



**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman
Regular Monthly Meeting
March 23, 2017
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 & Invited: Business Administrator L. LaVia, Treasurer E. Holub, BoE R. Hanley, S. Randall, P. Scheer

Video Taping: N. Mastrocinque

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman C. Cope Called the Meeting to Order at 7:00 pm

PUBLIC COMMENT:

E. Holub- stated that he has been in contact with TD Bank regarding the refinancing rates of the Town's Bonds. Originally thought would keep at the current rate, however the bank has come back with a better term. Mr. Holub is requesting the BoS agree to refinance the Bonds at the newly quoted terms.

S. Randall: stated he has collected 2,647 signatures and 1,047 comments regarding a petition against New Fairfield's decision the use of copper algaecides to reduce milfoil in Candlewood Lake. At a Town Meeting in New Fairfield 174 people protested the use of copper algaecides in Candlewood Lake. Mr. Randall reminded the BoS that he requested their support in protesting New Fairfield's decision numerous times and has not heard a response.

CORRESPONDENCE:

State of Connecticut, Dpt. Of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Carey Thompson of Grants and Contracts Specialists wrote; every municipality is eligible for a regional telecommunications service credit for Coordinated Medical Emergency Direction services. Based upon the population the value of Sherman's credit for FY 2017/18 is \$ 1,100.40

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

FY 2017/18 Budget continuing discussion:

The BoS discussed the Land Use Legal Counsel line. Selectman D. Lowe stated he now has a full understanding of the necessity of the funding for this line and has had a change of heart. The Chair of P&Z had made a great case previously and Mr. Lowe now understands the Commission's request, and supports the request for the current fiscal year. Selectman Ostrosky stated that for the coming FY 2017/18, the P&Z Commission would be able to accomplish a great deal with the amount flat at \$5,500. The BoS discussed that they have the ability to interdepartmentally transfer funds earmarked for the same purpose, (in this case there are three lines of the Budget that are for Legal Counsel) of the Budget if necessary. First Selectman Cope stated he would like the P&Z Legal Counsel line to remain flat at \$5,500 for FY 17/18. Discussion shifted to the request from the Senior Center for additional funding for the Clerk. First Selectman Cope stated that every year the Senior Center has requested more and more and has previously been supported however, he would like the Center to reprioritize and reassess how their offices are operating. The BoS agreed to keep the proposed FY 2017/18 as it currently stands and to bring to a Town Meeting on April 4th to hear what the Public has to say. Selectman Lowe asked if the BoS has ratified the BoE FY 2017/18 proposed Budget. From the audience, BoE Chair R. Handley spoke, stating the Budget is available at the school for anyone to see. There have been several workshops where parents and teachers have the

opportunity to provide feedback. One parent attended one workshop. The BoE met with the Teacher's Union 18 times to come to an acceptable agreement. The intention is to keep the BoE proposed budget for FY 2017/18 flat. There was a lengthy discussion that followed regarding negative comments being made on social media that Mr. Handley feels are unfair regarding the process. Mr. Handley stated he will attend the Town Meeting, where a power point presentation will be made showing the process to how the BoE was able to propose a flat Budget for this coming year. The BoS stated they are not recommending any changes to the BoE in regard to the proposed FY 2017/18 Budget.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Meeting Minutes was tabled to the next Regular Meeting.

Tax Refunds:

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve Refund of property taxes in the amount of \$ 9,586.52 and Refund of Motor Vehicle taxes in the amount of \$ 5,12.51.

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

Monthly Financial Summary Review:

The BoS discussed the monthly summary and noted expenditures are tracking where they are expected to be (approximately 80%).

Financial Controls:

No report was made

Appointments:

Conservation Commission:

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to appoint Michael LaVia to serve as a Commissioner on the Conservation Commission for a two year term, set to expire January 1, 2019.

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

Housing Commission:

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to appoint Katie Harrison serve as a Commissioner on the Housing Commission for a two year term, set to expire January 1, 2019.

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

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Progress report on Town Projects:

Water issue regarding elevated sodium content:

First Selectman C. Cope stated the Town Director of Health and University of Connecticut will continue to test and monitor the sodium and nitrate levels. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Friday, April 7th, 2017.

Fox Run Detention Basin:

First Selectman C. Cope stated the Town Engineer is making further adjustments to simplify the plan and bring costs down.

Housing Commission Report:

First Selectman C. Cope stated the Commission met on March 20, 2017 with the Tax Assessor A. Garzi to discuss tax deferral options for Seniors. Discussion was made on potential recommendations to the BoS to request for possible changes to the Zoning Regulations to allow variable density housing and lessening the restrictions for Accessory Dwellings to allow parcels less than 8 acres the same opportunity.

Happy Acres Farm Report:

First Selectman C. Cope received an email from J. Motsinger announcing they have started seedlings in the greenhouse and welcomed five baby goats to the farm last week. Two of the yearling goats made an appearance at the Sherman School for Science Night. The total head count for cattle remains at 48. There was discussion regarding needed repairs to the water supply to the milk room at the barn, repairs to the manure spreader, replacement of the cattle shoot and repairs/ replacement of several windows. Selectman Ostrosky stated all of these items will require three quotes.

Residents for Reliable Cell Service in Sherman:

First Selectman C. Cope reported he will meet with New Fairfield's First Selectman S. Chapman to negotiate the installation of emergency systems radio antennae on Tower Hill. The Radio Committee will be meeting soon. NorCom is currently evaluating the Tower Hill site as well as a potential site in North Sherman for emergency systems radio antennae. G. Maletz reported that Verizon has counter signed a lease with New Fairfield last month. Verizon is set to begin site improvement work (in New Fairfield).

Technology & Communications:

First Selectman C. Cope reported he and Selectman Ostrosky met with IT this morning. To date there are 300 residents signed up on NIXLE. Flyers and cards will be distributed soon. Selectman Ostrosky plans to meet with Department Heads and Commissioners to determine what content will be moved over to the new website.

Septic Walkover:

First Selectman C. Cope read the proposed Ordinance into record. The Board discussed and agreed on modifying the Ordinance to be limited to properties within the Candlewood Lake watershed. The next steps, will be adding the Ordinance to the Town Referendum.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Selectman D. Lowe thanked Nick Mastrocinique for videotaping the meetings. Additionally Mr. Lowe stated he would like to have a meeting with CLA and stakeholders regarding New Fairfield's decision to possibly use chemicals to treat milfoil.

Selectman B. Ostrosky stated he would like to discuss the 4 acre restrictions in the A Zone.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

R. Peburn- spoke on behalf of the P&Z Commission requesting information on why the current year P&Z Legal Counsel line has been restricted when it is needed. There are several Regulations under review currently that require legal guidance and opinion.

A. Blake- informing the BoS of a newly discovered high nitrate level in the water at the Senior Center and neighbor. Ms. Blake inquired on the status of the restrooms at Veteran's Field. Additionally Ms. Blake informed the BoS of an interested candidate to join the Housing Commission.

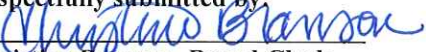
First Selectman C. Cope- replied to Ms. Blake, in response to the restrooms at Veteran's field, to contact the Park & Recreation Commission.

R. Handley- stating he would like to clear some rumors and confusion regarding the BoE proposed FY 2017/18 Budget stating he would like to keep "politics" out of the School Budget.

ADJOURNMENT:

First Selectman C. Cope Moved to Adjourn the Meeting at 8:19pm

Respectfully submitted by:



Christine Branson, Board Clerk

April 26, 2017