



Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Mallory Town Hall

FINAL

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

Public: E. Holub, L. LaVia, G. Linkletter, S. Greenbaum, J. Keneally, C. Shulman, F. Spaziani, J. Keneally, C. Jellen, J. Wrenn, F. Frattini, E. Smolen, R. Hudson, R. Lenihan and V. Scheer (Citizen News)

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes

Board of Selectman Regular Meeting of June 26, 2014
Tabled until the next Regular Meeting of August 28, 2014

Correspondence

Sherman Department of Health, Tim Simpkins- Director. Letter Regarding Septic System Walk-Over.

Board of Education, Don Fiftal- Regarding a tuition policy for non-resident Teachers with children attending the Sherman Elementary School.

Public Comment

Eric Holub- Referenced Selectman A. O'Connor's July 2, 2014 article written in the newspaper which she stated the Town Treasurer did not make a recommendation that the Town sequester the funds for the mortgage payment for Happy Acres Farm. Are you stating the Town didn't owe the payment to Estate of Tony Happanowich?

Selectman O'Connor- stated Mr. Holub mentioned at a previous meeting the check written to the Estate for payment of the mortgage had not been cashed. Mrs. O'Connor requested these funds be held in an endowment.

E. Holub- stated the debt has to be paid from the General Fund until the Estate releases the Trust back to the Town. The debt to the Trust has to be paid from the General Fund. The check was being held in good faith until the Estate is released.

Scott Randall-Spoke on behalf of Candlewood Lake Board of Directors, as well as serves on the First Light Advisory Committee- he is in favor of implementing the suggested septic walk over to help prevent additional damage to Candlewood Lake. He spoke at a previous meeting and presented photographs of blue green algae blooms which if this happens on Candlewood Lake, it will shut down use of the beach for two weeks mandatory by the State. Implementing the septic walkovers will be cost effective, and encourages the Board of Selectmen to consider and act quickly.

Bob Gamper- Chairman of BoE, speaking in reference to 2013-14 FY close out reporting surplus of approximately \$ 82,264.00. Commending the school Superintendent, Business Manager, and Administrative team on their diligence for watching over the Budget, as well as on making improvements to the security, technology program, and communications. By switching the Health Insurance program, the school was able to cut a substantial amount from the 2014-15 FY Budget.

Old Business

Progress Reports on Town Projects

Emergency Services Facility project-

C. Cope spoke to Dave Raines, and reports the air handlers fully operational, the water system has been flushed and passed inspection, safety lines will be painted on the bay floors next week, aerial antenna will be complete next week, and still working on gathering the ONM manuals, as best they can. Water lines in the State Trooper Office are complete. The IT system for the Troopers office, is still pending. Once the system is installed, the Trooper can move into the ESF building.

Playhouse Bathrooms

First Selectman C. Cope reported the State has requested all modifications updated into a new plan regarding changes to the restrooms and re-submitted. First Selectman Cope has reached out to a new Architect, since Mr. Reppenhagen has since moved to AZ.

Spring Lake Road Update

Received from A&J Construction, a suit that claim NJR Construction has not made payment. The Town of Sherman has been named as a Secondary in the suit. The main complaint is there was not a payment bond in the construction documents. First Selectman C. Cope asked if former First Selectman A. O'Connor recalled receiving a payment bond. In response, Selectman O'Connor stated she always required a Bond for materials and labor.

Housing Commission

First Selectman Cope sent an email to Chairman Roffwarg and read into record. The Housing Ordinance was attached to the email. First Selectman Cope asked the Commission members are fully aware of the duties of the Ordinance.

Happy Acres RFP draft update

The BoS discussed small typographical errors. In the document, the wording "tenant farmer" should replace "farmer tenant". The BoS discussed the equipment list and was open to the applicant choosing the items "a la carte". The RFP will be placed on the internet, on the Town website, as well as printed versions will be available in Town Hall. The BoS agreed, the document is very close to ready to bring to the Public. Discussion took place in reference to the length of time the Town is to consider the applications and agreed to shorten the original 60 days to 30 days. The RFP bid deadline will be Thursday, August 28, 2014.

Town Building Committee formation update

Selectman B. Ostrosky reported he met with the Highway Supervisor and the Facilities Manager and would like to work out a five year plan to work into the Capital Plan for budgeting the projects. This discussion was tabled until pending legal issues have been resolved.

Leash Ordinance follow-up

It has come to the attention of the First Selectman many people do not observe the posted rules concerning dogs on Town Property. Some people have reported loose and aggressive dogs being allowed to run freely inside the fenced tennis courts as well as along the walking track. In addition, little regard is given to cleaning up after their dogs. First Selectman C. Cope reported he met with Animal Control and the Resident Trooper and has requested periodic observation of troubled areas regarding the practices of dog walkers, and if necessary charge and cite those who are violating the rules.

FY 2014 Appropriations transfers discussion and set Town Meeting

Treasurer, E. Holub presented the BoS a report for the 2013-14 Fiscal Year end. To date, there is a balance of \$ 136,654.00 in the General Fund. Treasurer Holub recommended that Happy Acres Farm be segregated as a separate item in the next year fiscal budget. Discussion followed regarding various budget lines including: Spring Lake Road, Court Litigation, and various charges toward the completion of the ESF. The BoS was in agreement to move on the recommendations made by Treasurer, E. Holub.

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve charging off the amount of \$ 4,848.00 incurred in ESF Legals charged to the General Fund for mediation to the bond. **Seconded by:** C.Cope **Vote: For: Unanimous**

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to approve charging off the cost described as OEM computer set up(Troopers Office) to be moved out of the General Fund and charged to the ESF Bond, and any grants received to cover these costs will be deposited in the ESF Bond fund. **Seconded by:** B. Ostrosky **Vote: For: Unanimous**

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to bring to a Town Meeting approval for funding for Spring Lake Road, and Court Litigation be funded from excess revenues. **Seconded by:** A. O'Connor **Vote: For: Unanimous**

FY 2015 Capital Non-Recurring projects including School Roof discussion and set for Town Meeting

Mr. Keneally, BoE Chairman spoke in reference to the bid process to repair the roof. The BoE sought the guidance from BoS to pursue the U.S. Communities program, and read into record communication received from the Town Attorney dated June 19, 2014 regarding replacement of the school roof. The ruling was that the school roof replacement would require the competitive bidding process as do all other Town Capital projects. Mr. Keneally handed out a document regarding the U.S. Communities and requested the BoS consider using this organization for replacement of the school roof. Selectman O'Connor stated the U.S. Communities may not meet the requirements of the Town ordinance. The BoS discussed the need for clarity regarding the opinion of the Town Atty. First Selectman, C. Cope reminded the BoS of the expenditures they are bringing to the Town Meeting, Friday August 8th, 7:00 pm, at the ESF Building :

School Roof Replacement	\$ 150,000.00
Dock Replacement	\$ 23,000.00
Park & Rec, Sand pro	\$ 18,008.00
Board Walk Replacement	\$ 12,500.00
Public Works, six ton trailer	\$ 10,200.00
ESF, blood/gas monitor	\$ 7,500.00
SVFD, Engine 3 Tires	\$ 5,400.00
Repairs to the Beach Office	\$ 500.00

New Business

SPARK Program update

The BoS requested Program Director, J. Wrenn and F. Fratinni report on how they plan to proceed with the SPARK program, since the program has consistently run over budget for several years. J. Wrenn reported many people in Town rely on the program and proposed an increase of the daily rate by \$5.00 per child should sufficiently offset future overages. F. Fratini also spoke, stating SPARK is a very valuable program, in the beginning days, it was planned to have approximately 25 children, which was bringing in more than enough revenue. Attendance has recently been low, but it seems to be a sign of the times, unemployment or economics could be a factor to consider. An alternant thought presented by P&R was to remove the program from the Town budget and allow it to be a separate program or to allow the BoE absorb the program into their Budget. P&R stated other aspects of their programming bring the Town revenue. P&R requested a grace period to see how enrollment plays out this fall and possibly following the winter break propose an increase in tuition. The BoS was in agreement to what P&R requested.

HVCEO merger resolution-

First Selectman informed the BoS of a State required merger with regional planning organizations and proposed an ordinance for adoption, proposing the follow HVCEO and combine to become SWERPA. Selectman A. O'Connor asked if any consideration had been put into joining the Northern group, feeling the Towns affiliations are more in line with those of the Towns to the North. First Selectman disagreed with this thinking, stating the area Sherman relies most in are to the South; the schools, hospitals, main arteries and highways are all to the South of Sherman.

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Adopt the CT State Statute to join the Western Connecticut Counsel of Governments and move to a Town Meeting for approval.
Seconded by A. O'Connor **Vote: For: Unanimous**

Tax Refunds

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve a refund of Property Taxes totaling the amount of \$ 562.26
Seconded by: A. O'Connor **Vote: For: Unanimous**

Public Comment

V. Sheer- asked the BoS to clarify, are there no dogs allowed at Town parks?

F. Fratinni- responded, dogs are not permitted inside of the tennis courts, they are allowed in other areas, but must be on a leash.

P. Share- spoke on behalf of the Candlewood Lake Authority, they are in support of the recommendation of the area Health Director to conduct walk over inspections of septic systems of properties within the Town of Sherman.

S. Greenbaum- requesting a progress update on the Town Garage Wash Station

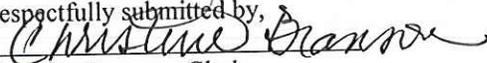
R. Lenihan- clarify on Happy Acres Farm, 33 acres of wetlands, is this continuous? And was a home inspection ever conducted when the Town took ownership on the property?

First Selectman C. Cope responded to the first question, the 33 acres of wetlands are not contiguous.

Adjournment:

Selectman B. Ostrosky Adjourned the Meeting at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by,



Christine Branson, Clerk

August 1, 2014

*Approved as written at the Regular Monthly Meeting of August 28, 2014



First Selectman C. Cope



Selectman B. Ostrosky



Selectman A. O'Connor