



Town of Sherman  
Board of Selectman  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 7:05p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

BoS Regular Meeting April 24, 2014

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve the Minutes of BoS Regular Meeting, April 24, 2014 as written. Seconded by: B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

BoS Special Meeting May 13, 2014

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve the Minutes of BoS Special Meeting, May 13, 2014 as written. Seconded by: B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

Correspondence

State of Connecticut, Office of Policy Management- \$ 205,000.00 award letter for Public Works Wash Station Grant application.

Planning & Zoning Chair, J. Burruano- response and review of Happy Acres Farm RFP

Western Connecticut Convention and Visitors Bureau- reminder each Town must appoint one representative to serve on Board.

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Appoint First Selectman C. Cope to serve as Sherman's representative on the Board of Western Connecticut Convention and Visitors Bureau. Seconded by : A. O'Connor Vote: For: Unanimous

Candlewood Lake Authority- Minutes of the May 14, 2014 Monthly Meeting

CL&P- Notification of Emergency Preparedness and Procedures exercises to take place Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 and Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.

Public Comment

M. Josephson- Requesting the Housing Commission updated information be available on the Town website before the Public meeting.

V. Scheer- informed the BoS the Housing Commission information was not updated on the Town website.

- S. Greenbaum- Commending the BoS for obtaining approval of the Grant application for a wash station at the Public Works Garage. This will extend use of the existing trucks and hopefully avoid extensive repairs. Mr. Greenbaum also expressed concerns regarding the misinformed interpretation pertaining to why the Town acquired property now being considered for the site for Senior Affordable Housing. The property was acquired for future Town use. P&R has no objection to the proposed use.
- M. Hanson- requesting more information pertaining to the Motion the BoS made in reference to approving the Housing Commission's request to approve the proposal for Senior Affordable Housing. Mrs. Hanson asked why the vote was not supported unanimously.
- First Selectman C. Cope- responded to Mrs. Hanson's question, stating the vote was accurately reflected in the Minutes of that Meeting. The reason Mr. Cope abstained was because he believes the proposed designs do not support specific needs for seniors, such as provide garages for the residents.
- Selectman A. O'Connor- spoke in favor of the Senior Affordable Housing proposal and has been in full support from the beginning.
- M. Hanson- also spoke in reference to paying respect to our Veterans, she would like to see welcome mats for Veterans and families of those who have served by allowing affordable housing for seniors in the Town.
- P. Bailey- feels affordable senior housing is not the way of the future for Sherman, stating "Millennia people" do not want to live in the suburbs or rural areas, where there is no public transportation, pharmacy or even sidewalks. Ms. Bailey stated it makes more sense to allow multifamily dwellings or accessory apartments.
- S. Roffwarg- Spoke in reference to the Sherman Affordable Housing lease, would love to provide garages to the residents, however the Commission cannot receive funding until supported by a Town Vote. It is the intention of the Housing Commission to provide housing for qualifying seniors in Sherman to keep our valuable resource of seniors in Town. Mr. Roffwarg stated there will be an informational forum May 31, 2014 from 10 am to 1 pm at the Sherman elementary school cafeteria featuring several speakers.
- W. Knaak- Spoke in reference to the Housing Commission's proposal for Affordable Senior Housing, stating in his opinion, the presentation was misrepresented and propaganda. Mr. Knaak stated he once lived in West Berlin. In East Germany property was confiscated from landowners. Mr. Knaak moved to America for freedom. The letter submitted to the BoS written by "Friends of Sherman", was not a petition.

## Old Business

### Progress Report on Town Projects:

#### Emergency Services Facility project-

First Selectman C. Cope spoke in reference to a progress report from D. Raines, the room divider repair is underway, originally the track installed by Merit was done improperly. The Bonding Company will be issuing the final payments to the independent contractors who have been hired to complete the project. Depco is currently working to balance the air systems.

## Play House Windows-

First Selectman C. Cope reported the completion of the windows project, which came in \$30,000.00 under budget. Mr. Cope requested advice from State OPM for use of the surplus funds to complete the bathroom renovations to create ADA compliant facilities. The Town Atty. is currently putting together a bid package. J. Hopkins, Historic District Chair, stated she thought the windows were beautiful. Mrs. Hopkins stated she would like the BoS to consider replacing the glass on the Playhouse doors. In addition the prairie window on Old Town Hall will eventually need to be replaced.

## Public Safety Communications-

Selectman B. Ostrosky inquired if there was any new correspondence from AT&T. First Selectman C. Cope replied there has been correspondence between AT&T and D. Hopkins regarding inaccuracies in the Coote Hill location report. The RCC report shows a different placement of the proposed tower than AT&T's reports.

## Housing Commission update

Mr. Roffwarg spoke previously. The BoS discussed the proper wording for the Town Meeting and Vote legal warning. The BoS also discussed adding an advisory question regarding preferred use of the land, should the Senior Affordable Housing vote be defeated. Selectman A. O'Connor was not supportive of the advisory question, stating she felt it was biased.

**First Selectman C. Cope Moved** to take to a Town Meeting on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 and remove to a Town Referendum on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> the following question: "Shall the Town of Sherman lease 15.229 acres of land adjacent to Colonial Park for a term of 45 years to Sherman Housing Trust Inc for development of up to 40 Affordable Senior Housing rental units using a combination of State grants and private funding."

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

**First Selectman C. Cope Moved** to take to a Town Meeting on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 and remove to a Town Referendum on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> the following advisory question: "Advisory only: If the proposal to lease 15.229 acres of land adjacent to Colonial Park for use and development as Senior Housing is defeated, do you wish to see the land reserved for open space or recreational purposes?"

**Seconded by:** B. Ostrosky      **Vote: For: 2, Against: 1 (A. O'Connor)**

## Happy Acres Farm Financial Review-

Business Administrator, L. LaVia reported up to date expenditures and revenues. Discussion followed in reference to why a bull was purchased when the future of the farm is uncertain. A question raised, is it appropriate to include expenditures, such as Legal and Clerk fees, that occurred previous to the Town Vote approving use of the cell tower revenues? The BoS agreed to hold a meeting next week with the Farm Manager to discuss inventory of cows, hay and feed and anticipated revenues from the sale of any cows and hay. The following referendum question was discussed, and tabled to the next Regular Meeting.

"Shall the residents of the Town of Sherman approve the appropriation of the sum of up to \$ 35,000.00 to fund the continued operations of Happy Acres Farm through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 including the costs of labor and employees, insurance, utilities and other costs including Administrative fees and Legal costs. Said appropriation shall be met by the expenditure of funds from the accumulated cell tower revenue in the Capital Non-Recurring Fund account and revenues derived from farm operations?"

RFP for Happy Acres Farm-

First Selectman C. Cope has asked the various Boards and Commissions within the Town to review the proposed RFP and is in the process of gathering feedback. Colette Shulman has been asked to compose an opening statement.

Facilities Manager cell phone discussion

The BoS discussed the Cell Phone Reimbursement Policy. Selectman A. O'Connor referred to the following portion of the policy, " full time employees, where the work requires more than 1/2 of the time is out in the field." The BoS agreed to reimburse the Facilities Manager at the same rate as the Land Use Enforcement Officer, based on policy.

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to approve reimbursement at the monthly rate of \$ 33.84 to the Facilities Manager for the use of personal cell phone. Seconded by: B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

Town Building Committee formation discussion

Selectman B. Ostrosky has reached out to several Boards and Commissions and has heard interest from the following Boards and Commissions:

- BoE, recommending J. Keneally
- P&R, recommending S. Greenbaum
- Historic District, to be determined
- Senior Center, to be determined
- SVFD, to be determined
- Public Works, to be determined

Noise Ordinance and dog Ordinance update

A letter received from P&Z Chair, J. Burrano was read into record, recommending consultation of the Town Attorney to consider creating an Ordinance in relation to dogs, kennels and related noise. First Selectman C. Cope reported on a meeting with the Chief Animal Control Officers and the Town Trooper. The BoS is working with local and State officials to come to an acceptable solution in relation to the specific property where the complaints are being directed. First Selectman C. Cope said he will also reach out to other Towns for examples of existing ordinances.

New Business

Tax Refunds

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve a refund of Motor Vehicle Taxes totaling in the amount of \$ 141.83  
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 \$ 5,0214.18  
Seconded by: B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

Mil Rate for Fiscal Year 2014-15

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to set the FY 2014-15 Mil Rate at 19.84%  
Seconded by: A. O'Connor Vote: For: Unanimous

Reappointment of the Inland Wetlands Commissioner

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve re-appointment of Michael Humphreys to the Inland Wetlands Commission, this seat expires January of 2018. Seconded by: B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

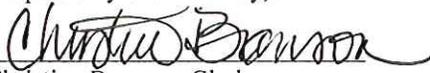
Public Comment:

- J. Williams- Thanked the BoS for taking steps to address the barking and roaming dogs in the Smoke Ridge neighborhood.
- Selectman B. Ostrosky- spoke in reference to the volume of the barking dogs, even several miles from Smoke Ridge.
- S. Roffwarg- stated he was disappointed by the inclusion of the advisory question in reference to the Senior Affordable Housing referendum questions. Mr. Roffwarg stated he felt it was blindsiding.
- B. Hoag- stated she felt the advisory question was biased and wrong.
- M. Josephson- spoke in reference to the advisory question, suggesting a write in option instead of a "yes or no" answer.
- J. Hopkins- stated disappointment of a \$ 4,000.00 cut in the FY 2014-15 Budget line for maintenance and repair to Town Owned Buildings.
- S. Greenbaum- recommended looking at Ordinances set forth for the Town of Kent in reference to dogs, and kennel limitations. Mr. Greenbaum also shared concerns in reference to the financial oversight of the BoS in relation to Happy Acres Farm, and recommended the implementation of an RFP as soon as possible. Mr. Greenbaum endorsed the suggestion of making the advisory question write in, and offered to help compilation of the results.
- K. McConaughy- stated she feels the advisory question is an attempt to sabotage the approval of the Senior Affordable Housing proposal. Sherman is one of only a few Towns of this size that does not offer Senior Housing.
- G. Linkletter- stated he felt the advisory question was legitimate and fair.

Adjournment

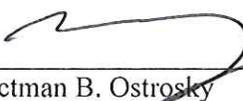
Selectman B. Ostrosky Adjourned the Meeting at 9:00 pm

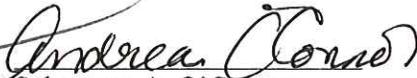
Respectfully submitted by,

  
Christine Branson, Clerk  
May 29, 2014

APPROVED as Amended at the Regular Monthly Meeting of June 26, 2014

  
First Selectman C. Cope

  
Selectman B. Ostrosky

  
Selectman A. O'Connor