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**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman
Regular Meeting
August 28, 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 7:07p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Board of Selectman, Regular Monthly Meeting of June 26, 2014

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve the Minutes of Board of Selectman, Regular Monthly Meeting of June 26, 2014, with amendments to section; Executive Session, add the Labor Attorney's name: Stephen Sedor, Esq. and to section; Town Building Committee, add the Facilities Manager to the list of names Selectman Ostrosky had not heard from.

Seconded by: Selectman B. O'Connor **Vote: For: Unanimous**

Board of Selectman, Special Meeting of July 24, 2014

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve the Minutes of Board of Selectman, Special Meeting of June 24, 2014 with amendment to Invited & Guests; remove Treasurer E. Holub.

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

Board of Selectman, Regular Monthly Meeting of July 24, 2014

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve the Minutes of Board of Selectman, Regular Monthly Meeting of July 24, 2014 as written.

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

Correspondence:

Historical District- Certificate of Appropriateness, in reference to the parking lot at Mallory Town Hall.

J. Chew, Director of HVCEO- Letter of Resignation effective August 13, 2014.

R. Sheridan- letter of appreciation regarding the Public Works upkeep and maintenance of the Town Beach, adjoining playgrounds, Veterans Filed and other Town owned public areas.

J. Burruano, Chair of the Planning & Zoning Commission- regarding the State mandated merger of Regional Planning Agencies, recommending it would be to the Town's benefit to share information with the public regarding the benefits of both HVCEO and NWCT prior to the next Town vote.

T. Gwyther-recognizing the need to be proactive in protecting the watershed and in favor of conducting septic walkovers.

Northwest Conservation District- Fall newsletter.

J. Maharg- email communication read into record two questions to the First Selectman's article in the Citizen News dated 8/8/2014, regarding the premature purchase of the Toro3040 Sand-Pro. " If First Selectman Cope believed he had acted with tax payer approval to buy this equipment, why did he seek taxpayer approval to at the Town Meeting after the purchase and without admitting mistake then and there?" and " Why didn't the Town Treasurer provide the appropriate over site of the situation during the discussion for the vote at the Town Meeting, and why did he sign the check for the purchase?"

R. Smith, CT D.o.T- Notification that between September 2, 2014 and September 24, 2014 along Route 39 in New Fairfield CT DoT will be resurfacing the road, expect delays.

Public Comment

J. Bruzinski- addressed First Selectman C. Cope with questions specific to the chronology of events regarding the purchase of the Toro 3040 Sand-Pro, Town accounts from which checks were issued and voided, the date of delivery of the equipment and its' subsequent return.

J. Keneally- requested clarification as to if the proper Town bidding procedure was followed regarding the purchase of the Sand-Pro.

C. Cope, First Selectman- stated the Town received 3 quotes, and he would follow up with Mr. Keneally the next day with more information.

S. Maletz- requested an update regarding moving forward to improve emergency communications or cell tower coverage in the Sherman area.

C. Cope, First Selectman- stated he has reached out to Chris Fischer, of AT&T and has no news currently.

J. Wozniak, Chair of the Conservation Commission- requesting the BoS resume discussion of placing kestrel boxes on Happy Acres Farm and place the item back on the Agenda for the September Meeting.

J. Hopkins, Chair of the Historic District- informing the BoS that the Historical District has issued a Certificate of Appropriateness in reference to the Playhouse doors.

Old Business

Progress on Town Projects

Emergency Services Facility Project

First Selectman C. Cope reported on report received from D. Raines: the status of the air handler is complete. Silver & Petrocelli still owes the Town final plans. The air hose reel has been installed. The painting of the lines has been scheduled. The Resident Trooper's office is near to completion, still pending, connection of the computer data lines need to be tested as well as the phone lines. First Selectman C. Cope thanked Mr. Raines for an amazing job so far. Selectman B. Ostrosky asked if there has been any interest in renting the hall. First Selectman C. Cope stated there have been a few calls for Spring bookings.

Playhouse Bathrooms-

The Bid will be posted on September 3rd, 2014.

Housing Commission

First Selectman C. Cope stated he will add a discussion with the Commission for the September meeting, the Commission is currently looking to fill two vacancies.

Happy Acres RFP

Selectman B. Ostrosky reported the BoS is in receipt of five bids. The BoS will work out a schedule of meetings and reach out to other parties during the review process.

New Business

Tax Refunds

No request was submitted from the Tax Collector and no action was taken.

Septic Inspection Ordinance Proposal- Health Director, Tim Simpkins

T. Simpkins presented the BoS with a proposal to implement a plan for septic evaluation for all properties within the Town. This would be an ongoing program beginning FY 2015-16, period all properties would be evaluated and identified if there are any notable issues with existing septic systems. An alternative to this would be a mandatory septic pump out every three years for all properties within the Town. The reasoning behind this plan is to reduce the amount of non-compliant septic systems as well as reduce run-off and contamination of waterways. If a property is identified with a failing septic the Health Department would issue a violation and the homeowner is responsible to bring the system into compliance. Mr. Simpkins has implemented a similar plan in New Fairfield, which has been quite effective. If the BoS chooses to endorse this proposal, an Ordinance will need to be created and adopted, a small budget will need to be created for a clerk, and other related costs. This plan will also reduce the ongoing problem of waste and chemical runoff into the local watershed as well as the Candlewood Lake area. Mr. Simpkins is hopeful all five Towns that share Candlewood Lake are willing to adopt similar plans, but the idea is to monitor all septic systems, not only those specific to the Lake communities. The BoS will continue this discussion and add it to the Agenda for next month.

Disbursement controls discussion

Selectman B. Ostrosky presented the BoS with a suggestions to improve financial process and practices within the Town's Offices and Departments. These suggestions included; to update the Purchasing Policy, update the procedures for issuing a Purchase Order, segregation of duties, how bills are submitted, asset audits or inventories of Department equipment and stock, and document management. Selectman Ostrosky asked this discussion continue once the Board has had time to review the proposal and share with staff for additional input.

Public Works Wash Station

To hear, consider and approve on a resolution to accept a CT STEAP Grant in the amount of \$205,000.00 and to authorize the First Selectman to execute such grant agreement with the State, for the creation of a Public Works Wash Station.

This discussion was tabled pending input from the Town Attorney, no action took place.

Aquatic Invasive Species Grants- September 15, 2014 deadline

First Selectman, C. Cope read a letter into record from Phyllis Schaer, Director of Candlewood Lake Authority requesting Action by the BoS. Mrs. Schaer presented the BoS with a detailed proposal to introduce a sterile grass eating carp program to reduce the amount of invasive milfoil in Candlewood Lake. CLA is seeking grant funding from DEEP which would match

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve authorization for the Candlewood Lake Authority to submit on behalf of the Town of Sherman, member municipalities and FLPR, a non-binding proposal for funds from Grants to Municipalities for Aquatic Invasive Species Control administered by the CT DEEP. The proposal would be for funds to initiate a triploid grass carp program at Candlewood Lake for the management of Eurasian water milfoil.

Seconded by: Selectman B. Ostrosky

VOTE: For: Unanimous

Appointments:

Conservation Commission

No action took place, tabled until the next Regular Meeting.

Road paving report:

First Selectman C. Cope reported Public Works began re-laying pipe on Wanzer Hill Road, paving is anticipated to begin September 2, 2014.

Items to be added to future Agendas:

Emergency Communications

Policy created and implemented regarding Town Departments, Boards, and Commissions accepting gifts.

Kestrel Boxes

Housing Commission

Public Comment:

W. Knaak: thanked the BoS for the recent proposed Senior Housing referendum; thanks to the voters for not encroaching on Colonial Park; and thanks to D. Borkowsky of Public Works for maintaining the trails along Colonial Park.

J. Siegel: Said he wanted to make two statements: 1. Not to confuse the two issues of Emergency Communications and cell phone coverage and 2. Recommending the BoS officially dissolve the Ad Hoc Committee on Happy Acres Farm, and remove future warnings on the Town Website.

K. McConaughy- inquired about the Town's responsibility regarding the Library parking lot maintenance. The lot was engineered to be porous and has special requirements to properly maintain the parking lot. Mrs. McConaughy specifically asked why the Town was plowing snow from the parking lot last winter.

V. Sheer- requested why the Town Meeting Minutes of June 6th, 2014 were not posted on the Town website. She mentioned other Minutes that were also not posted: June 28th, 2014, August 8th, 2014,

C. Faure- has been a long time advocate of cell communication in the Town of Sherman, and disagrees with Mr. Seigel's opinion of separating cell coverage and emergency communications, she feels money can be saved if these two issues are combined.

C Jellen- Spoke I reference to the defeated vote recommending the Town purchase the Sand-Pro. Mr. Jellen asked if the return of the equipment would require a re-stocking fee because there were in excess of 27 hours of use. Did the purchase agreement require a restocking fee? Mr. Jellen also requested information regarding the merger between HVCEO and SWERPA.

First Selectman C. Cope- responded there was no re-stocking fee and that he plans to attend the meeting of NWPC to gather comparative information and will report back to the BoS at the next Meeting.

J. Wozniak- spoke on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Happy Acres Farm- the Committee is ready, willing and able, to act upon direction by the BoS. Not ready to disband.

Adjournment:

Selectman B. Ostrosky Adjourned the Meeting at 8:50 pm

Respectfully submitted by,



Christine Branson, Clerk
September 4, 2014

*Approved as written at the Regular Monthly Meeting of October 23, 2014



First Selectman C. Cope



Selectman B. Ostrosky



Selectman A. O'Connor