



**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman
Regular Monthly Meeting
April 24th, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Mallory Town Hall**

FINAL

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

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes:

BoS Special Meeting March 27, 2014

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve the Minutes of BoS Special Meeting, March 27, 2014 as written. **Seconded by:** B. Ostrosky **Vote: For: Unanimous**

BoS Regular Meeting March 27, 2014

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve the Minutes of BoS Regular Meeting, March 27, 2014 as written. **Seconded by:** B. Ostrosky **Vote: For: Unanimous**

BoS Special Meeting April 2, 2014

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve the Minutes of BoS Special Meeting, April 2, 2014 as written. **Seconded by:** B. Ostrosky **Vote: For: Unanimous**

BoS Special Budget Workshop Meeting April 2, 2014

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve the Minutes of BoS Special Budget Workshop Meeting, April 2, 2014 as written. **Seconded by:** B. Ostrosky **Vote: For: Unanimous**

Correspondence

Candlewood Lake Authority- Minutes of the last Monthly Meeting

Eva & Hank Von Ancken- a complaint in reference to roaming and barking dogs in their neighborhood, showing support of creating a dog ordinance

Public Comment

J. Williams- representing the Smoke Ridge neighborhood, spoke in reference to ongoing dangers of roaming dogs and constant barking/ howling of dogs coming from a specific residence, where there are believed to be twenty to thirty dogs at any given time, requesting the BoS implement a dog ordinance.

- J. Hopkins- provided an update in reference to the Sherman Playhouse, stating the windows are scheduled to be installed and requests the BoS place the update of renovations of the bathroom facility regularly on the Agenda until complete.
- S. Lamhut- read a letter into record urging the BoS continue working with AT&T to implement additional telecommunications towers in the Town of Sherman.

Old Business

Progress Report on Town Projects:

Emergency Services Facility project-

First Selectman Cope reported a meeting with the Town Atty. and Dave Raines. The Bonding Company agreed to fund the pending projects within the original scope of work to completion. The Bonding Company is requesting proof that the projects fit the original scope of the terms of the agreement. Scans of invoices are being provided by Mr. Raines, who has agreed to head the project. This request unfortunately is standing in the way of the contractors being paid for the work they were hired to complete. The BoS stated they were uncomfortable with leaving the unpaid balances and discussed possible use of a bond to bridge the final pay out of the invoices.

Public Safety Communications- D. Hopkins

Mr. Hopkins reported an update from a meeting with the SVFD on April 7, 2014 to discuss future progress. In addition Mr. Hopkins stated AT&T has been negotiating with a private property owner in regard to possible implementation of a telecommunications tower, the Town has not been active in this process. There are still problems at the Northern and Southern ends of Sherman as far as emergency dispatch is concerned. RCC has created a report to the Town, showing options and recommendations to improve emergency communications to up to 95% of Sherman. The Sherman Volunteer Fire Department has asked the focus of the Town return to addressing improvement of emergency communications. The Fire Department and Emergency Services Dpt. have asked the Committee to work on a specific plan to bring the issues before the Town and present the issues in an orderly gradual process to address them.

Housing Commission update

Nothing reported.

Happy Acres Farm ad hoc Advisory Committee update

Email communication was read into record from acting Chair, Neil Volkmar stating he was unable to attend the meeting tonight, but would like to share the intent of the Committee is to suspend meetings until the BoS has tasked the Committee with a specific directive.

RFP for Happy Acres Farm-

The Town Attorney submitted a draft of an RFP in reference to the future of Happy Acres Farm. The RFP is thirty eight pages. Selectman Ostrosky and Selectman O'Connor requested additional time to review the document before commenting. The BoS agreed to send the draft to Planning and Zoning, Conservation Commission and the Happy Acres Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to get the opinions of those Boards as well. Selectman Ostrosky stated concerns, the fiscal year will end in less than 60 days, is there a contingency plan, if there were additional time needed to interview and implement the RFP process. First Selectman Cope created a deadline to receive input for the next draft from those asked at least ten days before the next BoS meeting in May. Selectman O'Connor added she would like to see evaluation criteria to consider at least ten days before the May Meeting as well. The BoS will request the Happy Acres Farm Committee continue Meeting and consider the RFP.

ESF rental policy update

The BoS discussed the last amended version of the policy. Selectman Ostrosky shared concerns in reference to securing the remainder of the facility including the elevator when the hall will be in use. Selectman O'Connor reported she met with the Town Facilities Manager and a solution they came up with would be to alert the Fire Department when the hall will be rented and that would prompt the FD to lock down areas that should not be accessed by the Public, this would also include the elevator. The BoS agreed they were comfortable with that solution, with the understanding there may be minor adjustments as time goes on.

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve ESF Charter Hall Rental Policy as presented.

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

Reappointment of the Sherman Tax Assessor

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve re-appointment of Al Garzi as Sherman Tax Assessor for a term of five years, expiring on January 1, 2019.

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

Facilities Manager cell phone discussion

The BoS discussed the request of the Board to consider reimbursement of a portion of cell phone costs for the Facilities Manager, similar to the cell phone policy of the Highway Supervisor and Zoning Enforcement Officer. First Selectman Cope stated he did not view the Facilities Manager's position the same as the others, it is not an on call, 24 hours a day position. The BoS tabled any action to the May meeting, allowing time to review the cell phone reimbursement policy implemented for the ZEO and Highway Supervisor.

Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Contamination-

Mallory Town Hall received a Public Notice of Drinking Water Contamination, citing nitrates in the water. The Town has been given a period of time to become compliant. If the Town does not comply, there are fines that will be implemented. The water will be re-sampled by an EPA official during the second quarter of the year to evaluate the current level of nitrates. The Health Director, Tim Simpkins has brought the attention to the BoS that a plan designed by an engineer and filtration system could cost approximately \$ 3,500.00. The Deadline to submit a plan of compliance is next week.

New Business

Tax Refunds

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve a refund of Motor Vehicle

Taxes totaling in the amount of \$214.36

Seconded by: A. O'Connor **Vote: For: Unanimous**

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve a refund of Property

Taxes totaling in the amount of \$ 4, 135.29

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

Tax Collector Suspense List

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve the 2014 Tax Suspension

List totaling in the Amount of \$ 4,298.35.

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

Town Building Committee formation discussion

Tabled until the May Meeting.

Coote Hill cell service and emergency service Committee presentation-

- G. Maletz spoke asking to have the presentation corrected to be the "South Sherman emergency service cell service Committee". Mrs. Maletz read into record collective concerns of over 20 residents regarding the continuing lack of wireless service in the Southern end of Sherman. The Committee has shared concerns and frustrations with elected officials of local, State and Federal levels. This week Mrs. Maletz received a phone call from a member of State Senator, Chris Murphy's staff. The Maletz were assured the office will investigate the current situation and will follow up soon. Committee members recently attended the CT Siting Counsel Hearing in New Milford regarding Docket 444, there were numerous questions posed by the Siting Counsel regarding scenic and environmental aspects. It is clear the Counsel takes careful consideration regarding the placement of communications towers. Of interest were questions concerning Sherman's request for the alternate location of Evans Hill and the extensive technological statistics as to why the request was rejected. This Committee hopes a similar hearing will be held in Sherman regarding a telecommunications application to provide reliable wireless service to motorists along Routes 37 and 39 and for South Sherman. The site on Coote Hill would have provided that service. AT&T is actively considering an alternate site which would provide reliable service, the Committee is remaining optimistic. Had the Town not submitted a letter dated September 6, 2013 stating Municipal preference on Wagon Wheel, the town would have had a hearing in Sherman. The Committee is requesting the Town let the Siting Counsel do their job, instead on delaying the process.
- C. Faure spoke in reference to a statement made by David Hopkins where he spoke of inaccuracies in her letter published in the Citizen News. She stated she will stand by her statements and does not feel there was any misinformation. In addition, Mrs. Faure stated she felt it would make more sense to wait to see where the cell tower will be placed before requesting funding to place emergency communications poles. In closing, Mrs. Faure stated she felt two P&Z Commissioners should have recused themselves from participating in the discussions regarding the Coote Hill Cell Tower.
- P. Bailey spoke against placing a cell tower in a visible area to residents; she stated improper use of cell phones also cause accidents and emergencies.

Noise Ordinance and Dog Ordinance discussion

The BoS discussed at length the previous statements made by Jessica Williams. There are many concerns regarding roaming dogs in these neighborhoods. Several attempts have been made to contact the owner of these dogs, but no effort seems to be taken to remedy the current situation. The BoS discussed options, possibly getting a third party involved aside from the local animal control. One option which the BoS was not willing to implement, was the trapping these dogs by residents. The State Trooper, ZEO and Health Sanitarian have visited the owner on several occasions and have seen in excess of over twenty dogs at a time. The BoS recognized there is an element of danger involved with the roaming dogs, but was unsure how to most effectively remedy this situation. Questions were raised by the audience why the Resident State Trooper and Animal Control were not actively working to find a safe solution. The BoS agreed to reach out to the Planning and Zoning Commission for input. The BoS will discuss this further at the May Meeting.

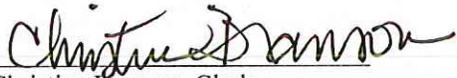
Public Comment:

- C. Faure spoke in reference to a statement made by David Hopkins in reference to inaccuracies in her letter published in the Citizen News. She stated she will stand by her statements and does not feel there was any misinformation. In addition, Mrs. Faure stated she feels it would make more sense to wait to see where the cell tower will be placed before requesting funding to place emergency communications poles. In closing, Mrs. Faure stated she felt two P&Z Commissioners should have recused themselves from participating in the discussions regarding the Coote Hill Cell Tower proposal.
- P. Bailey spoke against placing a cell tower in a visible area to residents; she stated improper use of cell phones also cause accidents and emergencies. In addition Ms. Bailey was opposed to the thought of trapping the roaming dogs, stating there were bears that could harm the trapped dogs.
- V. Scheer asked what the next steps are regarding the completion and payment of local contractors for the ESF building.
- First Selectman, C. Cope stated the town Attorney has entered into negotiation with the Bonding Co. Attorney and is providing the information requested, he is hopeful this will all soon be resolved.
- L. Simpson- spoke in reference to great frustration with neighbors whose dogs are constantly barking.

Adjournment

Selectman B. Ostrosky Adjourned the Meeting at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

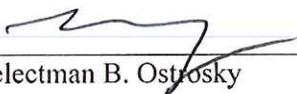


Christine Branson, Clerk
May 6, 2014

APPROVED AS FINAL at Regular Monthly Meeting of 5/22/2014



First Selectman C. Cope



Selectman B. Ostrosky



Selectman A. O'Connor