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**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman
Special Meeting
September 23, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Mallory Town Hall**

FINAL

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

First Selectman C. Cope Called the Meeting to Order at 7:01 p.m.

Purpose: To interview tenant farmers applicants for Happy Acres Farm

First Selectman C. Cope reported since the last meeting, he has completed the background checks, called references, and received the additional financial information from each applicant. From the audience, Mr. Dick McGoldrich stated he has looked at the three applications and said the proposal that seemed the most viable would be Lescynski Farms, LLC. He pointed out, the other proposals were also good, however he stated he wasn't sure they would work. Mr. McGoldrich stated he thought (Lescynski Farms) had a good idea to discontinue corn growing on the fields, the ground has "run out". Hay would be a better option, and would yield more cuttings if it is started early. When asked about his opinion regarding a Dairy Farm, Mr. McGoldrich replied, it would have to be a small operation, but there is a good market for raw milk, cheese and yoghurt. First Selectman Cope thanked Mr. McGoldrich for his input, stating so far there have been no negative remarks. The credit reports, background checks, and references all were normal. The BoS discussed each proposal at length.

Full Circle Farm, LLC

Selectman A. O'Connor - excited about the proposal, in keeping with Mr. Hapanowich's vision, occupancy of the residence, as well as the equipment a plus. She shared concerns, some aspects seem ambitious.

Selectman B. Ostrosky -appreciated long term vision, strong background in marketing , concerns about relying heavily on the rental of the apartment, needed clarification regarding financials, manure management, and clean up plans.

First Selectman C. Cope - grass fed beef, strong marketing background, proposing strong community engagement , are proposing to occupy house.

Rosie's Dairy, LLC

Selectman A. O'Connor- has experience, already retail product available in Sherman, residing in house. Community involvement, not as articulate, concerns if doesn't work out, will have no equipment or cattle. High expectations of Town responsibility maintenance/ upkeep. Many objections to the Lease Proposal.

Selectman B. Ostrosky- Very strong experience, strong community involvement. Financial incentive concerning; 10% net profits not above \$ 25,000.00 . High expectations of Town maintenance. Needs more financial information.

First Selectman C. Cope- Strong five year plan of milk production, historic aspect, the farm once was a dairy, concerns if enterprise does not work, will be no cattle, or equipment. Town/ Tax payer expense to maintain roadsides. Not a strong marketing plan.

Lescynski Farming, LLC

Selectman A. O'Connor- benefits, working there now, the Town knows what they will be getting, concerned about using the cell tower funding, if sell cattle outright revenue to Town, but if it does not work out, left without cattle

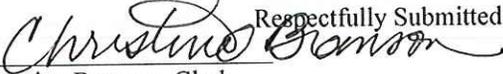
Selectman B. Ostrosky- so far pleased with the results of maintaining the farm, with no interest in occupying the residence, possible complications with two separate lease agreements.

First Selectman C. Cope- traditional cattle plan- experience, unquestionable. disappointed not occupying the house, struggle with use of Cell Tower funding to pay for management.

The Board of Selectman agreed to eliminate Rosie's Dairy from the proposals. First Selectman C. Cope stated he didn't feel retro-fitting the barn for a dairy was the right direction to go. Selectman O' Connor stated Rosie's Dairy had a total of nineteen objections to the lease Agreement. Selectman B. Ostrosky, stated he would like additional information from Full Circle and Lescynski Farming. The next Special Meeting will be Monday September 29, 2014.

Adjournment

Selectman A. O'Connor Adjourned the Meeting at 7:55 p.m.


Respectfully Submitted by:
Christine Branson, Clerk
September 27, 2014

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



First Selectman C. Cope



Selectman B. Ostrosky



Selectman A. O'Connor