



**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman
Regular Monthly Meeting
June 23, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Mallory Town Hall**

FINAL

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

Members Absent: None

Audience: L. LaVia, F. Fratini, S. Randall, A. Blake, D. Ryan, R. Connell, J. Lescynski, K. Bales, S. Lauton, C. Goyette, B. Bamch, Regional Animal Control Officer A. McKay, A. Cummings, E. Walsh, N. Walsh, P. Schaer, A. Chiamonte, G. Maletz, S. Maletz, G. Linkletter, T. Hahn, A. Zeisler, and C. Jellen

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman C. Cope Called the Meeting to Order at 7:01 pm

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to add to the Agenda under Section III, Administrative Items, add item "G" - Section 8-24 Referral Request for 2 Taber Road, Happy Acres Farm, Town of Sherman, telecommunications equipment upgrade."

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote: For: Unanimous

Public Comment:

- S. Randall- Mr. Randall mentioned the Town Beach was closed earlier today due to bacteria and supplied the BoS a water sample taken earlier in the day which shows green discoloration. Mr. Randall is requesting the BoS' leadership and support regarding bringing the modified draft of the Septic Management Ordinance back to a Town Vote. Mr. Randall stated the new draft of the proposed Ordinance has been reduced to 51% of properties in Sherman and allows the property owners the ability to use private contractors.
- A. Cummings- spoke in reference to dogs at Town Parks, subsequent clean up and a recent incident where someone had been bitten. Mr. Cummings stated he uses the walking track with his own dogs on leashes and has observed many others also with their dogs on leashes. When he observes someone not following procedure, he asks the owner to leash their dog. Mr. Cummings stated he feels "banning dogs" at Town parks would punish the majority who comply with the rules and would ultimately change the entire atmosphere of the parks making it an unfriendly environment for pet owners. Mr. Cummings encourages the BoS to enact a Leash Ordinance at Town Parks and mandatory clean up by owners with posted signs in the appropriate places to notify the Public.
- S. Lauton- has lived in Town for 7 years, and uses the park to walk with their dog at least once a day, stating doing so allows for social interaction within the community.
- S. Bayles- stated she also is a resident of Sherman for seven years, and as a Senior woman, prefers to walk her dog at the Town Park where she feels safe.
- A. Blake- spoke in support of the modified Septic Management Ordinance, stating the Lake is an asset to the Town and the health must be maintained. She looks forward to informational sessions held in the future to educate the community about preserving the health of Candlewood Lake.

- P. Schaer- a resident of Candlewood Lake since 1998, and Chair of the Candlewood Lake Authority. Stating she is in favor of creating an overlay zone for lake boarder properties which would include septic management practices, buffer gardens, and reduction of impervious surfaces. She has recently met with Danbury's Mayor Boughton to discuss the implementation of overlay zones.
- A. Chiamonte- spoke in favor of the Septic Maintenance Ordinance, stating by doing nothing to improve the health of the lake, the value of properties are projected to fall by 29%, additionally doing nothing adds risk to exposure of unsanitary conditions.
- P. Baxter- a resident of New Milford, however prefers to use the walking track in Sherman to exercise and enjoys being part of the community of dog owners who utilize the park.
- N. Walsh- uses the walking track daily very early in the morning, as well as the evening and agrees she has seen most people use leashes and the disposal bags properly.

CORRESPONDENCE:

SVFD- A. Sartori- email communication read into record regarding the implementation of a "Hardship Committee" in reference to ambulance billing. The Committee extends an invitation to the BoS in hopes that one of the Selectmen would join the Committee as well.

Incoming School Principal J. Melendez- attached "Entry Plan" with an email requesting a meeting with the Selectmen after July 11, 2016.

J. Seigel- in reference to a letter written two months ago where he shared concern over the website being updated more frequently, additional concern was the proper posting and notification of Board and Commission vacancies.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

Approval of Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2016:

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve the Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting May 26, 2016 with an amendment to page 5, Section Parks and Recreation: correction of the place where the dog bite took place, strike baseball and replace with soccer, additionally strike the last sentence of the same section: Selectman Lowe agreed....

Seconded by: D. Lowe **Vote: For: Unanimous**

Tax Refunds:

No refunds were requested.

Monthly Financial Summary Review:

The BoS discussed Department lines as the Fiscal year nears the end, the discussion included Tax Collector- Continuing Education, Tax Assessor- Training and Mileage, P&Z- LUEO- Education, ZBA- Legals, Registrar- Legals, Public Safety Supplies, and ESF- Facilities Maintenance. Lines that have lower than anticipated expenditure were- CLA- a balance of \$4,614.00 remaining, Road Maintenance has a balance of \$ 17,000 (anticipated to be used before the month's end on Barlow Farm Road paving and the use of the backhaul), and CoA has funds that are anticipated to be spent on a brochure to be printed before the end of this month.

Purchasing Policy:

The BoS discussed final details of the Purchasing Policy as well as creating a database for Department Asset Inventories.

Approval of Warning for the Town Meeting to be held on July 9, 2016:

Selectman D. Lowe Moved to Approve the Warning of a Town Meeting to be held in the meeting room at Mallory Town Hall on Saturday, July 9th, 2016 at 10:00 AM to act on the following:

1. To authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$6,000 from the Capital Non-Recurring Fund for the purchase of a SWZT Hydro Zero Turn Scag walk behind mower for the Department of Public Works.
2. To authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$65,000 from the Capital Non-Recurring Fund for the purchase of a Ford F-550 4X4 Reg Cab Dump Body Diesel truck, and a 9' Fisher plow, to replace a 2002 Ford F-550 dump truck for the Department of Public Works.
3. To authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$18,000 from the Capital Non-Recurring Fund to upgrade the Department of Public Works radio system with the installation of a VHF antennae to the Highway Garage.
4. To authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$ 19,500 from the Happy Acres Restricted Fund for necessary repairs to the barn at Happy Acres Farm, including the barn wall, and window repairs. The scope of the work shall include:
 - a. The south elevation gable-end deteriorated timber frame structure will be repaired;
 - b. Siding and trim around and adjacent to the repair area will be replaced/ repaired as necessary;
 - c. The removal of the shed roof over the manure spreader.
5. To authorize an expenditure not to exceed 10,000 from the Capital Non-Recurring Fund for the repainting of the exterior of the Sherman Playhouse, as requested by the Historic District Commission.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky

Vote: For: Unanimous

Section 8-24 Referral Request for 2 Taber Road, Happy Acres Farm, Town of Sherman telecommunications equipment upgrade:

The BoS discussed proposed work by T-Mobile to add 5 antennae to the existing silo tower located at 2 Taber Road. The ZEO has been in discussion with T-Mobile and actively addressing concerns. The first step is for the First Selectman to seek Planning & Zoning Commission approval of the 8-24 Referral to improve Town Owned property. First Selectman Cope plans to present a letter of request to the P&Z Commission at their next regular meeting on July 7th, 2016.

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve sending an 8-24 Referral request to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the improvement of telecommunication equipment located on Town owned property at 2 Taber Road, Happy Acres Farm.

Seconded by: D. Lowe

Vote: For: Unanimous

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Progress report on Town Projects:

Public Works Wash Station:

First Selectman C. Cope reported the building was delivered on June 21, 2016 and is in the process of being assembled. The project is currently ahead of schedule and on budget.

Water issue regarding elevated sodium content:

First Selectman C. Cope reported Marc Cohen of Atlantic States Rural Water & Wastewater Associates is currently working with the Sherman Health Department and the State Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section Chief on evaluating the elevated sodium issue and determine the source of increased sodium. Discussion followed regarding creating a comparison report of the last years' levels to better understand any differences. Selectman Lowe stated he would like to understand the sodium levels better, possibly have a meeting with T. Simpkins to discuss. The BoS also discussed holding a Public Forum in the near future to educate the public once there is a comprehensive report to share.

Sherman School K-wing update:

Selectman B. Ostrosky stated he has not received any new information from the Town Engineer, T. Iadorola.

Housing Commission Report:

First Selectman C. Cope read into record an email from Housing Commission Chair, A. Von Plachecki. Mr. Von Plachecki stated there were 594 completed surveys received. Of those, 213 contained comments that require further evaluation and discussion. The raw data has been entered into a preliminary report, but it is too early to determine any conclusions. Most of the surveys were completed by Seniors, who support accessory dwellings. The Commission will concentrate future efforts toward the written comments of the 213 surveys to better determine what the Commission will recommend moving forward.

Happy Acres Farm Report:

First Selectman C. Cope reported an email from John Motsinger of Full Circle Farming, LLC showing the official head count of the herd at 59 as of June 1, 2016. The vegetable garden is finally taking off and fresh produce is available at the farm store which is open weekends from 12pm to 4pm. They will be hosting several small events this summer such as outdoor yoga, movie nights, and a children's playgroup.

Residents for Reliable Cell Service in Sherman:

First Selectman C. Cope reported a discussion with R. Vergatti of Homeland Towers, and has two strong candidates. From the audience, T. Hahn reported additional information regarding a possible third candidate for tower placement. A balloon will be flown from these sites and a position report will be available next month. Ms. Hahn thanked C. Cope for reaching out to Mr. Vergatti.

Communications and Website:

The BoS discussed the procedure that is currently in place to upload new information onto the website. Selectman Ostrosky requested the contact information for the Website Administrator.

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

First Selectman Cope reported that he has been designated as the ICE Grant Coordinator for collection of all funding and the purchase of the new patrol boat for CLA. CLA has submitted \$ 7,000 to be used toward a deposit for the boat to hold the quote and sales agreement. A letter from P. Schaer reported the anticipated cost of the new boat will be \$ 67,097. Atlantic Outboard requires a signed agreement for the Town of Sherman and full payment to begin outfitting the boat. CLA has not received funding from Danbury and was told New Fairfield will not release funds until the boat is purchased. First Selectman Cope stated he will follow up with the two Towns to secure the funds.

Fox Run Detention Basin:

First Selectman Cope reported a discussion with C. Lee of the State, he stated a matching Grant is not an option for detention basin work. To complete the project, funding will need to be approved at a Town Meeting to make up the difference from the previously accumulated STEAP funding.

Septic Walkover Program Discussion:

The BoS reviewed recent revisions made to the Ordinance Regarding Septic System Management. Also discussed, holding an educational forum to provide information to the public on maintaining a healthy septic system. P. Schaer recommended "Homeowner's Guide" Responsible Lake Front Homeownership and Best Practices. The BoS discussed details of sending the ordinance to referendum. First Selectman Cope read into record emails received that were in support of the ordinance from E. Gould, S. & G. Maletz, and S. Ostrin.

Videotaping of the BoS Meetings for Public Access TV Channel 21:

Selectman Lowe reported he is seeking individuals that would be willing to volunteer. First Selectman Cope stated he will keep the item on the Agenda.

Parks and Recreation Report:

F. Fratini reported a discussion with Health Director T. Simpkins, he says the toilets are in good functioning order. There is a problem with the materials that the enclosure is constructed, because it limits the way it can be properly cleaned. P & R has requested funding previously to put in automatic locks that will open and close on a timer at specific times of the day. Renovations were discussed, specifically the materials used, plastic walls and tile floors were proposed. First Selectman Cope stated that funding for any renovations would have to be approved at a Town Meeting to be paid from the Capital Non-Recurring Fund. Mrs. Fratini read an email into record regarding the "recently discussed animals at Town Parks" and read archived emails that were sent to the BoS from P&R March and April 2008 Meeting, re-sent in 2010 and again 2014. The BoS discussed the topic on June 26, 2014, the issue was never resolved, and until recently has not been brought up. Regional Animal Control Officer, Audrey McKay spoke in reference to the best way to impose rules at Town properties. Ms. McKay stated that 6 foot "short leashes" usually work best in a populated area where there may be several people and other dogs sharing the same space. First Selectman Cope stated he didn't think regulating the length of the leash was necessary. First Selectman Cope stated he would look into what other Towns have in place to create an Ordinance. Mrs. Fratini stated she has provided the BoS examples in the past, and felt Wilton's Ordinance was sufficient. Officer McKay submitted an example of a violation ticket to the BoS. The BoS discussed specific parks of concern or a general ban of dogs running at large. The BoS agreed to keep this item active on the Agenda and to work on a preliminary draft Ordinance.

Candlewood Lake Updates:

First Selectman Cope reported the Town Beach was recently closed due to high levels of e-coli. The bacteria was thought to be caused by ducks in the area which were feeding on acorns that accumulated near the beach. P&R installed coyote decoys in hopes to deter the ducks from the beach. Unfortunately the decoys were stolen. The good news is that the ducks have moved on and the water has returned to a healthier condition.

Step- Up America:

Selectman D. Lowe stated there was nothing new to report.

Other Business:

Selectman Ostrosky- stated the Town has paid for use of the online Survey Monkey program, and offered use to the other Town Departments.

Selectman Lowe- responded to Mr. Siegel's letter in reference to the website, and would like to see updates made to the Boards and Commissions seeking new members as well as other necessary updates.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A. Zeisler- requested any feedback of the BoS regarding a comment he made a few months ago in reference to the Town utilizing solar panel technology on Town buildings and property.

J. Gordon- Sherman resident for 46 years, spoke in support of the Septic Ordinance, and hopes the BoS will continue to work toward putting the Ordinance into effect.

K. Harrison- requested the BoS consider the following:

1. For the Town to hold an informational forum regarding Septic responsibilities of homeowners.
2. Proper signage with specific explanation when the Town beach is closed.

F. Fratini- in reference to the After School Program- Mrs. Fratini stated the program did very well last year.

A. Blake- requested if there would be a designated "Clerk of the Works" for the replenishing of the basketball and tennis courts. Also agreed it would be a good practice to follow to post the reason for closing when the Town closes the Beach.

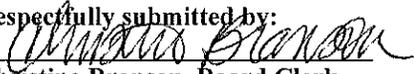
K. Goyette- spoke in reference to the creation of a Leash Ordinance, and referred to an Ordinance for Prospect Park, where dogs are allowed to run free at specific posted times of the day, which changes seasonally.

P. Schaer- spoke on behalf of Candlewood Lake Authority - an update: 12 grass carp have been outfitted with tracking devices and introduced to Allen's Cove.

ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman D. Lowe Moved to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:15pm

Respectfully submitted by:


Christine Branson, Board Clerk

July 28, 2016

APPROVED AS AMENDED AT THE JULY 28, 2016 RMM