

**Town of Sherman  
Board of Selectman Monthly Meeting  
September 22, 2022 at 7pm  
Mallory Town Hall**

**Member's Present:** First Selectman Don Lowe, Selectman Joel Bruzinski, and Selectman Bob Ostrosky

**Member's Absent:** None

**Audience & Invited:** Business Manager Liz LaVia, and residents from the community

**Clerk:** Margaret Beatty

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

**Public Comment:** Terri Hahn of 13 Pepper Pond Road proudly confirmed that the 8-year cell tower project has come to fruition. The Coote Hill cell tower, which is a private entity, is up and will provide much needed service to not just residents but also benefit the SVFD. She thanked all who supported the project as well as those who opposed it.

Joe Moravsky of 10 Route 39 North lodged a complaint citing that his direct neighbor located at 12 Route 39 North has converted the property into an Airbnb. The turnover of renters have been loud and disruptive to his family and other adjoining neighbors, with weekly renters showing up at their home due to being lost and/or curiosity. He noted that zoning does not allow for this type of rentals in Sherman and that the property is being misidentified on rental websites. (Note: Fire Marshal Dave Lathrop will also intervene on the matter.)

**Correspondence:** None

**Administrative Item:**

**A) Approval of Minutes:**

8/25/2022 Board of Selectman Monthly Meeting

**Motioned by:** First Selectman Don Lowe

**Seconded by:** Selectman Joel Bruzinski      **Abstain:** Selectman Bob Ostrosky (not present at Meeting)

9/1/2022 Board of Selectman Special Meeting

**Motioned by:** Selectman Bob Ostrosky

**Seconded by:** First Selectman Don Lowe      **Abstain:** Selectman Joel Bruzinski (not present at Meeting)

9/8/2022 Board of Selectman Special Meeting

**Motioned by:** Selectman Joel Bruzinski

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

**B) Appointment to Historic District:**

**Motion:** Appoint Kara Kaufman, who lives in the historic district, to the Historic District Commission.

**Motioned by:** First Selectman Don Lowe

**Seconded by:** Selectman Joel Bruzinski      **All in Favor:** Unanimous

C) **Tax Refunds:** Approve refunds to the amount \$398.42

**Motioned by:** Selectman Bob Ostrosky

**Seconded by:** First Selectman Don Lowe      **All in Favor:** Unanimous

D) **Financial Review:** Business Manager Liz LaVia noted that the Town is rounding the first fiscal quarter, and everything is tracking as expected. The Town received notice from the state that the Town is responsible to pick up the Troopers phone expense, the state has been paying the expense but now would like the Towns to incur the expense. The main audit is finished, and the Town is now waiting on annual reports, the second audit is underway.

First Selectman Don Lowe added that before he moved into the Information & Discussion portion of the meeting, he would like to add 2 agenda items.

**Motion:** Add a motion to rescind a motion made at the Board of Selectman Special Meeting on 9/8/2022 concerning the Senior Housing referendum.

**Motioned by:** First Selectman Don Lowe

**Seconded by:** Selectman Joel Bruzinski      **All in Favor:** Unanimous

**Motion:** Add an agenda item called Recycling stickers.

**Motioned by:** First Selectman Don Lowe

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

**Information & Discussion:**

An approved motion was made at the BOS Special Meeting dated 9/8/2022 to schedule a referendum for Senior Housing on October 15, 2022. The Selectman agreed to rescind the motion due to conflicts of timing and the Midterm elections.

**Motion:** To rescind the motion made at the 9/8/2022 regarding the referendum date for the Senior Housing.

**Motioned by:** First Selectman Don Lowe

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

A) **SVFD monthly report:** SVFD President Kelly Beatty provided an update on the department's monthly report. She reported that the department responded to 280 calls,

5 members participated in a Sonar Search and Rescue class on the lake. There are currently 4 members taking a FF2 class. Trinity Health, which is the current paramedic service provider, announced that they will not renew their service for 2023-2024 year. The department is actively searching for EMS services to replace Trinity Health. Lastly, she reminded that residents proactively have the chimneys cleaned to avoid chimney fires since burning season is upon us.

- B) **Acceptance and funding of cost share portion of FEMA Grant:** The fire department requested that the Town pay the cost share of the grant, amounting to 5% of the expense.

**Motion:** A motion to go to a future Town Meeting, for an amount of \$7140 to come out of ARPA funds if appropriate if not, Capital Nonrecurring, to pay for the matching part of the FEMA Grant secured by the SVFD.

**Motioned by:** Selectman Bob Ostrosky

**Seconded by:** First Selectman Don Lowe     **All in Favor:** Unanimous

- C) **Public Works report:** Public Works Supervisor Kris Fazzino provided a report. He noted that Mike LaVia has taken on the role of mechanic for the department. He took an inventory of current tools and equipment and identified that many need replacing or updating. He would like to invest in a laptop specifically for the mechanic to keep documents on inventory and equipment. Tree maintenance and paving are the major projects set within the budget. Gentile will be coming in October to remove the most hazardous trees, but the Town has more trees that need removal than money in the budget for maintenance. Public Works will assess the trees on a sliding scale and prioritize by need. Jim Munch commented that the tree warden should identify the hazards in Town. The department will address the overgrowth on the roads and revisited the possibility of purchasing a roadside mower. The Selectman requested that Kris bring a formal request for the mower and along with quotes for the cost. Lastly, paving of roads identified on the budgeted list will commence. He suggested using the state bid process for the work. The process is more cost effective. The Town will investigate the process to confirm that the Town can participate. Roads that are not scheduled for paving will be patched and he would like to see the Town move towards an oil and stone rotation to help preserve roads. The truck on order is set to finally be delivered by December.

- D) **Happy Acres fencing material to possibly be moved to a Town Meeting:** Project has been tempered and the scope of the work lowered which allows for the costs to be covered by the Happy Acres maintenance fund.

- E) **Discussion on speed enforcement:** Speeding has become a consistent issue in Town. The Selectman agreed that adding an extra trooper in Town dedicated to speeding on a trial basis. They discussed a 2-month window at 16 hours per month, 4 hours per weekend. Collect the data from tickets written and expenses accrued would be covered from the trooper line. Rick Hudson commented that having the portable speed

indicator has helped curb some of the speeding in the short term but adding extra assistance would really benefit the community.

- F) Discussion on residents who have not registered their vehicle in CT:** The Town will investigate residents who live in Town but do not have their vehicles registered with the state of CT. The Town will start by using internal sources but will seek out a proposal from an enforcement company.
- G) Sherman Senior Housing referendum:** December 10, 2022 was the date agreed upon to hold the referendum.  
**Motion:** Hold a referendum on the Senior Housing proposal that has been placed in front of us on December 10, 2022 from 8am-8pm.  
**Motioned by:** First Selectman Don Lowe  
**Seconded by:** Selectman Bob Ostrosky      **All in Favor:** Unanimous
- H) Park and Rec: Adult programming:** Starting in October, 3 classes offered. The classes offered are as followed: a 3-session class on managing your taxes, a discussion group on politics, and a writing class to promote a motivation for writing. The classes will be held at the Senior Center.
- I) Sherman Arts Commission proposal:** A new proposal was submitted providing a more centralized purpose. Denise Schlesinger and Linda Hubbard presented a revised proposal. The Selectman agreed to continue adding the proposal to the BOS agenda and continue the conversation. First Selectman Don Lowe will investigate the procedures needed to pursue the Commission.
- J) Electrical upgrade at the Sherman Playhouse:** The current electrical system is not adequate to accommodate the newest production performances. Safety has been cited as a concern. Fire Marshal Dave Lathrop has been running point on the proposed project ensuring minimal disturbance to the surrounding area. He has cited the project is doable and will pursue a cost analysis. The possibility of switching to LED is also being explored.
- K) Native plant policy for municipal landscapes:** The Town will make a concerted effort moving forward to plant native plants on municipal land. Bill McCann of the Conservation Commission encouraged using native plants which provides a pollinator friendly environment. The information will be posted as guidelines to be followed.
- L) School Building Committee report: Joel Bruzinski:** The Building Committee had an RFP put out for a comprehensive mechanical, electrical, and plumbing overhaul of the school. Currently, the Committee is in the process of interviewing firms that submitted bids for the project.
- M) Recycling Stickers:** First Selectman Don Lowe wanted to gauge the temperature from the other 2 Selectman about having the Recycling Center of New Milford come to Sherman and hold a presentation explaining the process of the stickers.

**Other Business:** None

**Public Comment:** Joe Moravsky of 10 Route 39 North asked how many kids are currently enrolled in the school. Selectman Joel Bruzinski replied about 230 children. He also added enrollment projection in reference to the school building, and its needs, has been difficult since the last 2 years have been inconsistent. Mr. Moravsky's lastly raised concern about the speeding out his driveway. The speed is inconsistent from either direction. He would like to investigate having a hidden driveway sign placed prior to his driveway to inform drivers.

Amanda O'Neill of Big Trail questioned if the state pays to use the property at Colonial Field as storage. She wondered if the Town could negotiate paying for speed dips in exchange for using Town Property as storage. First Selectman Don Lowe responded that the State bid out the guardrail project privately and the Town allowed as a curtesy to use the field for storage.

Jim Munch of Route 37 West wanted to know if there were any results on the study being done in the K-Wing of the school. Lastly, he had a concern on the new Disabled Veterans tax ordinance. He feels that parts of the ordinance penalizes his spouse. First selectman Don Lowe offered to have a third party look into the ordinance.

Rick Hudson of Crooked Furrows suggested moving the 45MPH speed sign heading up 39 North and place it past Sunny Lane. He also suggested eliminating the passing zone that is marked in between the 45MPH speed sign and Sunny Lane.

With no other comments, Selectman Bob Ostrosky moved to adjourn the meeting at 8: 39 pm.

**Motioned by:** Selectman Bob Ostrosky

**Seconded by:** Selectman Joel Bruzinski

**All in Favor:** Unanimous

Notes respectfully submitted by Margaret Beatty on September 4, 2022.