



**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman
Regular Monthly Meeting
May 28, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Mallory Town Hall**

FINAL

Members Present: First Selectman, C. Cope, and Selectman B. Ostrosky

Members Absent: Selectman A. O'Connor

Audience & Invited: F. Lama, J. Lama, J. Keneally, L. LaVia, F. Spaziani, A. Blake, F. Frattini, C. Jellen, G. Linkletter, D. Lowe, G. Albert, A. Smith, E. Holub, J. Wrenn and V. Scheer (Citizen News)

Call to Order:

First Selectman C. Cope Called the Meeting to Order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to Approve the Minutes of April 23, 2015 with amendments.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

Correspondence:

No correspondence was received.

Public Comment:

No comment from the audience.

Old Business:

Progress report on Town projects:

Emergency Services Facility:

First Selectman Cope reported the exhaust system is still pending completion.

Public Works Wash Station:

First Selectman Cope reported he is working to redraft the RFP to include the Construction Manager.

Dock Replacement:

First Selectman C. Cope reported the new docks have been ordered and are awaiting delivery.

Water Issue regarding elevated sodium content:

First Selectman Cope reported he and the Town Sanitarian, Tim Simpkins, along with several Officials from the State were in Sherman April 16th, 2015 and took samples from 25 sites. First Selectman C. Cope will post the results on the Town website upon receipt.

Housing Commission Report:

No new report submitted.

Monthly financial summary review:

The monthly financial report shows no unanticipated overages. The Public Works Department continues to hold the same pattern; high in road maintenance and part time help. Treasurer E. Holub submitted the Moody's Investors Service rating report, showing the Town of Sherman received an Aa2 rating. This is a result of the Town's improved financial position following two consecutive years of surpluses.

Financial Controls:

B. Ostrosky reported progress on the purchasing policy. Selectman Ostrosky is also working on a Receipt of Gifts to the Town policy to address procedures and limitations on how the Town can receive gifts. Mr. Ostrosky has met with the Business Administrator to work out procedures regarding potential exceptions which are outside of the normal perimeters. Mr. Ostrosky has also met with D. Hopkins regarding the State radio bid. The New Milford bid Ordinance was shared for future feedback and review from the BoS. Additionally Mr. Ostrosky met with Parks & Recreation and Public Works to finalize purchasing policy and procedures and implementation. Mr. Ostrosky hopes to have drafts for the BoS to review by the next meeting.

Happy Acres Farm:

An email was read into record regarding an update on activities at the farm. Tenant Farmer, J. Motzinger of Full Circle Farming reported the Open House held Memorial Day weekend was a huge success with hundreds of people in attendance. They have opened up the farm stand, the hours of operation will be Thursday and Friday 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. and Saturday and Sunday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. First Selectman Cope reported he has received a verbal quote for the repair of the tractor at \$ 2,200.00. He is awaiting receipt of an official bill of services. The fountain/ aerator in the pond is in need of repair, and anticipated to cost between \$200.00 to \$500.00. The leak in the basement was determined to be ground water leaking into the basement from a faulty pipe. There will be a Special BoS Meeting June 2nd at 7:30pm with Full Circle to further discuss the scope of expectations, responsibilities and obligations of the tenants and Town.

Farm Committee:

First Selectman C. Cope reported he has been working with Sean Hayden of the North West Conservation District to clarify language for a Farm Committee Ordinance. Mr. Cope hopes to have a draft for review by the next meeting.

Sherman School Boiler update:

J. Keneally of the BoE Building Maintenance Committee reported receipt of four bid packages on May 6th, 2015. The BoE anticipates opening the packets next Wednesday June 3rd at 2:00pm. Facilities Manager F. Spaziani requested permission to start work before the end of the fiscal year. First Selectman Cope reminded Mr. Spaziani the funding is not available until the beginning of the 2015-16 FY which is July 1, 2015.

Sherman School K-wing update:

R. Handley spoke on behalf of the BoE and reported the Board has made the decision to restrict occupancy of the K-Wing for the remainder of this school year and next year as well. The idea is to repurpose the wing so that it is no longer used for class rooms, and move the kindergarten classes to a different location within the school. The core samples taken from the exterior wall revealed fourteen layers of materials used over the years. The BoE feels the best solution to rejuvenate use of the K-Wing is to fully remediate the area. The Health Director, Tim Simpkins stated the air quality is not hazardous, however as a precaution the BoE felt it best not to continue using that space for children. The BoE plans to meet to discuss putting together a RFP to seek bidders for the remediation work.

Discussion of potential Ordinance allowing Religious displays on town owned property:

The BoE discussed the illuminated cross that has traditionally been placed upon the silo at Happy Acres Farm when it was owned by the Hapanowich family. This past holiday season many citizens shared their displeasure with the Town for not continuing the tradition. There were also complaints the few times the cross was lit from those who felt it was inappropriate to have religious symbols on Town owned Property. There has been ongoing discussion as to the ability of the Town to display such symbols. Former First Selectman G. Albert has provided an ordinance from Massachusetts for the BoS to consider. Selectman B. Ostrosky stated there were still several unanswered questions not only in reference to the Town's ability to display such symbols, but questions about the silo in particular. Mr. Ostrosky requested a copy of the lease with AT&T to review the agreement.

New Business:

Tax Refunds:

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve the refund of Motor vehicle and Real Estate taxes totaling in the amount of \$ 703.01.

Secinded by: C. Cope

Vote: For: Unanimous

Park & Recreation After School Program discussion:

Director J. Wrenn and F. Frattini were invited to sit at the table for discussion. F. Frattini spoke on behalf of the Commission and stated when the BoS reported they would no-longer fund the after school program, the Commission has come up with a hopeful solution. Mrs. Frattini stated P&R will offer a self sustainable program to fulfill the after school needs of the community through what will now be called "ASP", short for After School Program. P&R does not plan on requesting any funding. At one time the after school program was very successful, however there are dwindling numbers of children and this program has run in a deficit for several years. Selectman B. Ostrosky requested information on how financial practices will be followed. Mr. Wrenn stated they are in the process of seeking early enrolment of participants as well as in discussion with the program director in reference to working on an as needed basis only, and paid only when here is funding. First Selectman C. Cope stated he would have to run this past the Labor Atty. before consenting to anything. Treasurer E. Holub stated this proposal sounds like a continuation of the previous program. First Selectman C. Cope asked what P&R were going to differently to prevent an ongoing deficit. Mrs. Frattini stated they were planning on notifying the parents for early enrollment, In addition, the rates have been raised for daily fees, families of multiple children will no longer receive a discount, and the program will be charged per hour not

per day and drop in rates will be higher. The BoS requested this discussion continue at the June Monthly Meeting, and in the meantime Mr. Cope will contact the Labor Atty.

Set Town Mil rate:

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to set the Town Mil Rate for FY 2015-16 at 20.04

Seconded by: C. Cope

Vote: For: Unanimous

Discussion on draft version of Happy Acres Restricted Fund Ordinance:

Treasurer E. Holub provided the BoS a revised draft of the proposed ordinance. Mr. Holub has requested these revisions be considered to allow approved investment managers the ability to diversely invest the endowment funds, and provide financial over view through reports to be viewed by the Public. The BoS will review the recommendations and will plan to discuss further at the next meeting.

Fox Run Detention basin

Linda Berger read an email into record providing a summary of the previous history. Several years ago an engineering report was created to outline the scope of the work needed to improve the run off at Fox Run. In 2009 grant funding was applied for and approved. The grant was approved, however the amount fell short of the actual costs for the construction. Nothing happened. The funding still sits earmarked for this project. First Selectman C. Cope stated he applied for additional funding in 2011, and had Howland and Assoc. create an updated engineering plan. Mrs. Berger requested the BoS re-apply for an additional grant to cover the cost of construction. First Selectman C. Cope stated he would set up a meeting with Howland & Assoc. again to make modifications to the plans and hopefully bring down the costs. The BoS discussed the possibility of tapping into additional grant funding from the State. First Selectman C. Cope stated he will additionally contact OPM to see what can be done. This discussion will continue and be on the agenda for next month.

Tax Abatement request from Great Hollow Management, Inc.

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to authorize tax abatement in the amount of \$236.44 regarding the Great Hollow Management, Inc located at 1 Route 37 South, 2 Route 37 South, and 39 Hardscrabble Road.

Seconded by: C. Cope

Vote: For: Unanimous

General Discussion

First Selectman C. Cope discussed the Smoke Ridge Road and South View paving project bid documents, stating they are on the Town website and will be advertized in the Spectrum this week. Bids are due June 18th at 4pm and will be reviewed by Public Works Supervisor to award at the June 25th BoS Meeting. Additionally Mr. Cope reported he will be meeting with representatives from the DoT as well as members of the Traffic Safety to discuss a safety issue regarding the intersection of Routes 37 & 39 the road conditions as well as adequate signage must be addressed to ensure the safety of pedestrians traveling across the roadways. First Selectman C. Cope is in the process of applying for State funding to reclaim and repave Tabor Road. The BoS received a copy of an recently adopted ordinance from the Town of Kent to review regarding the "Right to Farm", they will review this ordinance and possibly discuss at the next BoS meeting.

Public Comment:

A. Blake- reported she has had a reverse osmosis water purification system installed at her home, which was recently affected by the high levels of sodium in the drinking water. Additionally she commented on the report given by Park & Rec. stating she felt the fee increase was unjust for the after school program. She feels the program will lose more participation if it costs too much.

A. Chiaramonte- commended the Town for the recent Moody's rating. Additionally Mrs. Chiaramonte requested information regarding the Smoke Ridge bid notice in the Spectrum, asking why it isn't posted in the local paper.

Adjournment:

First Selectman C. Cope Adjourned the Meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

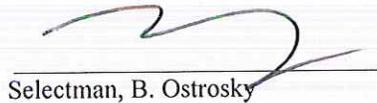


Christine Branson, Board Clerk
June 4, 2015

APPROVED AS WRITTEN AT THE JUNE 25, 2015 REGULAR MEETING



First Selectman, Clay Cope



Selectman, B. Ostrosky



Selectman, A. O'Connor