

Town of Sherman  
Board of Selectman Monthly Meeting  
January 26, 2023 at 7 pm  
Mallory Town Hall

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

Member's Absent: None

Audience & Invited: Treasurer Eric Holub, Business Manger Liz LaVia, Public Works Supervisor Kris Fazzone, representatives from the Golden Bridge Project, 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 pm followed by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: None

Administrative:

- A) Approval of Minutes: 12/15/22 Board of Selectman Monthly Meeting  
Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky  
Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski      All in Favor: Unanimous
- B) Tax Refunds: The Town accepts refunds of \$711.19  
Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe  
Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski      All in Favor: Unanimous
- C) Financial Review: Business Manager Liz LaVia provided the board with a 7-month snapshot of the general fund with most funds tracking at/or under budget. She will be highlighting items that are running high or low with justification/explanation on a spread sheet. She noted that the 2022 taxes have been filed and preliminary budget work is underway for the next fiscal year. Lastly, she noted that the Town was approved for the troopers speeding grant of \$50,000, payable by reimbursements in \$5000 increments on a first come, first served basis.

Information & Discussion:

- A) SVFD: Fire Chief Chris Fuchs was unable to attend the meeting but provided the selectman with an update of current events. The department has responded to 26 EMS

calls, welcomed a new member, two members completed their FF2 training certifications, and one member completed his EMT certification. Ice rescues have been scheduled for the end of January, weather permitting. The two fundraisers, Christmas Tree sales and Santa Express, were a huge success. The Santa Express had over 50 stops. Lastly, the department is looking to put together a new recruitment and retention committee with the goal of strengthening our volunteer membership.

- B) Capital request from SVFD for improvement to Programmable Logic Control system in conjunction with the water pump system: Fire Marshal Dave Lathrop explained that the firehouse and playhouse ran out of running water. The system is up and running but the control panel is outdated and needs to be replaced. An estimated cost of \$6200 would cover the electrical work and control panel upgrade. A faulty valve was the culprit for the well to run dry and cause tank overflows.

Motion: Bring to Town Meeting the capital request from the SVFD for improvements PLC system in conjunction with improvements to the water pump system for an amount not to exceed \$7000 to be taken from either ARPA funds, if applicable, or the Capital Nonrecurring fund.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky All in Favor: Unanimous

- C) The Golden Bridge Project presentation (Green energy initiatives): The group consists of 10 to 12 individuals determined to meet regularly and discuss civilly current affairs. One topic that every member agreed that could be achieved locally was climate change. The group adopted a mission statement that was modeled after another group with like minded goals out of Bedford, NY called Bedford 2030. The goal is for Sherman to adopt a community wide effort to more environmentally sound initiatives and reduce Town wide carbon emissions. The Golden Bridge Project wants to act as a conduit for residents to aspire to greener alternatives. The Project will offer a website, public blog, offer mailings and encourage word of mouth.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky cautioned against using outside associations logos. It can open the Town up to litigation.

Bill McCann asked whether carbon emission reduction in Bedford, NY included efforts from the residents and what were some examples taken by residents to reduce their carbon footprint. He was encouraged to go to the website called Bedford2030. Anne Weisberg wondered if an audit was done by Bedford that contributed to the Towns baseline of consumption. Susan Zeitler had a comment but was directed to save until Public Comment.

- D) Capital request from Park and Recreation for repair of the lifeguard shed and the storage shed (two separate projects): The structures are both in a state of disrepair, the selectman agreed that both projects should be brought to a Town meeting. After deliberation, the agenda item will be on the next monthly meeting once 2 extra quotes are acquired for both projects.

- E) Public Works report: Public Works Supervisor Kris Fazzone informed that the Avant has finally been delivered and employees are training on the machine. The wash bay heat has been repaired. Bob Judd, the tree warden, will be putting together a more comprehensive report on necessary tree removal. Gentile continues to remove problematic trees in Town, Eversource has also stepped up with tree removal efforts. The department is moving forward in ordering the new truck that was approved at Town Meeting. The loader is on borrowed time and a plan is being put together for a future meeting. Fire Marshal Dave Lathrop provided an update on the proposed gas fired furnace and replacing the oil tank for the oil burner. Mitchell provided an estimate which included the cost of the electrical work and tank. Samples of the oil in the tanks have been collected and sent out but results are not in. The estimated electrical work came in at \$15,870 and the tank price at \$8570, estimate for tank removal pending upon results of the oil samples.
- F) Traffic enforcement report: With the purchase of data cartridges, the Town has been able to track how many cars are traveling on specific roads with rates of speed. (Note: No personal data is being collected) The data provided yielded surprising results, most vehicles traveling on identified roads followed marked speed limits. The Town will continue to utilize the extra trooper but increase hours with the money acquired from the new trooper grant issued by the state. Leach Hollow Road is under consideration for the new signs that have been purchased.
- G) Proposed Senior Center report: First Selectman Don Lowe updated that the workshop group met recently. The group is looking for permission to pursue preliminary drawings on the project to present at a Town Meeting. A firm as been selected to provide drawings and engage in a site walk of the proposed property. The Board okayed reaching out to the firm, plans and discussion to be continued at future meetings.
- H) School Building Committee report: Joel Bruzinski: Selectman Joel Bruzinski highlighted that a recurring discussion point at meetings revolve around the schools current square footage and the need to repurpose it. The committee has discussed using a wing as a potential Senior Center and the appetite for the idea. Selectman Bob Ostrosky questioned the viable use of the space stating lack of outdoor space for seniors, parking availability, and the basic needs requested by seniors. Selectman Joel Bruzinski discussed how to use specific spaces more efficiently. Overall, First Selectman Don Lowe and Selectman Bob Ostrosky expressed concern that the conversation about repairing the school has shifted back towards conversations about redesigning /repurposing and it appears problematic. Selectman Bob Ostrosky questioned the timing of the committee's proposals and building consensus. Selectman Joel Bruzinski encouraged residents of all opinions to come and participate during the Building Committee meetings. Treasure Eric Holub commented that transparency is key for voters to understand the big picture.

Other Business: None

Public Comment: Susan Zeitler of 8 Curtis Drive expressed disappointment that her voice was not allowed to be heard during a segment on the agenda. She expressed her opinions on a number of topics and related to Agenda 21 and her concerns that globalization will inflict unwanted changes for herself and her family.

No other Comments.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky moved to adjourn the meeting at 8: 22 pm.

Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski      All in Favor: Unanimous

Notes respectfully submitted by Margaret Beatty On February 12, 2023.