

**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman Monthly Meeting
September 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm
Mallory Town Hall**

Member's Present: First Selectman Don Lowe, Selectman Bob Ostrosky, and Selectman Kevin Keenan

Member's Absent: None

Audience & Invited: Treasurer Eric Holub. Business Manager Liz LaVia, and members from the community.

Clerk: Margaret Beatty

Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance: First Selectman Don Lowe called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm followed by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Selectman Don Lowe opened the meeting by motioning to move agenda item I) Independence Village Senior Housing under Information & Discussion to the top of the agenda.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded by: Selectman Kevin Keenan

All in Favor: Unanimous

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: One letter of correspondence was submitted by Jeremy Mack of 6 Tandum Lane. In his letter, Mr. Mack expressed his gratitude to be an American and how important it was collectively to participate in memorialize those lost in a tragedy such as 9/11. He was happy to attend the service commemorating the victims of 9/11 but was disappointed that the message delivered by the officiating minister excluded those who do not identify as Christian. He hopes that in future services that those speaking would also represent the broader community.

Administrative: A) Approval of Minutes

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(Note: Selectman Kevin Keenan noted a misspelling and correction of the word Administrative under Administrative Items)

Motion by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Seconded by: First Selectman Don Lowe

All in Favor: Unanimous

B) Tax Refunds: A refund to the Town in the amount of \$6,342.99 for approval.

Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Seconded by: Selectman Kevin Keenan

All in Favor: Unanimous

C) Financial Review: Business Manager Liz LaVia summarized stating that the numbers reflect the first fiscal quarter of the year, which is tracking as expected. The Building Inspector's line and a couple of legal notice lines are tracking high. The first audit is nearing the end and the Town is collecting annual reports for the Town Meeting that is scheduled for October 23, 2021 at 10 am at Mallory Town Hall. She also noted that research is still being done on how to spend the ARPA funding of \$537,150. There is still confusion as how to spend the funds, no official documents/guidelines. First Selectman Don Lowe commented that he would add the topic to the agenda for the next BOS Monthly Meeting for more discussion and possible projects.

Information & Discussion:

I) Independence Village Senior Housing (a not-for-profit organization): The organization is ready for a Town forum and the organization is looking to pick a date to present their idea to the residents. Spokesperson Barbara Ackerman requested to the Board Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 10 am. All Selectman were available for the day requested and agreed to the meeting. Information will be posted in the newspaper and a Nixle will be sent.

A) SVFD: A spokesperson was unable to attend the Board meeting due to a department special meeting scheduled but a report was provided and shared by First Selectman Don Lowe. The department has responded to 288 calls this year, they will be hosting an emergency medical responder course at the firehouse this fall to train and certify another 5-10 members. Sunday evening on September 19, 2021 at 6:22 pm the department responded to a structure fire. Access to the fire was difficult, members from Town and mutual aid from 5 surrounding Town's operated on the scene which resulted in 1 fatality and 1 occupant being transported to the hospital for a medical emergency. One SVFD member sustained minor injuries and was treated. The fire remains under investigation by the fire marshal's office and CT State Police. Lastly, the members will be enjoying a picnic at the Town pavilion on Sunday, September 26, 2021. Rick Hudson extended his heartfelt thanks from the community to the department for their dedication.

B) Covid 19 report/ vaccination report: The Town hosted a vaccination van which resulted in the vaccination of 6 people, 2 were second doses and 4 were boosters. Sherman has moved into the gray on the state map for infection rate, our neighboring Towns such as New Milford is yellow, New Fairfield is orange, and Kent is red. Sherman has vaccinated 60.2% of all eligible for vaccination with the state at 68% vaccination.

C) Happy Acres Farm report: Saturday, September 25, 2021 from 11-4 pm the farm will host farm day. There will be live music, food, games, and tours of the farm. All are encouraged to come celebrate.

D) SVFD to replace 4 firefighter air packs (possibly to bring to Town Meeting): All Selectman agreed to bring item to Town Meeting.

Motion: Bring to Town Meeting replacement of 4 air packs for the SVFD in an amount not to exceed \$32,000 (total expense is \$40,000-80% town paid and 20% SVFD paid) from the Capital Nonrecurring Fund. (Note: Discussion about possibly using ARPA funds to cover expense ensue but will be more formally discussed at Town Meeting.)

Motioned by: Selectman Kevin Keenan

Seconded by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

E) SVFD tri-band portable radios (possibly bring to Town Meeting): All Selectman agreed to bring to town Meeting.

Motion: Bring to town Meeting an expense not to exceed \$26,000 (total expense is \$32,000-80% town paid and 20%SVFD paid) from the Capital Nonrecurring Fund for the purchase of tri-band radios for the SVFD.

Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Seconded by: First Selectman Don Lowe

All in Favor: Unanimous

F) Sherman School floor repair (possibly bring to Town Meeting): First Selectman Don Lowe commented that the information provided to the Board would be better presented at a Town Meeting. The bid price amounted to \$12,966. The Selectman agreed that it was a needed request and agreed to an amount not to exceed \$14,000, which can then be further discussed at Town Meeting.

Motion: Bring to Town Meeting for flooring repair at the Sherman School for a not to exceed amount of \$14,000 from the Capital Nonrecurring Fund.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded by: Selectman Kevin Keenan

Discussion: Selectman Bob Ostrosky would like to add a stipulation to the motion that if the project does not started within a certain amount of time that the money be rescinded. His judgement was derived from the last maintenance meeting. BOE member Kasey Diotte reiterated that the BOS was presented with a request to replace the roof with Barret Construction as the contractor for a specific amount and the Town voted. The maintenance meeting committee does not speak for the BOE. A contract with a 30 day stipulation was agreed upon.

Re-motion: Bring to Town Meeting for floor repair at the Sherman School for an amount not to exceed \$14,000 from the Capital Nonrecurring Fund with a stipulation that, if approved, that a contract is entered into in 30 days or the money is rescinded.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

G) Commission on Aging/New Senior Center: First Selectman Don Lowe proposed that a committee be formed and utilize the expertise of the residents to ensure the project moves forward. The committee would report to the Commission on Aging and BOS. Selectman Bob Ostrosky pointed out that members should be appointed by the BOS and keep the group small. Business Manager Liz LaVia suggested some minutes be documented. The team would take on an advisory position.

H) Generators: Town Hall and Public Works: The generator at Public Works is scheduled to be installed the week of September 27, 2021 and the following week installation will commence at Town Hall.

J) Town building maintenance strategy discussion: Selectman Bob Ostrosky questioned whether the Town is using the maintenance staff effectively and efficiently. He suggests a new strategy to provide the most effective approach to addressing the most pressing issues at the School and Town projects. Appropriate representation needs to present to protect all parties, i.e the Town, school, and/or public works. BOE member Kasey Diotte commented that the objective of the BOE is to collectively decide if projects are needed and then approach the BOS with requests that would be voted on by the constituency. She further explained that a subcommittee within the confines of the BOE should not have the ability to derail projects that was collectively agreed upon. She appreciates the concern the BOS has raised about the stalling of projects that are needed at the school. Topic will be added to the next monthly meeting.

K) Speed indicator and traffic report (possibly bring to Town Meeting): Speed indicator will be up and running on Friday September 24, 2021. Another will be placed on Anderson road, both indicators will be moveable and rotating. There is a possibility that the purchasing of more indicators will be brought to Town Meeting, it will depend on how well received the most recently placed signs do. One unit is quoted at \$3800 and are solar powered.

Other Business: Selectman Bob Ostrosky extended his gratitude to the Town for a successful softball tournament and to all who volunteered and participated. He also thanked Public Works for doing a wonderful job maintaining Veterans Field in preparation for the festivities.

Public Comment: Arthur Von Plachecki of Sail Harbor inquired whether the soccer field at the church will be impacted by the work that will be done on the soccer field at Veterans Field. He also commented if the church field will be used less since some of the issues that defeated potential apartments behind the field had to do with the use of the field and small children running around. Selectman Bob Ostrosky commented that the field at the church has been used more recreationally. The repairs on the field at Veterans Field is more about safety and viability.

Susan Seeger of 5 Farm Road inquired if the BOS will continue with ZOOM even though meeting have returned to in-person. First Selectman Don Lowe replied that the Town currently does not

have the capability to do hybrid meeting due to lack of technology. Selectman Bob Ostrosky commented that it can be something visited during budget season about purchasing equipment for capabilities. Everyone agreed that ZOOM provided a different atmosphere for participation as well as more participation.

Rick Hudson of Crooked Furrows Road encouraged the BOS to replace Don Borkowski's truck, from Public Works. He feels it is a safety hazard and is due for an upgrade.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Seconded by: Selectman Kevin Keenan

All in Favor: Unanimous

Notes respectfully submitted by Margaret Beatty September 30, 2021.