



**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman
Regular Monthly Meeting
June 25, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Mallory Town Hall**

FINAL

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

Members Absent: None

Audience & Invited: G. Albert, J. O' Connor, J. Judd, R. Judd, F. Frattini, C. Jellen, A. Blake, T. Hahn, B. Ireland, E. Holub, J. Wrenn, A. Zeisler, 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:

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting
May 28, 2015 as written.

Seconded by: C. Cope Vote: For: 2 Abstain: 1 (O'Connor)

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve the Minutes of Special Meeting
June 2, 2015 as written.

Seconded by: C. Cope Vote: For: 2 Abstain: 1 (O'Connor)

Correspondence:

State Senator M. McLachlan- in reference to House Bill 7019, the MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement) Bill passing.

Sherman Park & Recreation- June Meeting Minutes

Candlewood Lake Authority- June Meeting Minutes

Residents For Reliable Cell Service, A. Zeisler- thanking the BoE for the opportunity at the June 3rd, 2015 BoE Meeting to discuss the need for expanded cell service throughout Sherman.

LaVia, L.- proposing a solution to the roadside mowing at Happy Acres Farm.

Pollack, L. resignation from the ZBA effective June 24, 2015. Ms. Pollack will be moving out of Sherman.

Public Comment:

Zeisler, A.- spoke further regarding the correspondence he submitted in reference to the need for expanded cell service throughout Sherman.

Jellen, C. – in reference to the BoS's decision to de-fund the Town Hall portion of the Facilities Manager salary, stating he feels it was a tremendous mistake.

Beatty, T. – requesting implementation of a notification registry to email interested parties when a Special Meeting of the BoS is scheduled.

Greenbaum, S.- also in reference to an email registry, stating Kent has a similar service through "Listserve".

Scheer, V.- also in reference to implementation of an email registry, stating there is a free service called "Mailchimp".

Selectman B. Ostrosky- requesting implementation of an email registry be added to the July Regular Meeting Agenda.

Old Business:

Progress report on Town projects:

Emergency Services Facility:

First Selectman C. Cope reported a progress report submitted from D. Raines: all systems are functioning as designed. Mr. Raines also stated he will begin interviewing facility managers. Selectman. A. O'Connor asked if the Town has completed funding the ESF project at his point. First Selectman Cope replied to his knowledge, yes.

Public Works Wash Station:

First Selectman C. Cope reported he is working to redraft the RFP to include a simple Construction Manager. Mr. Cope has reached out to the New Milford Mayor, P. Murphy to inquire of details when they built their wash station.

Dock Replacement:

First Selectman C. Cope reported the new docks are scheduled to be installed by Tucker & Sons on July 30th, 2015.

Water Issue regarding elevated sodium content:

First Selectman C. Cope read into record an email from the Town Sanitarian, Tim Simpkins, dated June 24, 2015 reporting the results of the water tests conducted on May 15th all property owners have been mailed a copy. The property owners are encouraged to contact the Sherman Health Department to discuss any concerns. The CT Department of Public Health has requested the Sherman Health Department continue sampling on a quarterly basis for the remainder of 2015 and on a monthly basis during the winter of 2016. Selectman A. O'Connor asked where the funding is coming from to conduct these sample tests.

Fox Run Detention Basin:

First Selectman C. Cope reported meeting with Howland & Associates, P. Szymanski in an effort to re-work the engineering contracts to bring back to the scope of the \$50,000.00 scope, which was approved to be funded by State Grants.

Smoke Ridge Road and Southview Road paving Bid Results:

First Selectman C. Cope reported the results of the bid opening. Three proposals were received, the lowest bid received was from American Paving in the amount of \$64, 950.00.

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Award American Paving the Smoke Ridge Road and Southview Road paving contract not to exceed the amount of \$64, 950.00.

Seconded by: C. Cope

Vote: For: Unanimous

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.

Financial Controls:

B. Ostrosky reported correspondence from Town Atty. J. Seinkewicz regarding the request for guidance to by-pass bid ordinance for purchasing State recommended radios. Atty. Seinkewicz advised the BoS to include the State Bid prices when publishing the RFQ. Additionally Selectman Ostrosky requested the BoS consider update of the Town Bid Ordinance to reflect the recommendations from the Town Atty.

Happy Acres Farm:

An email was read into record regarding an update on activities at the farm. Tenant Farmer, A. Mantzaris of Full Circle Farming reported they have 24 children enrolled in the camp program coming up. Discussion moved to the proposed sale list of equipment that was submitted from Full Circle. At a Special Meeting held earlier this month, the farmers discussed various pieces of equipment that they were not using. The BoS had requested a list along with photos to identify this equipment and compare to the appraisal received by the Trust. The BoS discussed the list submitted. First Selectman Cope expressed concerns regarding sale of the silage equipment, stating in the event the farm returns to use of silage, this equipment would be needed in the future. The BoS agreed several pieces were valuable and should be kept. Selectman O'Connor stated some of the equipment is in disrepair and that it would not make sense to keep nonfunctioning equipment. First Selectman Cope stated he has put a request to have the silo and related equipment evaluated, he will additionally have the Caterpillar equipment and the 1991 Cub Cadet evaluated as well. The BoS then discussed the previous suggestion by L. LaVia proposing use of the Cell Tower funds to pay for mowing along the roadsides. The BoS disagreed with this proposal, since it was a factor why several of the bids were denied when the Town was seeking bids for the tenant farmers. The BoS agreed it would be Full Circle's expense if they hire someone else to mow.

Farm Committee:

First Selectman C. Cope reported he was approached by C. Royal of Strawberry Fields as an interested party to join the Committee. Mr. Cope stated he feels the Committee needs someone with firm knowledge of cattle. Selectman O'Connor stated S. Moga and R. Gorman bring a lot of guidance to the Farmers, but feels the Committee is in need of an advocate for the Town as well. Selectman Ostrosky stated he agreed with Mrs. O'Connor, at this point the BoS has been playing the role of Town advocate, but none of the Selectman have experience with cattle. The BoS discussed transitioning to a formal Farm Commission which will include outlining details for the capacity of the role of the Town's over site. First Selectman Cope has requested guidance from Northwest Conservation District, Sean Hayden and will additionally seek advice from Sullivan Farms in New Milford.

Sherman School K-wing update:

R. Handley spoke on behalf of the BoE and reported the Board has established a Task Force regarding the future use of the wing. One topic of discussion will be creating a consent form for adults that will be occupying the wing. Health Director, Simpkins did not feel the air quality was of particular threat. The BoE has agreed to post signs regarding the air quality and to move forward with the proposed plans to convert classroom space to two bathrooms for the alternative placement of the kindergarten classrooms. Mr. Handley informed the BoS the BoE plans to return \$ 45,000.00 of unexpended revenue back to the General Fund and is now requesting use of this funding to be put toward the boiler project. The BoE rejected all bids from the previous RFP for replacement of the school boiler. The BoE plans to re-publish the RFP seeking bids under \$250,000.00. The BoS discussed holding a Town Meeting for the rewording of the original School Boiler RFP.

New Business

Tax Refunds:

No refund request was received.

Park & Recreation After School Program Discussion:

The BoS invited Director, J. Wrenn; Commission Chair, F. Fratinni and Commissioner S. Greenbaum to discuss their plan for this coming fall. At the last meeting P&R announced they wish to continue offering the program under a new name ASP (After School Program). The BoS encouraged early enrollment to ensure the program's success. The business plan that was discussed was based on a model that requires 6 children at minimum to be self sufficient. The BoS asked Mrs. Frattini if they have met their goal of 6 children enrolled. Mrs. Frattini answered not yet. The BoS stated if the program is not successful at keeping a minimum of 6 children enrolled, the program will need to be discontinued. P&R and the BoS agreed they would announce before the December break if they were going to discontinue the program. The BoS requested a monthly status report given at the BoS Monthly Meetings to keep a close watch on the revenues.

Park & Recreation Director's payment request:

Director, J. Wrenn has requested reconciliation of a portion of his salary that was set aside to offset staffing during his vacation time. This was set up years ago by former First Selectman A. O'Connor when there was a different Assistant Director who also was the Spark Director. This probably caused confusion to the Business Administrator defining lines within P&R's Budget and was removed from the Budget, however the amount was not added back to the Director's Salary line. Mr. Wrenn is requesting the salary return to the original amount and compensation be reconciled for FY 14-15 in the amount of \$ 1,200.00.

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve payment of \$ 1,200.00 to J. Wrenn to come out of the SPARK salary line to compensate for an error in the Director's salary from FY 2014-15.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

Appointments

Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA) Representative and Alternate

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve re-appointment of Clay Cope as Representative and Ruth Byrne as Alternate to serve on the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA) until June 30th, 2018.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

FY 2015 High Risk Rural Roads- Speed Enforcement Program

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Accept State of Connecticut, Dpt. of Transportation and Federal Government Grant funding in the amount of \$ 4,000.00 for the FY 2015 High Risk Rural Roads-Speed Enforcement Program to purchase a solar powered speed radar sign with traffic data collection, as per the request of the Sherman Traffic Committee.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

General Discussion

Selectman Ostrosky inquired why the Religious Displays on Town owned properties was not on the Agenda. The lease agreement between the Town and AT&T was needed to continue the discussion. Selectman O'Connor asked if the Tenants showed any preference. First Selectman Cope replied the tenants were asked, but never gave an answer. First Selectman Cope stated he would add the discussion back to the July Agenda.

Senior Tax Relief Discussion- will be added to the July Agenda

Improvement of Cell Coverage in Sherman- will be added to the July Agenda

Public Comment

T. Hahn- spoke in reference to a Special BoS Meeting of April 13, 2015 where discussion took place with representative from Homeland Towers, Mr. Vergotti. Ms. Hahn has requested the BoS take a plan of action regarding concerns over the need for improved cellular service within the Town of Sherman. Ms. Hahn additionally provided the correct spelling of the representative from Homeland Towers, Mr. Vergotti. Ms. Hahn shared correspondence to First Selectman Chapman of New Fairfield from the Connecticut Siting Counsel dated May 20, 2015, which included a coverage map of current conditions. Ms. Hahn reiterated her concerns for the safety of travelers along the roads in Sherman, specifically school bus safety along the 10 to 15 mile routes without cell coverage. Ms. Hahn is requesting the BoS to take a plan of action to improve the cell service in the Town.

A. Blake- spoke in reference to the ongoing discussion regarding the mowing along the road at Happy Acres Farm, reporting the tenant farmers have been focusing their energy on the health and welfare of the cattle and crops. Ms. Blake asks the BoS and residents to be more sensitive in this matter.

T. Beatty- also spoke in reference to the mowing discussion along the road at Happy Acres Farm. Mr. Beatty shared a different opinion stating his disappointment with the upkeep. Mr. Beatty wondered how two "old men" could meticulously maintain the fence line without trouble for years while the "young" tenants struggle today. Mr. Beatty feels Tony Happanowich's legacy is not

being maintained to the standards he set forth. Mr. Beatty questioned the over-site of the cattle and asked what the procedure was to sell a cow.

S. Greenbaum- recommended the BoS reach out to the Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust in Kent to inquire how they oversee the maintenance of their properties.

A. Zeisler- requested information regarding the time frame required in reference to the posting of the BoS Meeting Minutes.

J. Judd- spoke in reference to the Happy Acres Farm, expressing his disappointment with the general practices of the tenant farmers. Specifically Mr. Judd was most upset by the cattle being kept in full sun and provided hot water. Additionally Mr. Judd was upset by the lack of use or possible misuse of the existing equipment, and confused about the over-site of the heard.

G. Albert- shared similar concerns regarding the tenant farmers at Happy Acres Farm. Also of concern was the paving bid from American Paving for the Smoke Ridge Road and Southview Road projects. Mr. Albert warned the BoS to be cautious of such a low bid.

R. Judd- spoke in reference to her concerns over the general health of the cattle at Happy Acres Farm.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Branson, Board Clerk

* July 11, 2015

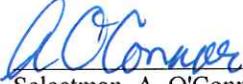
APPROVED AS WRITTEN AT THE JULY 23, 2015 REGULAR MEETING



First Selectman, Clay Cope



Selectman, B. Ostrosky



Selectman, A. O'Connor