



**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman
Regular Monthly Meeting
November 19, 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: A. Sartori, E. Holub, G. Linkletter, A. Blake, B. Hoag, A. VanPlachecki, R. Handley, C. Jellen, G. Maletz, S. Maletz, C. Fazzone, J. McRoberts, D. Lowe, T. Hahn and V. Scheer (Citizen News)

Call to Order: First Selectman C. Cope Called the Meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m

Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting of October 22, 2015

Tabled to December

Correspondence

Zinn, T. - letter of resignation from Chairman of the Inland/ Wetlands Commission.

Wey, J. - letter on behalf of the Commission on Aging, requesting the BoS consideration of funding added to the Senior Center transportation budget to allow an additional weekly shopping trip (approximately three additional hours a week) to ensure safety of passengers and alleviate overcrowding issues.

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to add item "j." Senior Transportation Budget request to New Business for discussion and possible action to tonight's Agenda.
Seconded by: B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

Public Comment

Van Plachecki, A. - spoke on behalf of the Housing Commission- in support of the request of the Commission on Aging to add to the Senior Transportation budget three additional hours weekly.

Old Business

Progress report on Town projects

Road paving projects

First Selectman C. Cope reported the paving projects at Briggs Hill, Veterans Field parking lot; Sherman Playhouse driveway and parking area are all complete. Taber Road bid packets will be opened later in this meeting.

Public Works wash station

First Selectman Cope reported the bids received came in considerably over budget. Mr. Cope has requested the Town Engineer, T. Iadorola to modify the plans to reduce costs and present at the December meeting. Mr. Cope stated he and the Business Administrator, L. LaVia continue to work on grant applications for this project.

Fox Run detention basin

First Selectman Cope reported he is hopeful the project will be put out for bid in early 2016 and will continue to work on grant applications for this project as well.

Water issue regarding elevated sodium content

First Selectman Cope reported tests were conducted in November and will again in December. The BoS discussed possible need for remediation, if it becomes necessary. First Selectman Cope reported he would speak to the Town Sanitarian, T. Simpkins regarding short term and long term details and report test results once available.

Sherman School K-wing Update

BoE Chair, R. Handley read into record an email that was sent to the School Superintendent regarding the intent to maintain the health and safety of the students and staff, while determining the best use for the wing for the future. The wing is currently being used by adults as Administrative offices, and all parties using the wing have signed a consent form stating they are aware of the air quality issues. Originally it was proposed to create an alternate classrooms and restroom for the kindergarten classes, however the added restroom will not be needed at this time.

Housing Commission report

Chair, A. Van Plachecki submitted a draft of the housing survey, and is seeking recommendations regarding funding for mailing, printing, postage, and return postage and other ideas from the BoS. Before the surveys are mailed, Mr. Van Plachecki hopes to publish a few letters to the editor in the Citizen News to make the community aware of the survey. In closing, Mr. Van Plachecki stated he is aware his term will expire at the end of next month, and would like to express his desire to continue to serve as Chair to the BoS.

Monthly financial summary review

The BoS briefly discussed the financial report and agreed everything was tracking on schedule.

Financial controls

Selectman B. Ostrosky reported he has separated out the Asset Policy and is seeking input and action of the BoS. He continues to work on the Purchasing Policy; a working copy will be shared with incoming elected Selectman D. Lowe as well as the department heads for feedback and possible approval at the December Meeting.

Happy Acres Farm report

First Selectman Cope read email correspondence into record. Full Circle Farming has had a busy November, stock piling hay and completing the temporary winter shelter for the herd while the main barn undergoes repairs. The official website is up and running- www.happyacres.com where one can view the upcoming events. First Selectman Cope reported he will be seeking a bid from a professional excavator to do the trenching work needed to the alternate barn that will serve as shelter for the herd this winter. The silage spreader was repaired within the approved appropriation amount.

Sherman School boiler update from Clerk of the Works

First Selectman Cope read into record an email from the Sherman School Clerk of the Works, F. Spaziani dated November 18th, 2015. Mr. Spaziani reports the boilers re all fully operational and complete. The final shop meeting took place 11/6/15. County Wide will provide all close out documentation and final billing for review as well as completion of a few final punch list items.

Residents for Reliable Cell Service in Sherman

T. Hahn provided a report; they are going back to the CT DoT for additional data regarding traffic patterns collected in 2014 on the main arteries traveling through Sherman. Ms. Hahn stated she would be happy to provide anyone interested the link to the website as well. First Selectman Cope stated he would like to share this information with SWERPA. Ms. Hahn gave a brief report regarding the status of Homeland Towers' search for an appropriate site. Mr. Vergati is in the process of seeking a landlord and hopes to enter into a contract by the year's end. Homeland Towers will then seek build out plans of competing carriers. A. Zeisler asked if a copy of the school bus routes and usage could be created from these reports, stating it would be useful information to have.

Senior Tax Relief proposal

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Accept amendment and take to a Town Meeting on December 16th, 2015 the proposed Ordinance entitled "Tax Relief for the Elderly and Totally Disabled Persons"

Seconded by: A. O'Connor Vote: For: Unanimous

New Business

Tax Refunds: No refund request was submitted

2016 Board of Selectmen's meeting calendar approval

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to Approve the 2016 BoS Schedule of Meetings as well as the 2016 Budget Meeting Schedule as submitted.

Seconded by B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

2016 Town Holiday Schedule

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to Approve the 2016 Town Holiday Schedule as submitted.

Seconded by A. O'Connor Vote: For: Unanimous

Commission Appointments

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to re-appoint to the Inland Wetlands Commission Frank Galasso, Commissioner, to serve a four year term to expire 01/01/2020 and Ernie Dech, Alternate Commissioner, to serve a two year term to expire 01/01/2018.

Seconded by B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to appoint to the Inland Wetlands Commission Robert Putnam, Alternate Commissioner to serve a two year term to expire 12/20/2017

Seconded by A. O'Connor Vote: For: Unanimous

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to re-appoint to the Park and Recreation Commission; Fran Frattini, William Butts, and Denise DePalma, all to serve three year terms to expire 01/01/2019

Seconded by B. Ostrosky Vote: For: Unanimous

Proposal for Ambulance Service Billing

Anthony Sartori, SVFD Billing Committee Chair read a proposal into record on behalf of the SVFD requesting the BoS' consideration regarding the implementation of billing for ambulance services. The funds received would be used to offset the ever increasing cost of State mandated updating of equipment and continuing education programs. Sherman is one of only seven towns in the State of Connecticut that has not implemented billing for services. The BoS was supportive of SVFD's request, however did have further questions. This item will carry over to the December Agenda.

SVFD request: \$7500.00 appropriation for blood gas meter (2014-2015) to be re-appropriated for AEDs

Cathy Grant, also of SVFD, spoke on behalf of the Department's request to re-appropriate funding which was once earmarked to pay for blood gas meters in 2014/15. Since receiving funding approval for the meters in 2014, the State standards changed and the meters were not purchased. SVFD has determined the funding would best be used toward purchasing 4 Automated External Defibrillators. The SVFD has a total of 6, which will be outdated soon. SVFD intends to make up any difference of costs.

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to accept SVFD's request to re-appropriate \$7,500.00 approved in FY 2014/15 for blood gas meters to be used for replacement of 4 new Automated External Defibrillators and take this request to a Town Meeting on December 16th, 2015.

Seconded by B. Ostrosky **Vote: For: Unanimous**

Authorizing Resolution for DEMHS Region 5: 2015 Homeland Security Grant Program

First Selectman C. Cope recommends the grant application be withdrawn, stating the potential fund amount vs. administrative effort are not cost effective.

Taber Road/Holy Trinity Parking Lot Paving Bid Opening

First Selectman C. Cope stated the Town has received and opened one bid proposal for the paving of Taber Road and Holy Trinity parking lot. The bid package submitted was from American Pavement Specialists, LLC located at 79 Cross Street, Danbury, CT the bid amounts are \$14,000.00 for Taber Road and \$14,500.00 for the Holy Trinity parking lot. The BoS discussed the projects briefly and moved to accept the proposal for Taber Road only.

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Award the Taber Road paving project to American Pavement Specialists, LLC located at 79 Cross Street, Danbury, CT not to exceed the amount of \$14,000.00 with the condition this proposal meets all standards and requirements of the Department of Public Works.

Seconded by A. O'Connor **Vote: For: Unanimous**

Inter-town Capital Equipment (ICE) Purchase Incentive Program Grant for CLA Patrol Boat

Candlewood Lake Authority is in the process of submitting a pre- grant application to the State for grant funding through the Inter-Town Capital Equipment Purchase Incentive Program to replace the patrol boat. This grant will fund up to 60% the cost of equipment and 40% will be due from CLA. CLA has requested a joint commitment from the five surrounding towns to split the remaining 40% cost of the boat. The BoS discussed their desire to receive feedback from the four other towns, since by committing now would affect Sherman's portion if only a few or no other towns agreed. Selectman C. Cope stated there was an additional grant that he would like to look into to see if it would apply to this scenario.

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Authorize First Selectman Clay Cope to act on behalf of the five surrounding municipalities to apply for the Inter-town Capital Equipment (ICE) Purchase Incentive Program Grant.

Seconded by A. O'Connor **Vote: For: Unanimous**

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to bring to a Town Meeting on December 16th, 2015 the request for approval to fund up to but not to exceed \$10,000.00 toward CLA's request to replace the patrol boat, contingent upon the full cooperation and contribution agreement of all five surrounding municipalities

Seconded by B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

Senior Transportation Budget Request

The BoS had discussed earlier in this meeting a request from the Commission on Aging to add three hours to the Senior Transportation budget to allow an additional weekly shopping trip. The consistent overcrowded conditions prove a need to increase the hours to allow an additional trip. The bus has been filled to capacity and could pose safety concerns or health concerns for those that may not be able to endure a lengthy trip.

Selectman A. O'Connor Moved to Approve the transfer from the Resident State Trooper budget the amount of \$ 1,500.00 to the Senior Transportation Budget, to allow three additional hours for weekly trips for the remainder of 2015 FY.

Seconded by B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

General Discussion: Items to be brought up by Selectmen for future agendas

Selectman B. Ostrosky -requested information regarding the Town website. He would like details such as monthly/ yearly costs, maintenance, responsibilities, communication, and who has ownership of the URL.

Public Comment

A.Blake- asked if the Wash Station Bid includes provision for a "Clerk of the Works".

First Selectman C. Cope- stated in response- the Superintendent of the Public Works will oversee the construction of the Wash Station.

A.Blake- asked in regard to the status of the sodium levels in the town center. Specifically regarding topography downhill from the Town Hall area, has the winter maintenance of the parking lot been evaluated as a possible source of the elevation?

C. Fazzone- requesting the BoS ask that the deicing product used in the retail area around the shopping center and surrounding business be evaluated and possibly changed.

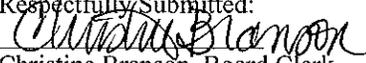
J. McRoberts- spoke in favor of billing for ambulance services, and felt an article in the paper clarifying the definition of soft billing would be a step in the right direction.

T. Hahn- on behalf of Timber Trails Board of Trustees- would like to thank Selectman A. O'Connor for her years of service and dedication to the Town and Community.

Adjournment

Selectman B. Ostrosky Adjourned the Meeting at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted:


Christine Branson, Board Clerk

December 15, 2015

APPROVED AS WRITTEN AT THE DECEMBER 16, 2015 RMM