



Town of Sherman  
Board of Selectman  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
December 18, 2014  
7:00 p.m.  
Mallory Town Hall

FINAL

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

**Audience & Invited:** Atty. J. Sienkiewicz, Treasurer E. Holub, G. Linkletter, , S. Greenbaum, P. Voorhees, F. Spaziani, G. Albert, J. Lesynski, C. Faure, F. Frattini, D. Clark, J. Keneally, G. Seigel, R. Hudson, S. Maletz, G. Maletz, J. Judd, R. Judd, C. Jellen, P. Bailey, w. Knaak, J. Brzinski, and A. Sakal (Citizen News)

**Call to Order:**

First Selectman C. Cope Called the Meeting to Order at 7:18 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to approve the Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of November 20, 2014 with amendment.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

**Correspondence:**

**R. Hudson:** requesting consideration for the Treasurer position.

**Candlewood Lane Authority:** Monthly Minutes.

**Community Members:** L. Paradiso, J. Campbell, T. Von Thaden, M. Urbanowicz, D. Brush, R. Brush, C. McDermott, S. Keane, D. Dlugokencky, K. Tino, S. Hierro, B. Hollander; requesting the cross at Happy Acres Farm be illuminated for the remainder of the holiday season.

**Public Comment:**

**G. Albert:** requesting the Board of Selectmen re-consider their decision not to illuminate the cross at Happy Acres Farm. Mr. Albert provided an example of a town in Massachusetts that allows a public religious display on Town owned property.

**R. Judd:** thanking the Selectmen for the opportunity to display the cross on their property in honor of Tony Hapanowich's life long holiday tradition.

**D. Clark:** has enjoyed Hapanowich's cross as a holiday tradition for forty four years, also asking the BoS to re-consider their decision.

Old Business:

Progress report on Town projects

Final Account and proposed distribution to the Town from the Anthony Vincent Hapanowich Trust-

Selectman B. Ostrosky made the following Motion: Subject to the receipt of an executed accounting from the Trustee, the Board of Selectman Accepts the accounting provided by the Trustee, on signed form and authorizes any member of the Board of Selectman to execute documentation evidencing approval of the accounts and release an indemnification of the Trustee and receipt of distribution provided such documentation is acceptable to the Town Attorney and in accordance with the discussion held in Executive Session.

Seconded by: A. O'Connor

Vote: For: Unanimous

Happy Acres Farm RFP-

Selectman C. Cope reported he met with Full Circle Farming, LLC this past Saturday and conducted an inventory of the farm, the herd, and the equipment. The Lease was signed on December 16, 2014 at Atty. J. Sienkiewicz's office. Full Circle Farming, LLC has provided all required insurance documents, a deposit check, and first months' payment. They plan on taking possession January 1, 2015 with hopes for BoS approval to gain early access and begin moving in their belongings this month.

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to allow Full Circle Farming, LLC early occupancy of the residence to facilitate the ease of transition between Lescynski Farms pending the assumption of their responsibilities of the Farm starting January 1, 2015.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

Playhouse Bathrooms-

Selectman C. Cope reported the plumbing and electrical roughs have been completed. Sheetrock, paint and tiling of the floors throughout the green room and bathrooms and halls have begun. Mr. Cope reached was in contact with CT O.P.M. to request use of the windows project funding balance toward the current renovations. O.P.M., Secretary Barns agreed it would be acceptable use of the funding balance.

School Roof Project-

W. Jenks, Town Building Inspector is anticipated to conduct a final inspection this coming week.

SVFD Tires

No report was received.

Spring Lake Road update-

Selectman C. Cope reported the inspection on December 5, 2014 revealed that the crack seal failed. The final payment will be pending until approval from the Engineer.

Emergency Services Facility -

First Selectman Cope reported, the airdrops arrived, striping of the bays is complete, a cost quote has been requested for the exhaust system carbon monoxide system.

#### **Emergency Radio Communications report-**

First Selectman Cope reported the preliminary paperwork for the STEAP Grant has been submitted with the help of RCC. D. Hopkins report was read into record: The Committee met with Northeastern Communications (NEC) the supplier of radio equipment to the Fire Department to work on specific long term plans on improving the radio system. The proposed first step is to add a repeater function in the ESF. Technical representatives from NEC will make a detailed assessment of the implementation plan. For budgeting purposes, NEC has provided a "worst case scenario estimate of \$40,000.00. After the assessment is complete there will be a better understanding of the actual cost.

#### **Briar Road Bridge Update-**

Engineer R. Wolff is working on the details for the bid package. The estimate is anticipated by the January meeting.

#### **Public Works Wash Station:**

Engineer R. Wolff met with the Architect, Structural Engineers, Zoning Enforcement Officer, R. Cooper, Superintendent of Public Works and First Selectman and is working out details for a bid package.

#### **Resident State Trooper-**

Monday January 22, 2015 is the anticipated date the Trooper will be moved into the ESF Building. The Computer and furniture as well as radio are in place; files and phones will be installed next week.

#### **Housing Commission update:**

First Selectman C. Cope reported the Housing Commission met on December 15th, 2015 officers were nominated and voted into place Art Von Plachecki as Chair, and Tom Joiner, Vice Chair. The Commission held a joint meeting with Planning and Zoning Chair, J. Burrano to discuss details of a draft proposal of new regulations. The Commission is also reviewing details for a tax abatement to allow Sherman's elderly to stay in their homes. Their next meeting will be January 15, 2015.

#### **Monthly Financial Review-**

First Selectman Cope provided the BoS with the monthly summary report. The Business Manager, L. LaVia has been out of the office temporarily, however she was able to provide a portion of the monthly summary at the end of the month. Selectman Ostrosky stated there didn't seem to be anything out of the ordinary.

#### **Disbursement Controls Policy**

Selectman B. Ostrosky reported he met with Business Manager, L. LaVia, and tested the purchase order process. A few details still need to be worked out that were confusing in reference to the authorization process as well as the bid request process. Mr. Ostrosky will meet again with Mrs. LaVia upon her return.

#### **Draft Ordinance for Septic inspection program-**

First Selectman C. Cope suggested holding two informational forums with Health Director, T. Simpkins, representatives from CLA and S. Randall of the Candlewood Watershed Initiative, to discuss and present the proposed Ordinance to the Public before the Town Meeting. The proposed forum dates are January 10th, 2014 and February 6, 2015. The Forums will be held at the ESF Building and notice published in the Citizen News to encourage attendance.

## HVECO/SWRPA/WCCOG

The group has met, and are working collaboratively to fight the DEEP mandate on Storm water Management, which would have an enormous compliance hardship and financial impact on small towns. First Selectman Cope read an excerpt from a letter originally presented at the HVECO/SWRPA/WCCOG meeting.

### New Business

#### Tax Refunds:

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve refund of \$ 405.88 of combined Real Estate and Motor vehicle taxes.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

#### Park & Recreation Finance Review:

Director, T. Wrenn and F. Frattini were invited to the table for discussion. First Selectman C. Cope read into record the Auditor's recommendations from the 2013-14 FY Audit Report. The BoS asked where they were in the implementation process to improve bookkeeping practices and record retention. The Auditor recommended P&R utilize Quickbooks when the Audit was published six months ago. Mrs. Frattini asked the BoS to clarify the recommendations. The BoS informed P&R is required to fill out purchase orders just as other departments. Funding received from programs is supposed to be submitted to the Treasurer and deposited into the General Fund. Use of these funds would require a request by purchase order. J. Wrenn requested a petty cash reserve for summer trips. Mr. Wrenn explained that quite often the exact amount needed for a trip isn't determined until the day of the event, it would be difficult to request an unknown amount of funding. It was also determined the existing checking account used by P&R was unnecessary. Mrs. Frattini explained having that checking account allows for flexibility to fund. The BoS requested P&R fully implement the Quickbooks program now, and use purchase orders to request permission for funding. The BoS requested a joint meeting between BoS, P&R and the Auditor to discuss further details.

#### Department of Public Works improvement strategies :

First Selectman C. Cope reported he met with D. Borkowski to discuss asset disposal/ asset acquisition. They will meet formally before the next monthly BoS meeting to discuss procedures.

#### Appointments:

First Selectman C. Cope reported the office was not in receipt of any endorsements from the Democratic Town Committee or the Republican Town Committee. Mr. Cope requested Mr. Holub reconsider his resignation. Mr. Holub requested that his duties be restructured and he would like approval to administer tasks. Upon the approval of the BoS he would formally withdraw his resignation. The BoS agreed to Mr. Holub's request.

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to reappoint Alice Schneckengerber to serve a three year term on the Historic District Commission.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to re-appoint Phyllis Schaer to serve as the Sherman representative of the Candlewood Lake Authority.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to appoint George Linkletter to serve two years to complete the term held by Ed Hayes on the Candlewood Lake Authority.  
Seconded by: B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to appoint Karen Kellett to serve a three year term as a Commissioner on the Parks & Recreation Commission.  
Seconded by: B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to appoint Sheila McMahon to serve on the Commission on Aging.  
Seconded by: B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

#### Happy Acres Farm Committee

First Selectman C. Cope reported he has been in contact with Sullivan Farms Board Chair, Katie Sullivan. Ralph Gorman has expressed interest in serving on a Committee for Happy Acres Farm.

#### General Discussion

Selectman B. Ostrosky- sharing concerns with residents of Southern Sherman regarding the need for improved cell service. Mr. Ostrosky asked First Selectman Cope if there has been any new information from the Siting Counsel. Mr. Ostrosky additionally requested the BoS consider withdrawing their request for municipal preference.

First Selectman C. Cope- will reach out to Mrs. Bachman for guidance.

Selectman A. O'Connor- requesting an update in reference to the Facilities Manager complaint outcome.

First Selectman C. Cope- will share information with the BoS regarding the dialogue with Labor Atty. Sedor.

#### Public Comment

J. Keneally- requesting Frank Spaziani, Facilities Manager Report added on the January Meeting Agenda

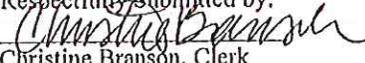
G. Maletz- read into record correspondence on behalf of the Southern Sherman Cell Tower Committee, dated December 18, 2014. Requesting the BoS take immediate action and initiate new negotiations with cell providers. (A copy of this letter is appended herewith)

G. Albert- requested the BoS reconsider their decision to remove the illuminated cross from atop the silo located at Happy Acres Farm.

#### Adjournment:

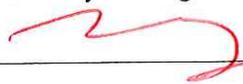
Selectman A. O'Connor Adjourned the Meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Christine Branson, Clerk  
December 30, 2014

\*Approved as amended at the Regular Monthly Meeting of January 22, 2015

  
First Selectman C. Cope

  
Selectman B. Ostrosky

  
Selectman A. O'Connor