

Town of Sherman  
Board of Selectman Monthly Meeting  
April 28, 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: Treasurer Eric Holub, Business Manager Liz LaVia, Candlewood Lake Authority representatives, and residents from the community.

Clerk: Margaret Beatty

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

Public Comment: First Selectman Don Lowe informed the attendees that public comment will only be allowed at during respective times during the agenda. He commented that directed comments about agenda items should be reserved during the allotted public comment section, distinguished at the beginning and end of meeting, and no longer during discussed agenda items. He noted that meetings have gone off topic with too much cross comment which is not how BOS meetings are intended to function. He then opened the meeting to the public for public comment.

Katy Osborn of 5 Osborn Road inquired whether the BOS will provide the ability for ZOOM access to meetings to those who cannot otherwise attend meetings in person. She noted it would provide a certain convenience to residents if the option was available.

Correspondence: Ally Meenhan submitted a letter to the Board addressing the safety concerns of speeding in town. She included in her letter her own personal dangerous experience at the cross walk located between the Painted Lemon and the school. She implored that more be done to address the safety issue.

Administrative Items:

A) Approval of Minutes:

3/24/2022 Board of Selectman Monthly Meeting

Motioned by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

Seconded by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky                      All in Favor: Unanimous

3/7/2022 Board of Selectman Budget Intake Meeting

Motioned by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski  
Seconded by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky      All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion: To change the agenda item to the Board of Selectman Budget Intake Meeting as 3/14/2022 minutes not 3/9/2022, as listed on the agenda.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe  
Seconded by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky      All in Favor: Unanimous

3/14/2022 Board of Selectman Budget Intake meeting

Motioned by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski  
Seconded by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky      All in Favor: Unanimous

3/30/2022 Board of Selectman Special Meeting

Motioned by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski  
Seconded by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky      All in Favor: Unanimous

4/7/2022 Board of Selectman Special Meeting

Motioned by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski  
Seconded by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky      All in Favor: Unanimous

B) Reappointments:

Motion: Reappoint Robert Boone to the Historical District Commission for a 3-year term.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe  
Seconded by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky      All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion: Reappoint Jan Desiato to the Historical District Commission for a 3-year term.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe  
Seconded by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky      All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion: To elevate Marilyn Dwyer from an alternate position to full time member of the Historic District Commission.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe  
Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski      All in Favor: Unanimous

Motion: To appoint Cara Kaufmann to the Historic District Commission for a 3-year term.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe  
Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski      All in Favor: Unanimous

C) Tax Refunds: Motion: To approve tax refunds of \$2660.69.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky      All in Favor: Unanimous

- D) Tax suspense list: The tax suspense list are taxes deemed uncollectible by the Tax Collector.

Motion: Taxes deemed by the Tax Collector uncollectible to the amount \$5464.89 therefore the Town suspends attempts to collect these taxes, therefore the Town moves these accounts to suspense list.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky      All in Favor: Unanimous

Note: Collections for the taxes have not stopped but rather moved into another portion of the books.

- E) Financial Review: Business Manager Liz LaVia provided the Board with a 10-month snapshot of where spending is at in the year. Some spending costs not included in the accounting exclude spring paving and Resident State Trooper billing. She noted that there are some large outstanding expenses to come. An auditor has been appointed that has previously worked for the Town. The Connecticut Partnership came in with a dental plan that will result in a \$1300 savings to the Town. Lastly, cyber security training has been scheduled that coincides with the Town's cyber security policy.

Information & Discussion:

- A) SVFD monthly report: Fire Chief Chris Fuchs was unable to attend but provided First Selectman Don Lowe a review of the month's activity. To date, the department has responded to 121 EMS calls. Over the past month, 11 members completed the 13-week Introduction to Officer course, a water rescue class, 6 members are currently training to attain their Que endorsement, which is the required certification to drive fire apparatus. One new member has joined the department. Lastly, the apparatus floor resurfacing project is in progress and anticipated to be complete ahead of schedule.
- B) New Fairfield Covid vaccination site and contact tracing costs: Discussion amongst the Board took place on whether to pay the amount or negotiate the costs with New Fairfield. The bill amounts to \$19,945 with \$13,400 accounting for contact tracing. Treasure Eric Holub spoke on behalf of the Heath Inspector Tim Simpkins, who was unable to attend the meeting. As per Mr. Holub's conversation with Mr. Simpkin's, Mr. Simpkin's assured that the costs generated by Sherman where in line with the bill presented. Treasurer Eric Holub noted that payment can be made from the ARPA fund.

Motion: Bring to Town Meeting an expense of \$19,945.84 to pay for the Sherman share of the New Fairfield Covid clinic expenses be pulled from the ARPA funds.

Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski      All in Favor: Unanimous

- C) Candlewood Lake Authority new building presentation: Representatives from the CLA presented their vision of a potential central building located in Sherman. Martin O'Connor, Sherman's CLA delegate, started the presentation providing an overview of space the CLA uses to conduct operation. Currently the CLA leases a space in New Milford as well as occupying a building in Sherman for 20 years. Marine Patrol is stationed in Sherman along with the use of 7 docs for various boats. The objective of the CLA is to consolidate their location to one central location with a facility that is up to code that will also provide a stable place for yearly operations and storage. Architect Eric Diller of Evolve Design Group provided a conceptual drawing of the proposed building that would replace the current building. The CLA believe that there is a value in keeping with Sherman and are looking for feedback on whether Sherman was interested in housing the CLA headquarters. There has been no discussion on funding the project, the initial goal was to gauge interest from Sherman on being the central location. The agenda item will be added to the next monthly meeting for further discussion.
- D) Sherman Art Association: Representative Linda Hubbard wanted to highlight that Sherman has an organization dedicated to art. The organizations goals are to 1) introduce to residents that such an organization exists, 2) plan events open to residents, and 3) showcase talents, hold classes and events in hopes of someday having an established gallery that the Sherman Artists can call home. She hopes that through hard work and donations that dreams can be realized. The organization has a website, shermanartists.org as well as a Facebook page called Sherman Artists. Membership is open to all Sherman residents.
- E) Independence Village: Ted Hollander and Barbara Ackerman spoke on behalf of the village. The group is looking to host a future referendum so that the proposed senior housing project can come to a vote. The group is looking for appropriate language from the Town lawyer for the referendum and to allow for enough time for residents out of town to request absentee ballots. The group is planning a forum for May 18, 2022 at Mallory Town Hall, during the forum they are hoping to announce the referendum for June 11, 2022. The group is looking for specific language that would acknowledge the land behind American Pie Co could be used for senior housing and that the Town would buy the land but receive the proceeds from the real estate taxes as well as have control over the lease. Selectman Bob Ostrosky raised concern that the wording needs to be specific and that there can be no room for interpretation. The Board agreed to a special meeting to discuss the language needed to proceed.
- F) 5G report: First Selectman Don Lowe presented the information on the research he conducted. He based his research on 3 factors, 1) what's happening in Sherman, 2) safety, and 3) if the topic is germane to the Board. First Selectman Don Lowe noted that he worked with David Lamendola, Verizon representative in government affairs. Mr. Lowe explained that there are 3 types of 5G, slow, medium, and fast measured in

millimeter waves. The fast version is sparking concern in Town and nationwide. He also noted that there are no plans to bring the fast version of 5G to Sherman and that would require an application process with Planning and Zoning but more so with the state Citing Counsel. The Town of Sherman has the implementation of low-band, C-band 5G in Sherman. There has been movement in large cities for 5G but not rural areas. Lastly, he commented that research needs to be done that reflect ever side of the argument and credibility of the source needs to be considered. First Selectman Don Lowe ended by reminding that the Board is responsible for the budget and the well-being of the people of Sherman and the realm of this topic is not pertinent to the job of the Board.

Selectman Joel Bruzinski added the importance of vetting the legitimacy of sources. He noted that everything can be traced to basic knowledge of the electromagnetic spectrum. Alarmist terminology excite the public without knowing basic facts about the topic at hand. He added he will continue to research the topic.

First Selectman Don Lowe reminded that there will be no comments during agenda items, all comments need to be saved for the Public Comment section.

- G) School building committee: The BOE is looking to bring to Town Meeting authorization for the formation of the building committee.

Motion: Authorization for a school building committee to bring to Town Meeting.

Motioned by: selectman Bob Ostrosky

Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski      All in Favor: Unanimous

- H) Logically: additional wireless access points in Town Hall: First Selectman Don Lowe noted he misnamed the agenda item, and that the agenda item is cloud-based emails. The Board decided to table the agenda item and revisit at the next monthly meeting.
- I) Registrars new computer request: The request will be dealt with in the next budget cycle along with any other department that may need new equipment. For the present moment software can be installed to troubleshoot any issues in the system.
- J) Senior Center staff meal cap: The stipend for the staff that take the Seniors to American Pie is at \$15. The Senior Center is requesting that the stipend be increased to \$20 without an increase to their budget line. The agenda item was brought to the BOS because prior stipend changes were done through the BOS. The BOS agreed with the request.
- K) Progress report: proposed new senior center: The subcommittee of the workshop committee have developed an RFP for an architect. The workshop group is planning on meeting and go over the RFP before it is sent out to firms that have expressed interest in the project. The committee will then go to town Meeting to pay for the services of an architect to provide renderings of the project and gauge the interest of the public.
- L) Sherman School maintenance /repair report: At present time the committee has been dissolved, not much to report on maintenance.

Other Business: Selectman Joel Bruzinski referenced back to the letter submitted on the record in Correspondence about traffic issues in Town. He acknowledges the issues and feels enforcement will be necessary. The possibility of a ticket blitz is being considered.

Public Comment: Rick Hudson of 20 Crooked Furrows commented that portable speed box is going out.

Al Ziesler of Rising Sun Trail commented that the school building committee be modified to school maintenance and building committee. He feels its essential to those serving on the committee look at the full spectrum of options not just building. He suggests that the committee is given the charter to review all potential options.

Jen Freed of 61 Church Road commented that she was disappointed to receive an email from Superintendent Jeff Melendez that her home-schooled child could not participate on the Sherman School softball team. She noted that 33 states have laws that allow home schooled children the opportunity to play on local school teams, CT leaving up the decision to the discretion of the superintendent. She hoped the Town would be more inclusive to the needs of all children. Lastly, she presented a link to the Western Connecticut Counsel of Governments Wireless Communications task force recommendation report published in 2020. In the report, a 164-page list of specific zoning regulation recommendations on 5G deployment were cited. She cited the most important facet of the regulations were that the Towns have the ability to require the company's installing equipment provide baseline and post installation radio frequency reports. The reports provide that companies remain in compliance post installation.

Jody Brown of 16 Pinewood Shores spoke up on behalf of concerned citizens of Sherman and the implementation of 5G. She provided her credentials with a background in energy conservation working with the installation of LED lighting, solar, and smart technology. She expressed concern for 5G and feels that there is enough information to raise questions.

Susan Zietler of 8 Curtis Drive reiterated the same sentiment of others who spoke prior to her comments about 5G. She concluded that there are many different reputable sources with extensive educational backgrounds that are sounding the alarm on the negative health effects of 5G. She believes in protecting the next generation and that it is the responsibility of adults to advocate for their protection.

Roderica Pole of 9 Coburn Road East commented that she did not move to Sherman for cell service but for the beauty of the town.

Sabine Scherner of 12 Cedar Lane wanted clarification relating to the signage on her road stating 'Town of Sherman Property, No Trespassing'. First Selectman Don Lowe replied that there is an ongoing dispute to show the exact property line and the neighboring properties. The sign is present for safety reasons until the issue has been resolved, the property is being currently surveyed.

Selectman bob Ostrosky moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

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

Notes respectfully submitted on May 6, 2022 by Margaret Beatty.