

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

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

Audience and Invited: E. Holub and audience of approximately 13.

CLERK: Linda Whitney

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

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A. Chairamonte remarked that Sherman has uploaded the field cards onto the town website and requests that Sherman also post land use records to the town website as it would be helpful to those in the real estate business.

CORRESPONDENCE:

First Selectman D. Lowe read a letter from the Ct. State Library which announced the award of a \$5,500.00 Historic Document Preservation grant to Sherman. D. Lowe extended kudos to Carol Havens for applying for the grant.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Regular Monthly Meeting minutes of 27 June 2019 was made by B. Ostrosky..

Seconded by D. Lowe.

Vote : Two For, One Abstain (K. Keenan).

TAX REFUNDS:

There are no tax refunds at this time.

CIRMA REFUND CHECK:

The town has received a refund check for \$9,700.00 from CIRMA.

HRRA:

K. Keenan made a motion to accept the agreement between HRRA and the Town of Sherman.

Seconded by: D. Lowe.

Vote For: All

APPOINTMENT OF SANDRA WELLWOOD AS TOWN AUDITOR:

D. Lowe made a motion to appoint Sandra Wellwood as Town Auditor.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky.

Vote For: All.

DISCUSSION AND BRING TO TOWN MEETING THE HAPPY ACRES HOUSE AND BARN PAINTING PROJECTS:

Dan Havens has been awarded the painting bid for the house and barn at Happy Acres. There was discussion regarding the repair specs on the barn and it was decided to wait to bring the painting of the barn project to town meeting until after the repairs have been reevaluated and determined.

D. Lowe made a motion to bring an amount not to exceed \$27,000.00 to town meeting for the painting of the house at Happy Acres.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky.

Vote For: All.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMISSION ON AGING:

K. Keenan made a motion to appoint Carol Sperling to the Commission on Aging.

Seconded by: B. Ostrosky.

Vote For: All.

B. Ostrosky made a motion to appoint Art Von Plachecki to the Commission on Aging.

Seconded by: K. Keenan.

Vote For: All.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

SVFD

B. Acosta reported that the SVFD has responded to 18 fire calls, 23 EMS calls, and 1 boat rescue so far this month. The Annual Fireman's Ball will be held on 3 August 2019...tickets are available at the Firehouse as well as online. A NEXILE alert has been sent out.

HAPPY ACRES BARN REPAIR:

There was discussion between the Board of Selectmen and Dan Havens regarding the barn repair at the last BoS meeting. D. Havens doesn't agree with the original specs of the repair and although he felt the drawings were comprehensive, he felt the scope of the repairs and the method of repairs should be handled differently.

D. Hatch is a barn expert that has been recommended to D. Lowe and he will analyze the specs. If the recommendation is that the specs be changed, the repair job will have to go out to bid again.

K. Keenan has looked at the barn and spoken to M. Lord about the original repair specs. The repair specs were based on the structure of the hay storage area. These structural deficiencies have been this way for years and none seem to be an immediate concern.

HAPPY ACRES REORGANIZATION:

The current tenants can remain on the farm until Dec. 31, 2019 but have the right to leave any time prior to that date. There was a discussion on how to proceed and the Board was unanimous in their decision to have a formal, transparent process as opposed to a volunteer committee. A public forum which should include members of the Friends of Happy Acres will be scheduled. D. Lowe will sketch out a rough draft

and all ideas will be considered. E. Holub asked if the town has a transition plan to get to January. D. Lowe replied that the town will be brush-hogging the southern pasture to reclaim it.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ed Hayes asked if the Veteran's Association needed to make a formal request for storage space at Happy Acres for their supplies. D. Lowe made a recommendation to use the shed at HAF to store the Veteran's Association's supplies. All Selectmen were in agreement. E. Hayes expressed appreciation on behalf of the Veteran's Association.

F. Frattini asked if that meant that the Veteran's Association would no longer be using the Park and Rec. space. E. Hayes confirmed that but responded that the scouts may still need that space.

T. Hahn asked if the tenants moving would impact the T-Mobile agreement.

J.Judd spoke on behalf of the welfare of the cows at Happy Acres. On 15 July 2019, when the temperature was over 100 degrees Fahrenheit the water tubs at Happy Acres had been turned over and the cows had no access to water. The electric fences that have been installed don't allow the cows access to the watering holes. J.Judd requested that the town insist that the electric fences be removed. On 7/15, J.Judd contacted another local farmer, the State Police and Animal Control to make sure the cows had access to water. The tenant was observed giving the herd approximately 275 gallons of water around 8:30 PM that night. J. Judd has spoken with the tenant and Animal Control recommended the tenant move the water to a shadier spot. This has not been done.

D. Lowe will personally look into the Animal Control report and take action to ensure the cows have access to water and are properly cared for.

HAPPY ACRES SILO DEGENERATION:

T-Mobile hired an engineering firm to assess the silo and it determined that the structure was not sufficient to support the cell tower equipment. There was a discussion regarding the possible solutions ranging from building a new silo to repairing the existing one to installing an independent tower inside the silo rather than mounting equipment on the silo. All Selectmen agree that the town has a responsibility to notify ATT of the engineering report findings.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

R. Hudson inquired about the cost of a tower or temporary COW.

T. Hahn asked if T-Mobile had already started paying the town. D. Lowe reported that T-Mobile had already begun their payments in accord with their agreement.

E. Holub commented that the repair of the silo would be covered by the HAF Trust but that a new tower would not.

PARK AND REC CAPITAL PROJECTS:

STAIRS: There was discussion regarding changing the gravel path leading down from the upper parking lot at Veterans Field into a stairway. The cost would not exceed \$9,999.00 and would include railings. E. Holub inquired if the stairs would be ADA compliant. D. Lowe will ask B. Trott if the proposed plan would be ADA compliant. A. Von Plachecki added that additional handicapped parking spaces in the lower parking lot may make the stairs unnecessary.

BOARDWALK REPAIRS: Park and Rec has a 5 year plan for the boardwalk repairs and requested a fund to set aside money for the repairs. There was discussion between the BoS, E. Holub, F. Frattini and J. Wrenn. The determination was that a separate fund is not necessary but when P&R is ready to do the repairs, they should come to the town for funding.

FENCE AT VOLUNTEER FIELD: There was discussion regarding the purchase and installation of a fence at Volunteer Field at a cost not to exceed \$9,000.00. The fence will define the space, deter any cars from driving on the field, and keep the children on the field safer. There will be a vote to go to town meeting for the funding of the fence at the next BoS meeting.

SHERMAN SCHOOL WELL AND WATER SITUATION:

The state has approved the use of the well in front of the school for use as drinking water. This well will produce enough water for all of the schools needs. The school has requested funding for all new drinking fountains as the current ones haven't been used in years. They are looking for quotes now and will get them to D. Lowe. E. Holub pointed out that if the school funded the fountains in their existing budget the fountains could be purchased and installed before school resumes. They can allocate the money they are saving by no longer needed bottled water to the cost. If the school needs additional funding later in the year for something, they can approach the town at that time. D. Lowe will speak to the school about this idea.

NEW WELL AT MALLORY TOWN HALL:

There was a discussion regarding the digging of a new well at MTH. The possibility of drilling a well that produces enough to serve MTH, ESF and the Playhouse is being considered. Three bids have come in and were discussed by the Board.

D. Lowe will call a Special Meeting to walk the trench line and discuss the best way to proceed with the digging of a new well. T. Simpkins, G. Robbins and T. Beatty will be invited. The meeting will be scheduled for August after the Selectmen have had a chance to check their respective schedules.

FLASHING CROSSWALK:

D. Lowe has the signs and the state has given permission for them to be posted. The signs are solar powered and the flashers are on a timer. The signs will be operational soon.

SECURITY SURVEILLANCE PROPOSALS IN TOWN PARKS:

The costs and recommendations received are not consistent with each other. One proposal was to use hunters cameras as not all parks have access to electricity or WiFi. B. Ostrosky requested more time to review the proposals. D. Lowe asked for input from Park and Rec. They are in favor of security surveillance. There were questions as to the enforcement of consequences on offenders. D. Lowe will put this on the agenda for the next BoS meeting.

SIDEWALKS:

Bob Ostrosky had to reschedule the meeting on the sidewalk project. He will report on it at the next BoS meeting.

REPORT ON MOVING THE SENIOR CENTER TO THE JCC:

D. Lowe reported that the Feasibility Committee has been evaluating the possible move for next year. Considerations include the expenditure of \$25,000.00 annually for rent. This would be a temporary move spanning 1 to 5 years. D. Lowe asked if the Board would support this expense. The Board responded affirmatively.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

T. Hahn inquired as to why this would be a temporary move.

E. Hayes responded that there were many reasons, one being that neither the Senior Center nor the JCC wanted to lose their identity.

HAPPY ACRES FARM REPORT:

D. Lowe received an email from J. Motsinger reporting that there were no major changes at the farm. There are 19 new calves, the garden is in full swing and the barn is being filled with hay.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

R. Hudson asked if the Board of Selectmen were considering alternate uses for Happy Acres Farm in the future.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn: B. Ostrosky at 9:08 PM

Seconded: D. Lowe

Vote For: Unanimous

The next Board of Selectmen Regular Monthly Meeting is scheduled for 22 August 2019 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Whitney

