



**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman
Regular Monthly Meeting
August 27, 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: E. Holub, J. Siegel, W. Knaak, A. Chiaramonte, B. Hoag, B. Ireland, S. Greenbaum, A. Blake, C. McDermott, D. Lowe, J Keneally, F. Spaziani, G. Maletz, S. Maletz, F. Spaziani, A. Motzinger, T. Hahn, C. Diotte, B. Lama, and V. Scheer (Citizen News)

Call to Order: First Selectman C. Cope Called the Meeting to Order at 7:02 p.m

Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting of July 23, 2015

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting July 23, 2015 as amended on page 4, under Sherman School K-Wing update, Motion to empower First Selectman C. Cope to hire a Clerk of the Works to oversee the replacement and repairs to the boilers to project completion.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

Special Meeting of August 19, 2015

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve the Minutes of Special Meeting August 19, 2015 as written

Seconded by: C. Cope

Vote: For: 2 Abstain: 1 (A. O'Connor)

Correspondence:

CIRMA- Members Equity Distribution check presented to the Town of Sherman in the amount of \$4,956.00.

Housatonic Valley MPO- Staff comments on the Draft CT DOT Capital Plan for 2016-20- Showing Sherman's Route 37 request for reconstruction and safety improvements from Route 39 in Sherman to Route 7 in New Milford Phases 1, 2, and 3 for a total of \$ 17,254,000.00- Not in plan

Sherman Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, from Chairman, T. Zinn- Reminder to obtain permits and observe proper procedures for Town owned property at Happy Acres Farm where recent excavation work was done. The Commission identified an invasive plant knotweed growing in the fill that was brought from the Town Garage. The Commission recommended immediate removal and grass planted in its place.

Clay Cope- In response to the Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses letter- apologizing for not following proper protocol and assurance the removal of the invasive plant will be addressed.

Public Comment:

There was no comment from the Public.

Monthly Financial Summary Review:

First Selectman Cope spoke in reference to an email from Business Administrator, L. LaVia regarding a question from the 2014-15 final expenditure last month. The question was concerning the Re-val Fund, which showed the full funding was not transferred. Mrs. LaVia has updated the final summary with the proper amount.

Financial Controls:

The BoS discussed the Bid Ordinance procedure which will also be gone over with the DPW. It was also pointed out the Purchasing Policy is not aligned with the Bid Ordinance.

Happy Acres Farm:

First Selectman Cope read into record an email from J. Motsinger with the monthly update. They are awaiting the arrival of the last three calves which will bring this years' total to 30. They have hosted several community events, recently 200 guests joined for the 1st Annual Western Connecticut Farm Crawl. They also hosted a cooking demonstration with neighbor "Sal the butcher" and screened a documentary film about beginning farmers on the side of the barn. Additionally they thanked Andrew Romano for his hard work and dedication this summer volunteering on the farm. Mr. Cope has received a quote of \$ 11,000.00 from Mike Hayes in reference to the silo repairs. The BoS discussed the list of parts and labor included in the quote. The BoS was told the silage was still good, and could be sold. Selectman Ostrosky requested additional bids. The BoS discussed the list of equipment the tenant farmers have recommended for sale. A local person has shown interest in purchasing the "Happy Acres Tractor". The tenant farmers are interested in keeping the small tractor. Selectman Ostrosky stated he has no objections to selling the unused equipment as long as it is priced according to the appraisal amount. Discussion followed regarding the funds received from the equipment sales. Treasurer E, Holub recommended the cost of the repairs to the silo be approved at the Annual Town Meeting in October.

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve the sale of the unused Happy Acres Farm equipment as listed, and the proceeds may be deposited into the restricted fund.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve any equipment that does not sell may be sold for scrap metal and those proceeds may be deposited into the restricted fund.

Seconded by: C. Cope

Vote: For: Unanimous

Sherman School K-wing update:

The kindergarten teachers have settled in seamlessly to the re-located class rooms. The BoE is in the process of implementing consent documents for adult staff utilizing the work areas in the k-wing. The water system has received a green light from State and local Health Departments.

Sherman School Boiler update from Clerk of the Works

F. Spaziani provided photos of the work stages and reported the boiler project has gone smoothly, everything appears to be complete in time for the heating season. A full test will be conducted on September 14th to assure everything is in working order. A chimney liner still needs to be installed and is scheduled to be put in place September 5th. This will be done by crane. Mr. Spaziani requested the First Selectman announce there will be no parking allowed at the school that day to assure the ease of

installation. Selectman Ostrosky requested a plan from F. Spaziani should there be problems with the initial start up of the boilers. Mr. Spaziani stated a portable system could be fed through an existing fresh air intake until the problem is resolved, the contractor would be responsible for the cost should the need arise. Mr. Spaziani added there was a change order in the amount of \$21,600.00 that he denied for added piping. The reason it was denied was because it was not included in the original bid. An additional item Mr. Spaziani wanted to bring to the BoS' attention was the contractor had installed a single walled liner when the original plan was for a double walled liner. Mr. Spaziani stated he requested documentation from the supplier with the final cost of the liner and the school will be credited the difference of the cost.

Residents for Reliable Cell Service in Sherman

Ms. T. Hahn spoke in reference to the recent article in the paper written by Selectman Ostrosky. Ms. Hahn thanked Selectman Ostrosky for supporting the need for improved cell service in Sherman. Mr. Cope has been in contact with Mr. Vergati of Homeland Towers provided an update, that he has met with property owners and is seeking a site with the least visual impact. He plans to work with carriers and P&Z along the way. Completion of this project could take two to three years. First Selectman Cope stated he fully supports Homeland Towers' search for a viable location. Selectman O'Connor stated she will no longer be on the BoS when this finally comes to fruition, but encourages the BoS not to put up any barriers to hinder the progress.

Senior Tax Relief Proposal

Selectman B. Ostrosky reported that he looked at the proposal from the Housing Commission and suggests the Town could make a stronger commitment without causing too much of a financial impact. First Selectman Cope stated he would like to meet with the Tax Assessor to discuss this further. The BoS hopes to continue this discussion at the September Monthly meeting with a firm proposal to bring to the October Town meeting.

Acceptance of a DOT cash grant for one wheelchair accessible vehicle for the transportation of the elderly and/or persons with disabilities:

First Selectman C. Cope has reached out to Doug Gifford and was advised to accept the grant funding. The current value of the existing van should offset the cost by approximately \$7,000.00. The Town will not be responsible for payments until July 1, 2016.

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to authorize First Selectman C. Cope to act as the Town's agent to accept the CT DoT 5310 Grant funding and approve all necessary documentation to enter into contract.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

New Business

Tax Refunds:

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve refund of combined Property and motor vehicle Taxes in the amount of \$668.33.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

Town Beach Closing Report

L. Marsicano and P. Shaer spoke on behalf of the Candlewood Lake Authority to report on the recent Blue Green algae bloom at the Town beach. Mr. Marsicano reported the beach was closed on August 14, 2015 due to the observation of blue green algae presence. The lifeguards have been trained to look for blue green algae on a daily basis. When the bloom was observed, the lifeguards notified P&R Director, J. Wrenn, who contacted L. Marsicano and Health Director T. Simpkins. The Beach was officially closed. New Fairfield closed the following Monday as well as Brookfield. Mr. Marsicano walked the BoS through the process of how the tests are conducted by the lifeguards. First Selectman Cope asked why the beaches were not closed in Danbury or New Milford. Mr. Marsicano stated the conditions at those beaches are different than those of Sherman, New Fairfield and Brookfield, caused by the coves, the water does not circulate as much. Thanks to recent funding, the Candlewood Lake Authority has implemented an early testing system to detect the bloom early and reduces exposure to the toxins that the algae causes. Scott Randall also spoke in reference to the blue green algae and handed out 3 items to the BoS. Mr. Randall still feels strongly that the implementation of septic monitoring would positively impact the health of the Lake. He also recommends requirement of a buffer area along the lake of non grass plantings to reduce the amount of fertilizer run off from properties along the lake.

Sherman Traffic Safety Work Group Report:

First Selectman C. Cope read a letter into record from E. Hayes, Chair of the Sherman Traffic Safety Work Group received August 21st, 2015. The traffic safety group recommends the implementation of metal guard rails along the intersection of Chapel Hill and Route 37 South. They observed vehicles traveling at excessive speeds along this area which has claimed at least one fatality in the recent past. The BoS discussed placement of a permanent speed sign on Wakeman Hill Road which will be funded from State grant money received.

Road Paving Projects

The BoS discussed the balance of grant funding left from recent roadwork projects. At the last monthly meeting, First Selectman Cope recommended patching and repairs to Briggs Hill, Veteran's Field parking lot and the Playhouse parking lots. Selectman O'Connor requested additional information regarding Briggs Hill. Selectman Ostrosky requested a road repairs priority list. Selectman O'Connor shared concern for the condition of Wakeman Hill Road and stated she would like to see this added to the list.

Public Utilities Commission

First Selectman C. Cope is proposing to create a Public Utilities Commission which will consist of 6 appointed members, the charge of this Commission will be to assess the needs of the Town and make recommendations regarding improvements to the Town's infrastructure such as gas lines, telecommunications, electric and internet lines, and solar programs. The BoS discussed the draft outline, it was noted there was supposed to be an additional page which was left out. Mr. Cope will re-scan the draft and add this item to the September Agenda for further discussion.

Public Comment:

First Selectman, C. Cope- wanted to make the Public aware there was a rabid fox reported on Jericho Road. The Health Director was notified and the fox was captured within an hour. Mr. Cope recommends keeping pets close to the home and limiting their exposure to wild animals at this time.

A. Blake- Requesting an explanation for the recent implementation of port o potties at the Beach Pavillion.

- First Selectman, C. Cope- replied the port o potties were a result of low water pressure, P&R requested the potties in anticipation of a large attendance of a recent event. Mr. Cope is looking to re-assess the restroom maintenance schedule and possibly replace the toilets with water efficient commodes. This discussion item will be added to the September Agenda.
- S. Greenbaum- expressing concern regarding the recent cut to the scope of responsibilities of the Facilities Manager. Also Mr. Greenbaum stated he feels the pavilion restroom water pressure problem would be alleviated by implementing a 500 gallon water storage tank.
- L. Berger- requesting a status report regarding the Fox Run Detention Basin. Also inquiring the protocol in reference to notification of the lake communities when there is an emergency or closing such as the recent algae bloom.
- W. Knaak- stating his approval of the winter draw down of Candlewood lake, it seems to have made a difference in the milfoil this summer.
- T. Hahn- requesting a uniform mode of communication to include Sherman's small communities with public concerns.

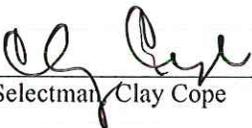
Adjournment

Selectman B. Ostrosky Adjourned the Meeting at 9:00 pm.

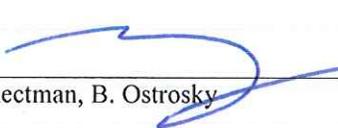
Respectfully submitted,

Christine Branson, Board Clerk
* September 3, 2015

APPROVED AS WRITTEN AT THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2015 REGULAR MEETING



First Selectman, Clay Cope



Selectman, B. Ostrosky



Selectman, A. O'Connor