

Town of Sherman  
Board of Selectmen  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
19 Dec. 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,A. Garzi, A. Chiamonte, K. Harrison,, and an audience of approximately 9 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:**

None

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None. Selectman Ostrosky asked to have clarification regarding which correspondence gets read aloud at the meetings and suggested discussing this topic at the end of the meeting.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion to approve** the Board of Selectmen Regular Monthly Meeting minutes of 21 Nov. 2019 was made by B. Ostrosky.

**Seconded by:** K.Keenan.

**Vote For:** Unanimous

**TAX REFUNDS:**

K.Keenan **made a motion** to grant the tax refunds in the amount of \$497.25.

**Seconded by:** B. Ostrosky.

**Vote For:** Unanimous.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY REVIEW:**

L. LaVia reported that we are in the 6<sup>th</sup> month of our budget cycle and that there are two line items that continue to approach or are over budget. Road maintenance is over budget by \$3,800.00 due to extra drainage and basin work on Tandem Lane. Public Works/ part time help is tracking high and the Director of Public Works may be called in to speak to it at the next BoS meeting. Budget requests are scheduled to go out in January.

### **COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:**

D.Lowe **made a motion** to reappoint Frank Galasso to a 4 year term on the Inland/Wetland Commission.

**Seconded by:** K.Keenan.

**Vote For:** ALL

D.Lowe **made a motion** to reappoint Ann Chiaramonte to the Zoning Board of Appeals after reading a letter of endorsement from David Silvay, DTC Chairman.

**Seconded by:** K.Keenan.

**Vote For:** ALL.

### **INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**

#### **SVFD**

D. Lowe reported that the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department has been very busy and he anticipates a report from them at the next meeting.

#### **REALTORS' REQUEST TO PUT ASSESSOR'S RECORDS ONLINE:**

K. Harrison and A. Chiaramonte presented to the Board of Selectmen an appeal to have the assessor's records put online. They reported that they have a very good working relationship with the assessor's office but the records they often need to access can only be found by address, not names. They reported that many local municipalities already have their information easily accessible online and would like Sherman to as well. Al Garzia reported that the Town could possibly add names to the online field cards for about \$1,000.00 but warned that they would have to then be regularly updated with names as property transfers occur. There was discussion on who needed access to the online field cards and the BoS agreed to review the advantages and bring this topic up at budget time.

#### **FARM MANAGER POSITION:**

B.Ostrosky **made a motion** to go into executive session to discuss and decide on the property manager position at Happy Acres at 7:20 PM.

**Seconded by:** K.Keenan.

**Vote For:** ALL.

At 7:38 PM the Board of Selectmen returned from executive session and announced David Jellen as the property manager at Happy Acres. D. Lowe thanked all of the applicants and expressed that he was especially impressed with the young men from Sherman who applied.

#### **HAPPY ACRES REORGANIZATION PLANNING:**

D. Lowe reported that CIRMA has shored up the property manager agreement and changed the title "Property Manager" to "Contractor". Inventory of the machinery at the farm will be taken after Jan.1 to assess what to keep and what needs fixing.

There was discussion as to whether the inspection of the interior of the house could be conducted, with the current tenant's permission, prior to Jan.1. There was also discussion on whether or not the town should take over the HAF facebook page or start a new website.

#### **SALE OF HAPPY ACRES CATTLE:**

CIRMA is preparing contract language for the sale of the herd. The herd count is at 55 with 23 calves. There is an offer for \$18,000.00 for the herd. There was discussion on the value of the herd and that the herd of 55 was valued at \$54,000.00 five years ago.

B.Ostrosky **made a motion** to sell the herd to the Lescynski Brothers for \$18,000.00.

**Seconded by:** K.Keenan.

**Vote For:** ALL.

The money from the sale of the herd will go into the Happy Acres Restricted Fund.

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

D.Lowe reported that he and Tony Iadarola are still negotiating the cost of the silo construction with the construction company and the specific contributions from the carriers. The town will have to initially fund the construction and then will receive reimbursement from the carriers. There was discussion as to which fund the money should come out of and it was determined that the discussion will be continued when more specific numbers are available.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

S. Greenbaum, Peace Pipe Lane, asked if the tower would be extended up an additional 10 feet.

E.Holub asked if the work would wait until the spring.

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

The well installation project was granted state approval on 17 Dec. 2019. On Friday, 27 Dec. 2019, the First Selectman will meet with the contractors to formulate a work plan to install the well.

#### **DISTRIBUTING \$20,000.00 ALLOTMENT FROM STATE FOR AREA AIR MONITORS:**

Sherman received \$20,000.00 from the state that needs to be distributed to the town and surrounding towns for their air monitoring systems. The Western Connecticut Clean Air Action (WCCAA) will determine how much of the allotment each town receives. The board decided unanimously that Sherman would distribute these funds accordingly.

#### **DANGEROUS TOWN ROAD AREAS:**

On 6 Jan. 2020, D.Lowe has a meeting with WestCOG to examine dangerous roads in town and discuss possible safety solutions. There was a discussion on which roads to bring up. T. Beatty recommended mowing the edges of the roads more often to increase visibility.

**SIDEWALK PROJECT:**

B. Ostrosky reported that the project planning is close to complete.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

B.Ostrosky requested that D.Lowe consult the town attorney for clarity on the guidelines that determine which correspondence needs to be read out at the BoS meetings.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

S. Greenbaum thanked the BoS for the process held to hire the farm manager.

W.Knack thanked the BoS for choosing David Jellen as the property manager at Happy Acres and reported that he has great respect for how much David Jellen loves and cares for his cows.

**CHANGE IN TOWN PERSONNEL JOB DESCRIPTION AND DUTIES:**

At 8:12 PM, K.Keenan **made a motion** to go into executive session to discuss a change in Town personnel job description and duties.

**Seconded by:** B.Ostrosky.

**Vote For:** ALL.

At 8:30 PM, the Board of Selectmen returned from executive session and reported that there had been discussion on potential next steps but that no action had been taken. Potential next steps planned to be taken in the near future will be to update the existing office space for two offices rather than the one (current configuration) in the BoS/Business Office area. This will be accomplished by bumping out the Admin. area to the existing wall in the hallway and framing an interior wall to create two separate offices. Work is scheduled to begin as soon as possible.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**D. Lowe adjourned the meeting at 8:31 PM**

**The next Board of Selectmen Regular Monthly Meeting is scheduled for 23 Jan. 2020  
at 7:00 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Linda Whitney

