

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

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

Audience and Invited: L.LaVia, E.Holub, The Sherman BOE, and an audience of approximately 6 was in attendance.

CLERK: Linda Whitney

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman D. Lowe Called the Meeting to Order at 7:00p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A.Chiaramonte asked if Town Hall could be listed on the sign at the entrance of the town green and if access to Town Hall could be changed to allow for wheelchair accessibility. She also repeated her request of 25 July 2019 that the assessor reports and land records for Sherman be posted online as surrounding towns have done. There was a discussion about this and D.Lowe agreed to look at what other towns have done and add this to the next BoS agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Regular Monthly Meeting minutes of 24 Oct. 2019 was made by K.Keenan.

Seconded by: B.Ostrosky.

Vote For: Unanimous

Motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Special Meeting minutes of 5 Nov. 2019 was made by B.Ostrosky.

Seconded by: K.Keenan.

Vote For: Unanimous

TAX REFUNDS:

B. Ostrosky **made a motion** to grant the 3 motor vehicle tax refunds in the amount of \$581.70.

Seconded by: K. Keenan.

Vote For: Unanimous.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY REVIEW:

L. LaVia reported that we are in the 5th month of our budget cycle and that there are two line items that are approaching their limit. Road maintenance and Public Works/ part time help show the possibility of coming in slightly over budget.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

SVFD

D. Lowe reported that the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department has been very busy. He recently wrote them a commendation and wanted to recognize their lead role in containing the fire in New Fairfield last Sunday.

BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENTATION AND REQUEST:

K. Diotte presented the Executive Summary of the BOE's goal, "To create a sustainable facility use plan to address current and future needs." There was a timeline of events presented and the process used to choose Tecton Architects as finalists for the conceptual design service. The BOE requested an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for the conceptual design services. There was a discussion about the design and its ability to be tailored to meet Sherman's specific needs.

K. Diotte reassured the BoS that public input would be encouraged at every step of the design process.

D. Lowe **made a motion** that an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 be appropriated from the capital non- recurring fund be brought to Town Meeting for the architectural conceptual design services of the Sherman School.

Seconded by: B.Ostrosky.

Vote For: All.

HAPPY ACRES REORGANIZATION PLANNING:

D. Lowe and L. LaVia reported that they met with the town insurance carriers to discuss liability and insurance with regard to the property manager position. The property manager will have to form an LLC and carry a one million dollar business liability insurance policy. They will also have to carry renter's insurance on the house. There was a discussion on whether they would have to carry their own workman's compensation policy as the town's workman's compensation will not cover the property manager position. D. Lowe will get clarification on this issue.

L.LaVia reported that a TULIP policy would have to be purchased to cover liability of public events.

The new herd owner will have to carry liability insurance and sign a lease for the use of the meadows for the herd. There will also have to be a bill of sale drafted for the herd.

The town has adequate liability coverage for the outdoor property and the state offers some coverage as the farm is open space.

Ads for the property manager position have been posted in 3 local newspapers as well as on the town website. Application deadline is 5 December 2019 at 1:00PM.

D. Lowe will then interview all of the applicants and present his top choices to the Board of Selectmen to interview at the Special Meeting to be held on 15 December 2019 at 2:00 PM.

A candidate will be chosen at the 19 December 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

The sale of the cattle will remain on hold until an arrangement can be made with the current tenant or the current lease matures.

HAPPY ACRES SILO DEGENERATION:

D.Lowe reported that he and Tony Iadarolla will be meeting on 11/29/19 to determine which of the following three options will be the most feasible for the town. The choice will then be brought to the 12/15/19 Special Meeting.

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.

Option 3 is to use the silo next to the one we are currently using with the installation of a stealth dome.

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

The well installation project is still awaiting state approval. The state is sending someone to look at the site on 11/22/19 and hopefully the application approval will follow.

JERICHO ROAD NORTH IMPROVEMENT FOR EMERGENCY ACCESS:

The gates are up and the road now has emergency access. There was a discussion on the necessity of locks for the gates. The determination was that no locks are needed now but if there are any problems the addition of locks on the gates will be revisited.

SHERMAN GATEWAY SIGNS:

D. Lowe proposed gateway signs for Sherman. The signs would announce generic businesses available in town and perhaps be posted at the apex of Routes 37 and 39, at Evans Hill, and 39 North where you enter into Sherman. D. Lowe will get some designs and bring the ideas to the BoS.

SIDEWALK PROJECT:

B. Ostrosky reported that he will be reviewing the ramps and the permits. There was a short discussion on some confusion regarding the signs and the sidewalk project. The sidewalks should be completed in the spring.

HAPPY ACRES FARM REPORT:

There were no changes in the HAF report from last month.

E. Holub pointed out that if the funding for the property manager position is to come from the HAF Operating Fund then the allowable amount to be withdrawn should be increased to \$35,000.00 and approved at a town meeting.

B. Ostrosky **made a motion** to bring to town meeting an appropriation of \$35,000.00 from the Happy Acres Operating Fund to pay for the property manager position.

Seconded by: K.Keenan.

Vote For: All.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

K. Harrison requested that she be added to the next BoS agenda to discuss putting the assessor's reports and Sherman land records on the town website.

ADJOURNMENT:

D. Lowe adjourned the meeting at 8:07 PM..

**The next Board of Selectmen Regular Monthly Meeting is scheduled for 19 December 2019
at 7:00 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Whitney

