

Town of Sherman  
Board of Selectmen  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
24 Oct. 2019  
7:00 PM. Mallory Town Hall

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** First Selectman Don Lowe, Selectman Bob Ostrosky, Selectman Kevin Keenan

**Audience and Invited:** An audience of approximately 10 was in attendance.

**CLERK:** Linda Whitney

**CALL TO ORDER:** First Selectman D. Lowe Called the Meeting to Order at 7:01p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**  
None.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**  
None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion to approve** the Board of Selectmen Regular Monthly Meeting minutes of 26 Sept. 2019 was made by B. Ostrosky.

**Seconded by:** K. Keenan.

**Vote For:** Unanimous

**TAX REFUNDS:**

B. Ostrosky **made a motion** to grant the 5 property and 14 motor vehicle tax refunds in the amount of \$2,201.99.

**Seconded by:** K. Keenan.

**Vote For:** Unanimous.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY REVIEW:**

L. LaVia was not in attendance but D. Lowe reported that he and L. LaVia had met and discussed the monthly financials and that the budget is tracking normally for this time of year. There will be a more in-depth report at the next BoS meeting.

**AUTHORIZE A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A DEMHS GRANT:**

There was a discussion describing the grant as one that will match funds with the town, up to \$10,000.00 to reimburse the town for \$5,000.00 already spent on Emergency Management.

K. Keenan **made a motion** to authorize a resolution, with a correction on the First Selectman's name, to enter into a Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Grant.

**Seconded by:** B. Ostrosky.

**Vote For:** All.

**APPROVE THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR:**

There was a short discussion on the job description. D. Lowe shared that our current Emergency Management Director, Jim Reilly, has reviewed and approved the job description.

K. Keenan **made a motion** to approve the job description for the position of Emergency Management Director.

**Seconded by:** B. Ostrosky.

**Vote For:** All.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE 2020 BOARD OF SELECTMEN CALENDAR:**

After a review of the proposed calendar, D. Lowe **made a motion** to approve the 2020 Board of Selectmen Calendar.

**Seconded by:** B. Ostrosky.

**Vote For:** All.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE 2020 TOWN HOLIDAY CALENDAR:**

After a review of the proposed calendar and the support of the Board to granting a half day of work to town employees on Christmas Eve with a full day of pay, D. Lowe **made a motion** to approve the 2020 Town Holiday Calendar.

**Seconded by:** B. Ostrosky.

**Vote For:** All.

## **INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**

### **SVFD**

There was no report available at this time.

## **HOUSING COMMISSION REPORT:**

The Selectmen have reviewed the report given by the Housing Commission at the last BoS meeting. They have unanimously given their support to the Housing Commission to continue to pursue developers for more ideas for Senior Housing Development in Sherman.

## **HAPPY ACRES REORGANIZATION PLANNING:**

The Selectmen held a Town Forum on Sunday, 20 Oct. 2019 at 2:00 PM to present phase 1 of the reorganization plan and to listen to input from the town. There was discussion on the timeline for completing Phase 1 of the reorganization plan. D. Lowe is working with R. Booth on a draft for a Request for Proof of Qualifications for the position of the site manager. Once the draft is complete, it will go to the town attorney for final approval. The plan is to collect applications and decide on a site manager by December 2019. The site manager will live at the farm, rent free, and collect an annual fee of about \$35,000.00. There is a tentative Special Meeting of the BoS scheduled for Saturday, 2 Nov. 2019 at 10:00 AM to review the job description of the farmstead manager and also review the sales agreement with the local herdsman . There was a discussion of the need to have the site manager's duties specifically outlined and a 90 day escape clause for both parties involved to protect the town's interests.

Doug s of Walbridge Farm did an appraisal of the Happy Acres herd and D. Lowe, after only quick calculations based on Giles assessment, stated that the overall value of the 66 head is estimated to fall between \$25,000.00 and \$30,000.00. The First Selectman joined the independent appraiser, Giles, at the farm to count the herd and assess the general state of the herd. The First Selectman would like to have a firm deal struck for the herd by Jan. 1 to coincide with the lease maturity with the current tenants. B. Ostrosky mentioned that he will ask E. Holub to prepare a report outlining the investments for HAF.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

S. Greenbaum, Peace Pipe Lane, asked if the herdsman would pay to lease the fields at HAF where he plans to keep the cows. He also inquired about the parameters that would be set for the site manager with regard to using the farm for agricultural purposes.

D. Lowe responded that there will be a discussion with the herdsman and that the primary responsibility of the site manager will be to manage the property.

J. Robbins, the Spectrum, asked if the local herdsman would be using the Happy Acres barns for the cows.

D. Lowe responded that the herdsman has already expressed that he will not be using the barns.

B. Gamper asked how many of the cows the herdsman planned to keep.

T. Hollander, Lake Mauweehoo, asked if a college agricultural program would be considered for use of the farm for educational purposes. D. Lowe responded that the town would be happy to consider such a use for the farm.

A. DiDemenico, Town Tribune, asked if the request for proof of qualifications for the site manager would be a part of the contract.

#### **HAPPY ACRES SILO DEGENERATION:**

D.Lowe reported that Tony Iadarolla is continuing to work with the cell carriers and that AT&T and T-Mobile have agreed to share the cost of the tower repair with the town. There are currently three options being considered. Option 1 is to keep the tower on the current footprint. Option 2 is to install a stealth silo, similar to the one at White Silo Farm. This is a more expensive option, but a more discreet tower. This would permit for an additional carrier. Option 3 is to use the silo next to the one we are currently using with the installation of a stealth dome. The new tower should hopefully be decided on and installed by January.

#### **MALLORY TOWN HALL, ESF FACILITY, PLAYHOUSE WATER/WELLS:**

The well installation project application is currently being reviewed and we hope to have the approval to begin work next week.

#### **OPTIONS FOR A NEW SENIOR CENTER**

There was a discussion on possible sites for a new Senior Center. The property next to Volunteer Field and a house in the Historic District were briefly discussed. The JCC is still an option.

#### **JERICHO ROAD NORTH IMPROVEMENT FOR EMERGENCY ACCESS:**

Public works has made improvements on a section of Jericho Road North that is now passable for emergency vehicle use. The installation of a gate to restrict the use for emergency vehicles only has not yet been completed.

#### **SIDEWALK PROJECT:**

The flashing signs are up and operational. There was a discussion about using LOCIP funds to complete the sidewalk project.

#### **HAPPY ACRES FARM REPORT:**

There was no farm report submitted other than a herd count showing 66 cattle currently at the farm, with a new calf born last month.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

The security cameras are up and running at Volunteer Park and Veterans Field. The Selectmen are all in agreement that signs should be posted notifying the public.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion to Adjourn:** B. Ostrosky at 8:02 PM.

**Seconded:** K. Keenan.

**Vote For:** Unanimous.

The next Board of Selectmen Regular Monthly Meeting is scheduled for 21 November 2019  
at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Linda Whitney