

**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman Monthly Meeting
February 23, 2023, at 7pm
Mallory Town Hall**

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

Member's Absent: Selectman Bob Ostrosky, Treasurer Eric Holub, and Business Manager Liz LaVia

Audience & Invited: Residents from the community.

Clerk: Margaret Beatty

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

Public Comment: Susan Zeitler of 8 Curtis Drive voiced concern about the Golden Bridge Project's presentation at the last BOS monthly meeting discussing potential ways for Sherman to explore greener alternatives. She emphasized that it's important to understand the hidden agenda of green energy and its larger scheme in society.

Anne Mouio of 28 Farm Road also emphasized her concern over the Golden Bridge Project's motive. She read through the lengthy goals of the group and shared skepticism of the provisions stated in the goals. She believes people can independently make decisions on how to live, not follow guidelines set forth by activist demands.

Kent Lawson of 39 Holly Point Road commented that the Golden Bridge Project's intention was to bring awareness to potential ways of lowering carbon emissions on a local level. The goal was to have local conversation not insight conspiracy theory. The goal of the group is not to mandate rules but to draw attention to environmental issues with simple solutions.

Katie Osborn of 5 Osborn Road wondered whether there has been any more conversation/movement to incorporate ZOOM to the meetings.

Correspondence: None

Administrative Items:

- A) **Approval of Minutes:** 1/26/2023 Board of Selectman Monthly meeting
Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe
Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski **All in Favor:** Unanimous
- B) **Tax Refunds:** The Town accepts refunds of \$2,636.63.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

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

- C) **Financial Review:** Business manager Liz LaVia was unable to attend the meeting but provided First Selectman Don Lowe with the latest financials. Currently, the Town is tracking normally and rounding the last 5 months of the fiscal year.
- D) **Appointments:** The Historic District needs another member appointed to their board; Selectman Joel Bruzinski was nominated for the position. Selectman Joel Bruzinski asked to table the appointment until the Historic District confirms that the bylaws within the board can appoint a paid employee of the Town. Further research needs to be done.

Information & Discussion:

- A) **SVFD monthly report:** Chief Chris Fuchs noted that the department has responded to 58 EMS calls since January. The department is focusing on apparatus repair/maintenance. The recruitment committee has been working on plan to attract and retain new members. Lastly, 3 new members joined the department. Selectman Joel Bruzinski questioned if there was a schedule by which fire apparatus equipment should retire. Fire Chief Chris Fuchs responded that the National Fire Protection Association has standards for anything in the fire service which relates to usage. He noted generally 30 years is the standard, but it also depends on how the apparatus is used and its frequency of use.
- B) **Petition by Jay and Lisa Neugarten for the Town of Sherman to discontinue an unused portion of Cedar Lane:** Attorney Lisa Buzaid, who is representing the Neugartens, provided an in-depth synopsis of the request. The homeowners are petitioning the Town to relinquish an unused portion, owned by the Town, on Cedar Lane stating that trespassers that navigate that portion of land open the Neugartens to liability. The agenda item was tabled until the next BOS monthly meeting so that the Selectmen and Town attorney could review the petition.
- C) **Capital request from Park and Recreation for repair of the lifeguard shed and the storage shed (two separate projects):** Agenda item tabled; 2 more quotes are needed before decision is made to satisfy bidding ordinance. Will discuss at next meeting.
- D) **Public Works report:** Public Works is currently working working on clearing and prepping trails, a plan is still in the works to address the dying trees in Town. Potholes are being addressed and the new speed signs are up and running. The Town Loader has reached its life expectancy and in need of replacement, discussion on topic will be on agenda for the next BOS meeting. The replacement of the heat and oil tank at Public Works can move forward, tests done on oil came back not contaminated. Selectman Joel Bruzinski suggested that a second opinion be entered into the conversation addressing the Loader.

- E) **Traffic enforcement report:** Overall, people generally are driving within the speed limit.
- F) **Proposed Senior Center report and capital request to send to Town Meeting for a preliminary rendering:** The workshop committee is working with Westchester Modular to secure renderings. The plan provides the residents a vision of the proposed Senior Center.
Motion: Approve \$9,000 from the Capital Nonrecurring Fund for site plan and site renderings of the proposed Senior Center to go to Town Meeting.
Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe
Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski **All in Favor:** Unanimous
- G) **Approval of Emergency Plan by the Registrars of Voters:** A very thorough plan was submitted to provide guidance in the event of an emergency.
Motion: to approve the emergency plan for the Registrars of Voters as submitted.
Motioned by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski
Seconded by: First Selectman Don Lowe **All in Favor:** Unanimous
- H) **Happy Acres barn repair, resurfacing, and painting in conjunction with STEAP grant:** The Town is moving forward with the project, funding was secured with the STEAP grant. Building specs are being assembled.
- I) **School Building Committee report; Selectman Bruzinski:** The committee will be implementing hybrid meeting, incorporating ZOOM and in-person. Accessibility to all residents provides the best transparency. The committee approved a plan to conduct a battery of testing to source contaminants and/or hazardous material. Lastly, an RFPQ for an owner's representative was requested. The owner's rep is someone that represents the Town and watches over every aspect of a job/project, 6 firms are interested, and interviews will be conducted.

Other Business: None

Public Comment: Katie Osborn of 5 Osborn Road was thankful for the maintenance of the Town trails. She also wondered if there was a more reliable way to access Building Committee meetings.

No other Public Comment.

First Selectman Don Lowe entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

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

Notes respectfully submitted on March 12, 2023 by Margaret Beatty.