

Town of Sherman
Board of Selectmen Monthly Meeting
August 25, 2022 at 7pm
Mallory Town Hall

Member's Present: First Selectman Don Lowe and Selectman Joel Bruzinski

Member's Absent: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Audience & Invited: Treasurer Eric Holub, Business Manager Liz LaVia, Senior Housing representative Barbara Ackerman, Kris Fazzone, and residents from the community.

Clerk: Margaret Beatty

Call to Order: First selectman called the meeting to order at 7:01pm followed by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: None

Administrative Items:

- A) Approval of Minutes: 7/28/22 Board of Selectman Monthly Meeting
Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe
Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski All in Favor: Unanimous
8/15/22 Board of Selectman Special Meeting
Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe
Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski All in Favor: Unanimous
- B) Tax Refunds: A refund for \$29.24 was accepted
Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe
Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski All in Favor: Unanimous
- C) Financial Review: Business Manager Liz LaVia provided a review of the Town finances, which is 2 months into the fiscal year. She noted that the Town is tracking as expected. She indicated that the Park and Recreation part time salary line is running over budget due to well attendance of programs offered but noted there was some reimbursement for extended camp tuition. Next, the first of 3 audits is winding down. She requested that the purchasing policy be visited in a future meeting to review policies and procedures and to discuss raising some of the thresholds, noting that the policy was last amended in 2009 and the bidding ordinance in 2015.

First Selectman Don Lowe made a motion to add an item to the agenda under Information & Discussion.

Motion: Add Traffic Control as an agenda item.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski All in Favor: Unanimous

Information & Discussion:

- A) SVFD monthly report: Fire Chief Chris Fuchs was unable to attend the meeting but provided First Selectman Don Lowe an overview of the month's information/activities. To date, the department has responded to 252 calls. During the month of August 2 members have successfully completed their FF1 certification, both members are fully certified structural firefighters. Additionally, 12 members completed an Inland Water Recue class using the Town's boat and rescue equipment. Beginning September 15th, the SVFD will be hosting a 3-month long FF2 class. Lastly, the Roast Beef Dinner was a success, and the department is very appreciative of the Town's support.
- B) Sherman Public Work supervisor announcement: First Selectman Don Lowe informed that 6 applicants were interviewed for the position. The BOS made an offer to 1 candidate and the offer was accepted. Kris Fazzone will be taking over the position as Public Works supervisor.
- C) Sherman Senior housing referendum: Representative Barbara Ackerman provided an amended proposal. She followed up the proposal by simplifying some of the most outstanding question that are key to the project. She clarified that, with the proposal, only 50 percent of the parcel of land in question would be used for housing. She also added that the assessed value of the land be used to determine the value of rent. Lastly, she confirmed that the walking trails will not be affected by the development. The committee urged the Board to determine a referendum date sooner rather than later. First Selectman Don Lowe agreed and determined that a potential special meeting may need to be called to discuss business.
- D) Park and Recreation: Adult Programming: The Town is looking to gauge interest, with the help of Park and Recreation, about introducing more activities catered towards the adult population in Town. The programs would be targeted towards all adults including seniors unless a program/activity is specifically focused on a particular age demographic. Park & Rec will work to create programs. If anyone has a particular skill or hobby that he/she would like to teach, please feel free to contact Park and Rec about volunteering your services for a class/program.
- E) Park and Recreation: Online registration: The Town would like to start the process with the consideration of implementing. The concept is just an idea but will continue to be discussed at future meetings.

- F) Boardwalk/Seawall/Boat dock repairs totaling \$5512, possibly move to Town Meeting:
The repairs were moved to a Town Meeting to be paid for from the Capital Nonrecurring fund.
Motion: Take the Boardwalk/Seawall/Dock repairs for an amount totaling \$5512 to be paid for from the Capital Nonrecurring fund to Town Meeting.
Motedioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe
Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski All in Favor: Unanimous
- G) Sherman Arts Commission proposal: The idea was presented by Denise Schlesinger. She provided a mission statement with the ultimate goal to create a commission that encompasses all the Arts. She provided a brief background of herself and the purpose of her proposal. Her goal is to expose as many residents as possible to the enriching elements of the Arts. The Board agreed to consider the commission and discuss in future meetings with the request that a more defined explanation be presented that defines the group.
- H) Electrical upgrade at the Sherman Playhouse: The Playhouse has concerns that the current system is not up to the standard needed to provide safe and effective entertainment. The playhouse has provided a bid to upgrade the system which includes the need for trenching. Fire Marshal Dave Lathrop will review the current bid and trenching issues to confirm that adding new electrical will not compromise the new well system. Possibly perform an audit of the current system usage and whether the type of system upgrade is needed. Treasurer Eric Holub mentioned a cost share since the upgrades are to be used for the Playhouse programs and the Town donates the building.
- I) Native plant policy for municipal landscapes: The concept was brought to the BOS by the Conservation Commission. The policy is a guide to ensure that native plants are being planted on municipal properties rather than invasive. Nothing is being determined during this meeting but will be discussed in the future.
- J) Proposed New Senior Center: The workshop group has been working diligently and are now considering the Town Gardens as a location for the center. Ray Kelly provided a crude drawing of placement for the new building. The goal of the workshop group is to produce a plan that can be presented to the public that provides enough information so residents can make an educated vote.
- K) School Building Committee report: Selectman Joel Bruzinski: First Selectman Don Lowe provided a review since Selectman Joel Bruzinski was unable to attend the School Building Committee meeting. Mr. Lowe added that the Committee had taken on the extra responsibility of getting the playground project underway. The school is waiting for all the pieces but are projecting that assembly will begin late fall. There is a possibility that more funds will be requested to complete the project.
- L) September 17th barn dedication at the Historical Society: need help with traffic and people flow: The dedication is on Saturday, September 17, 2022, from 3-5pm. The Town is looking for volunteers to help with parking, crossing guards. First selectman Don Lowe will follow-up with the Boy Scouts and constables about volunteering.

M) Report on current bids: MTH walkways, MTH roof, MTH chimney: Several bids were submitted with a wide range of costs for all projects. Local contractor Two Brothers Masonry was awarded the walkway and chimney.

Motion: Award the bids for MTH walkway and MTH chimney replacement to Two Brothers Masonry.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski All in Favor: Unanimous

Business Manager Liz LaVia suggested using LoCIP funds to pay for the roof and walkway projects. She noted once the Board approves the contractor, she can apply for the grant.

Motion: Approve Aiello Roofing to do the roof replacement at MTH.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion: Use LoCIP funds for roof and walkway projects.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski All in Favor: Unanimous

N) Traffic Control: The issue of speeding in Town has been affecting residents. The Selectman agreed that enforcement will be the only way to deter the excessive speeding in Town. The Town will look into adding an extra trooper periodically during each month that will strictly work on speed enforcement. First Selectman Don Lowe will look into the costs of adding an extra trooper and whether the profits made from the tickets can go into partially paying for that trooper. Business Manager Liz LaVia noted that the budget adds extra money in the Trooper line to cover miscellaneous costs such as parades, etc. The funds can possibly be used to cover the costs of the extra trooper.

Other Business: None

Public Comment: Kris Fazzone inquired on whether Park and Rec will be looped in with the vision of the new Senior Center. Lastly, he added making the extra trooper work at random during the month enforcing speed.

Gene McRoberts of Jericho Rd. South commented that the moving speed sign does work to curb some speeding when it's visible.

Barbara Ackerman added that its very important for the proposed Senior Center be closely located to the proposed Senior housing for easy accessibility for seniors.

Stam Greenbuam encouraged better community support for the senior population in Town. He also suggested more signage of posted speed limits in certain parts of Town. He noted that usually there is one sign for miles of road indicating the speed limit.

Carol Muska advocated for a referendum on Senior Housing to be sooner rather than later.

First Selectman Don Lowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

All in Favor: Unanimous

Notes respectfully submitted by Margaret Beatty on September 7, 2022.