

Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman Monthly Meeting
April 22, 2021 at 7pm
Via ZOOM Teleconferencing

Members Present: First Selectman Don Lowe, Selectman Kevin Keenan, and Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Members Absent: None

Audience & Invited: Treasurer Eric Holub, Business Manager Liz LaVia, Fire Chief Chris Fuchs, and residents from the community.

Clerk: Ruth Chen Byrnes

Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance: First Selectman Don Lowe called the meeting to order at 7:00pm followed by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: None

Administrative:

A) Approval of Minutes:

- **03/25/2021 Board of Selectman Regular Monthly Meeting**

Motioned by: Selectman Ostrosky

Seconded by: Selectman Keenan **All in Favor:** Unanimous

- **03/24/2021 Board of Selectman Proposed Budget Hearing**

Motioned by: First Selectman Lowe

Seconded by: Selectman Keenan **All in Favor:** Unanimous

B) Tax Refunds:

Motioned by: Selectman Keenan to accept 11 tax refunds totaling \$2887.43

Seconded by: Selectman Ostrosky **All in Favor:** Unanimous

C) Financial Review: Business Manager L. LaVia explained that the budget is at 10 months into the fiscal year and that some previously mentioned salary lines continue to run justifiably over. She added to those the Registrar's salary line which is running high due to training, COVID, and administration. Also the ESF maintenance line continues to overrun adding overhead door servicing, air compressor repair, and annual pest control. Collections and Recycling are running high due to higher number of residents participating in Household Hazardous Waste events,

printing and postage for mailing of recycling stickers to every household, and in Park & Rec the Town beach pavilion is running high due to water issues and electrical repairs.

L. LaVia then further noted that there are 2 grants up for application this month, one for the Dept. of Emergency Services and Public Protection for Region 5, in an amount to be determined based on population and participation – she thought somewhere in the \$10,000 area, and another for the Dept. of Transportation Municipal Grant Program for Elderly Transportation (a three year grant for \$14,750 per year to offset Elderly Transportation costs). The DESPP grant requires a resolution which she turned over to First Selectman Lowe to execute.

D. Lowe read the following Authorizing Resolution for Sherman to enter into agreement with State of CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security:

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION OF THE

Town of Sherman CT

CERTIFICATION:

I, Carol L. Havens, the Town Clerk of Sherman, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Selectmen at its duly called and held meeting on April 22, 2021 at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Donald T Lowe, as First Selectman of Sherman, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Sherman and to

do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

The undersigned further certifies that Donald T Lowe now holds the office of First Selectman and that he/she has held that office since January 1, 2018.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has executed this certificate this 23 day of April 2021.

Carol L. Havens, Town Clerk

Motioned by: Selectman Keenan moved to authorize the resolution

Seconded by: Selectman Ostrosky **All in Favor:** Unanimous

Information & Discussion:

A) SVFD: Chief Chris Fuchs shared that SVFD continues to answer calls for COVID positive cases. Charter Hall is in need of flooring repairs, C. Fuchs hopes to have quotes for next month's Board of Selectmen meeting.

B) Covid 19 report/ & C) Vaccination report: First Selectman Lowe gave an update on the opening of town buildings. The Memorial Day parade will be on Sunday, May 30, 2021, and will include tractors, antique cars, horses, and more. OEM director Jim Reilly shared that nearly 50 percent of Sherman residents have had their first vaccination shot. The clinics are winding down and the New Fairfield/Sherman vaccination clinic expects to close on May 20, 2021.

D) Happy Acres Farm report: Farm Manager Dave Jellen is hoping to have a larger garden this year to grow vegetables for the farm stand. There are currently eggs for sale as well as chicken and beef. A Farm Day is being planned for September.

E) Storage space for Town organizations: First Selectman Lowe anticipates the need for 5 storage containers (8 feet by 20 feet). Containers with side doors are \$5,000, and containers without side doors are \$3500.

Motion by: First Selectman Lowe to bring to Town Meeting a request not to exceed \$25,000 from the Capital Non-Recurring fund for the purchase of 5 storage containers.

Seconded by: Selectman Ostrosky **All in Favor:** Unanimous

F) Manufacture Dump Body for 1999 Freightliner: This vehicle was given to Public Works from SVFD. It needs to be outfitted for Public Work use.

Motion by: First Selectman D. Lowe to bring to Town Meeting a request not to exceed \$35,000 from the Capital Non-Recurring fund for the purchase of a manufactured dump body for the 1999 Freightliner.

Seconded by: Selectman Keenan

All in Favor: Unanimous

G) Dog Issues in Town parks: Unleashed dogs and dog waste left in parks continues to be an escalating problem. After a brief discussion the Selectmen decided to monitor the issue for another month before considering an ordinance.

H) Conditions to determine hardship for waiver of Pre-school tuition: The selectmen discussed the poverty rate in New England, and what other states are doing. Selectmen Ostrosky and Keenan both expressed that the numbers brought in My First Selectmen Lowe to represent a poverty threshold were too stringent and not suited for our region. Lowe offered to bring in new numbers for the next meeting and the board would try to make a decision then.

I) Ordinance concerning tax relief for disabled Veterans: Discussion on possible tax abatement for disabled Veterans. Currently there are 8 residents who would qualify. First Selectman Lowe will work on a tax abatement formula and show what the impact would be. The selectmen agreed to further explore this.

J) Playhouse electrical upgrade: Discussion on a new service line being needed to upgrade the electrical system at the Sherman Playhouse. Trenching and ledge removal are to be expected. The selectmen agreed to table this item and review it further to hopefully determine if there are less costly upgrades.

Other Business: None

Public Comment: None

Adjournment:

Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm.

Seconded by: Selectman Kevin Keenan

All in Favor: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted by Ruth Chen Byrnes.