



TOWN OF SHERMAN
Board of Selectman
Regular Monthly Meeting
January 23, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Mallory Town Hall

DRAFT

Members Present: First Selectman D. Lowe, Selectman K. Keenan, and Selectman B. Ostrosky,

Members Absent: None

Audience & Invited: E. Holub, D. Borkowski, D. Lathrop, B. Accosta, C. Fuchs, C. Beatty, M. Beatty, W. McCann several others were in attendance.

Also: C. Branson, Board Clerk

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** First Selectman D. Lowe Called the Regular Meeting to Order at 7:01 pm.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

3. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

L. Whitney- Clerk to the Board of Selectman, submitted a letter of resignation effective immediately.

R. Medeiros- Regarding opposition to additional signage posted at the gateways of the Town.

4. **ADMINISTRATIVE:**

A. **Approval of Minutes:** December 19, 2019

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve the Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting December 19, 2019 as written.

Seconded by: K. Keenan

Vote: For: Unanimous

B. **Tax Refunds:**

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Approve Refund of \$ 224.05 in motor vehicle taxes.

Seconded by: BK. Keenan

Vote: For: Unanimous

C. **Monthly Financial Summary Review:**

Business Administrator L. LaVia was not present, however submitted a 6 month financial overview in advance. The BoS and Treasurer E. Holub reviewed and discussed the report. Public Works Supervisor D. Borkowski was present to speak to the PW Part Time Help line in his department which is tracking high at 90.35% with another six months left in this Fiscal year. Mr. Borkowski provided a bit of history supporting the specific activities involved within this position. Mr. Borkowski stated the part time employee remains on an as needed basis during the winter months reserved for snow removal, filling in for full timers' vacation and other various tasks to the year end.

D. **Review and approve amended job description for Fire Marshal:**

The Selectmen agreed, since they just received this material today, they have not had sufficient time to effectively review this job description. This item has been tabled to the February 27th, 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting.

E. **Review and approve amended job description for Deputy Fire Marshal**

The Selectmen agreed, since they just received this material today, they have not had sufficient time to effectively review this job description. This item has been tabled to the February 27th, 2020 Monthly Meeting.

F. Appointments:

The Selectmen discussed the merits of David Lathrop and Chris Fuchs. D. Lowe stated Mr. Lathrop has been doing an exemplary job as interim Fire Marshal, identifying areas needing improvements and implementing better practices during his interim appointment. Mr. Fuchs has recently obtained Fire Marshal certification by the State. D. Lowe confirmed the support of these appointments by the Sherman Fire Department. Chief B. Accosta spoke on behalf of the SVFD confirming their support. Several other members of the SVFD were present and nodded in support as well. The Selectmen discussed details of the Deputy Fire Marshal's duties. This has historically been an unpaid position and shall continue this current fiscal year as so. The Selectmen agreed to further discuss the job descriptions of both Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshal at the February Meeting.

Fire Marshal:

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Appoint David Lathrop to serve as the Fire Marshal for the Town of Sherman.

Seconded by: K. Keenan

Vote: For: Unanimous

Deputy Fire Marshal:

Selectman B. Ostrosky Moved to Appoint Chris Fuchs to serve as the Deputy Fire Marshal for the Town of Sherman.

Seconded by: K. Keenan

Vote: For: Unanimous

5. INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

A. SVFD monthly Report:

SVFD Chief, B. Accosta presented the monthly report to the Selectmen, stating there were a total of fourteen calls this month. They are expecting the boat by the end of January, and plan to keep it inside during the winter months. Chief Accosta congratulated David Lathrop and Chris Fuchs on behalf of the full SVFD for their appointments.

B. Happy Acres Farm Report:

First Selectman D. Lowe reported new Farm Manager David Jellen has been making great progress, focusing so far on straightening up and cleaning out the farm buildings. He has filled a thirty yard dumpster with accumulated debris and filled one Highway truck with scrap metal to recycle. Mr. Jellen has removed and smoothed the area where a front garden was created a few years back. Next Mr. Jellen plans to evaluate the remaining farm equipment and present recommendations to the BoS whether items should be repaired or sold. Mr. Jellen would like to purchase some of his own equipment and implement for use on the farm as well. D. Lowe stated Mr. Jellen is committed to thinking long-term. He would like to eventually bring his own animals which currently are kept at another location. Mr. Jellen will be focusing on planning public access events and possibly a field for vegetables as time allows. Discussion moved to the farm house. Further discussion followed regarding the possible implementation of some type of interim security system until the Farm Manager fully occupies the premises.

C. Friends of Happy Acres Report:

W. McCann was present to speak on behalf of the Friends of Happy Acres Committee. Mr. McCann stated he just learned new information, therefore he must meet with the FOHA Board and make necessary adjustments to their proposal. Mr. McCann requested this discussion be tabled to the February Meeting.

D. Review Lescynski Farms lease agreement

The Selectmen reviewed the draft lease. Discussion followed regarding insurance requirements from the Lessee. Further discussion took place in reference to correcting the terms of rent from \$1.00 per month to \$1.00 per year. First Selectman D. Lowe stated he would run the discussion points past CIRMA for feedback.

- E. Happy Acres silo degeneration/ cell carrier's equipment**
First Selectman D. Lowe reported T-MobileT has been pressuring the Town to commit to the necessary repairs of the silo. D. Lowe has been working with Town Engineer T. Iadarola to come up with a final cost to propose the removal of the existing structure and build a new silo. This proposed activity shall require a Town Meeting and Vote. Mr. Lowe has requested that the carriers share in construction cost. Treasurer E. Holub stated he would like to work out a payback schedule and discuss where the funding shall come from. D. Lowe agreed to a meeting with E. Holub.
- F. Candlewood Lake Authority:**
CLA Board Chair, P. Schaer was present to speak on behalf of a request of the Town of Sherman's support to fund a portion of the annual weed mapping of the lake to supply consistent annual data. CLA has secured support from the Town of New Fairfield in the amount of \$7,000.00, contingent upon two other Towns joining in on contributions. Ms. Schaer stated she has confirmed the support of the Town of Brookfield in the amount of \$2,375.00. Ms. Schaer is requesting the Town of Sherman contribute to this commitment to secure the funding of the two other two Towns. The Selectmen discussed this request at length. The general consensus of the BoS, was that this request for funding would need to go to a Town Meeting and Vote. Mr. Lowe stated there was no funding for this expenditure within the current FY 2019-20 Budget. First Selectman Lowe recommended Ms. Schaer plan ahead and incorporate this request into the next fiscal year 2020-21 Budget proposal. Ms. Schaer provided the BoS with Minutes of the October 2, 2019 CLA Meeting. The BoS agreed to review this request and tabled this discussion to the February Meeting.
- G. Senior Center locations update:**
First Selectman D. Lowe reported he has been in discussion with Social Services Director B. Trott. She has requested the BoS's consideration of the "McAward property" on Route 37 across from the Town Gardens. The BoS discussed logistics of retrofitting the existing dwelling to become ADA compliant as well as parking challenges. Currently this property is considered residential. There were also comments made regarding wetlands restrictions. D. Lowe stated this discussion point shall remain on the agenda for February.
- H. Playhouse/ESF/ Mallory Town Hall well installation**
First Selectman D. Lowe reported he met with local excavator T. Beatty and A. Werner to investigate a potential site for a new shared well. The previous location was determined not viable and would be too costly to run trenches to each of the buildings. Another location was located and is being investigated presently for State approval. Mr. Lowe hopes to have additional information for the BoS by the February meeting.
- I. Sidewalk:**
First Selectman D. Lowe stated there was nothing new to report; this item shall remain on the agenda for the February meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS; Suggestions by Selectman for Future Agenda:

Candlewood Lake Authority- Weed Mapping fund request will be added to the February agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: First Selectman D. Lowe Adjourned the Meeting at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Christine Branson, Board Clerk
January 29, 2020