Frank Spaziani as Town of Sherman, Facilities Manager. Mr. Spaziani's employment will be effective February 1, 2014. The yearly salary compensation for this position will be split between the Board of Selectman at Twenty five thousand dollars yearly (\$ 25,000.00) and the Board of Education at Twenty five thousand dollars yearly (\$ 25,000.00) at a combined amount of Fifty thousand dollars yearly (\$ 50,000.00).

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve hire Frank Spazaini as the new Facilities Manager for the Town of Sherman, beginning February 1, 2014. The annual salary will be split between the Board of Selectman at Twenty five thousand dollars yearly (\$ 25,000.00) and the Board of Education at Twenty five thousand dollars yearly (\$ 25,000.00) at a combined amount of Fifty thousand dollars yearly (\$ 50,000.00).

Seconded by: Selectman B. Ostrosky **Vote: For: Unanimous**

e. Happy Acres Farm Ad Hoc advisory committee update

HAFC Chair, J. Freed spoke on behalf of the Committee. Mrs. Freed reported the Committee has been holding Regular Monthly Meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. Minutes of these Meetings have been recorded by a Clerk and are available to the Public at the Town Clerk's Office as well as on the Town Website. At this time the Committee has no recommendation to present to the BoS. The Committee is awaiting feedback from the BoS in reference to any employment or lease agreement with the current Farm Manager before moving forward. Selectman B. Ostrosky asked if there have been any recommendations from the Committee. Selectman A. O'Connor stated a recommendation was discussed in November. First Selectman C. Cope suggested a joint meeting between the Town Treasurer, Town Atty. Jeff Sienkiewicz and the BoS to discuss a lease and contract agreement with the Farm Manager as well clarify questions regarding how funding can be spent and clarification regarding the Trust. The BoS agreed to warn a Special Meeting for possible action in regard to Happy Acres Farm next Monday, January 27th, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

f. ESF Rental Policy Update

Selectman A. O'Connor has met with the Fire Chief, Sherman Business Manager, Liz LaVia, and Administrative Assistant Ruth Byrnes to discuss outstanding issues and insurance details. Selectman O'Connor will have a proposed unified rental application form available for review by the February meeting.

g. HVCEO/SWRPA merger update

First Selectman C. Cope reported the merging of HVCEO with South Western Regional Planning Association. Mr. Cope was hopeful the merge would be with towns to the North where there is more characteristics in common. The Meetings will occur twice yearly as a large group. HEVCO has elected new officers: Matthew Knickerbocker: Chair, Clay Cope: Vice- Chair, and Rudy Marconi: Secretary.

New Business

a. Tax Refunds

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve the relief of Motor Vehicle taxes in the amount of \$ 105.95 (One hundred five dollars and ninety five cents) and \$ 32.80 (Thirty two dollars and eighty cents)

Seconded by: Selectman B. Ostrosky **Vote: For: Unanimous**

b. LOTCIP grant application

First Selectman C. Cope spoke in reference to the LOTCIP grant application. Mr. Cope said he met with the Ron Wolfe from Litchfield, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Ron Cooper as well as Highway Supervisor, Don Borkowski for preliminary discussion regarding Tabor Road repair. The application will be submitted to HVECO and the State for a formal grant application.

c. Commission and Board recommendations / reappointments

Sherman Housing Commission

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve the re-appointment of Sherman Housing Commissioner; Charles Reppenhagen.

Seconded by: Selectman B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

Historic District Commission:

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve the re-appointment of Historic District Commissioner; Joel Berzinski.

Seconded by: Selectman B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

d. Board of Selectmen clerk, Historic District Commission clerk, and Conservation Commission clerk recommendations / appointments

The BoS discussed and agreed to the appointment of Christine Branson to act as Recording Clerk to the following: Board of Selectman, Historic District Commission and Conservation Commission.

e. Quarterly review of year to date financials

Business Administrator, L. LaVia provided a quarterly report of Financials, The BoS discussed the Legal fees line, counsel and court fees. Selectman B. Ostrosky requested a break-down of legal fees in relation to departments/ and or case. In addition Mr. Ostrosky requested a break out Facilities Analysis of the buildings within the Town reflecting operating costs. Selectman A. O'Connor inquired about the part time employee in the Public Works department position, asking if the position is part time why has this person been working 70+ hours consistently per pay period since last Spring? Mrs. O'Connor asked the First Selectman if the Public Works Department has requested to make this position Full Time? First Selectman C. Cope agreed, and stated if this position should be considered full time, the Town would have to advertize the employment opportunity. Treasurer E. Holub provided a revenue sheet reflecting revenues received through December 2013. The bottom line shows 61.2%, compared to last year December at 61.1%. The Tax Collector's collections are right on target at 62%, same as last year. The Building Department is low \$32,700.00 compared to last year at \$ 76, 000.00. The Town Clerk has collected 67% compared to date \$6,658.00 at 52%. John Wrenn, Park & Recreation Director, shows the SPARK program collections to date \$6,658.00 considerably lower than \$ 10,000.00 collected last year. Mr. Holub stated Mr. Wrenn has asked for insight regarding this, the weekly deposits don't seem to coming in like they did last year, and said he wondered how the enrollment was in comparison.

General Discussion: Items to be brought up by Selectmen for future agendas

Selectman A. O'Connor asked if the Facilities Manager's recommendation of creating a Building Committee could be placed on the Agenda for the February Meeting.

Public Comment

Willy Knaak expressed strong disagreement to the reference of parcel of land which the Housing Commission is proposing to develop as Affordable Senior Housing being called the "Murphy Tract" when in fact it should be referred to as "Colonial Park".

Steve Maletz- spoke in reference to improved telecommunication service for the Town, specifically the Southern portion. Mr. Maletz asked the BoS what steps they were taking to encourage AT&T's interest in pursuing a tower location in Sherman.

Gale Maletz requested the Town to contact AT&T and request an analysis for possible location of a telecommunications tower in the Southern end of Sherman.

Carol Faure also asked the BoS to encourage further analysis of the Southern Sherman for a possible location for a telecommunications site.

Marge Josephson spoke in reference to the Wagon Wheel site the Town has requested AT&T to consider. Additionally, Mrs. Josephson spoke in reference to Happy Acres Farm, requesting the BoS keep the farm as agricultural, she feels that is the tax payers voted in support of and feels that is what it should continue to be.

David Hopkins spoke in reference to encouraging the Town to join a Northern regional planning group as opposed to Southern.

J. Wozniak also spoke in reference to encouraging the Town to join a Northern regional planning group as these Towns are in keeping with Sherman.

J. Freed spoke in reference to Happy Acres Farm, is hopeful the Town will carefully consider the following options: Keep the farm as a cattle farm, costing the Town by hiring the Farm Manager as an Employee of the Town. Or request proposals and Lease the Farm to an independent farmer. Or, stop all operations, sell off the cattle and maintain the grounds at a minimal expense to the Town. Mrs. Freed stated she was concerned the Town was leaning toward the most expensive option.

Adjourn

Selectman B. Ostrosky Adjourned the Meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

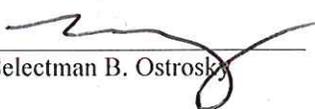


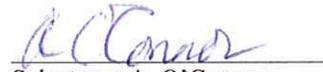
Christine Branson

January 30, 2014

AMENDED AS PER BoS 3/27/14 RMM



First Selectman C. Cope

Selectman B. Ostrosky

Selectman A. O'Connor