

**Town of Sherman**  
**Board of Selectman Monthly Meeting**  
**April 27, 2023, at 7pm**  
**Mallory Town Hall**

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

**Member's Absent:** Selectman Joel Bruzinski

**Audience & Invited:** Treasurer Eric Holub, Business Manager Liz LaVia, Fire Chief Chris Fuchs, PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone, Fire Marshal Dave Lathrop, and residents from the community.

**Clerk:** Margaret Beatty

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:** First Selectman Don Lowe called the meeting to order at 7:01pm followed by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment:** Terri Hahn of 13 Pepper Pond provided an update on the privately owned cell tower. The transformer has been delivered and necessary hook-ups are underway to get the tower up and running. She reiterated the benefits of having this tower and its capabilities to save lives. The SVFD will also be adding its emergency transmitting equipment to this tower.

**Correspondence:** None

**Administrative:**

**A) Approval of Minutes:**

**3/23/23 Board of Selectman Monthly Meeting**

**Motioned by:** First Selectman Don Lowe

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

**3/29/23 Board of Selectman Special Meeting**

**Motioned by:** First Selectman Don Lowe

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

**4/3/2023 Board of Selectman Special Meeting**

**Motioned by:** First Selectman Don Lowe

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

**B) Tax Refunds:** The Town accepts refunds of \$4,157.77

**Motioned by:** First Selectman Don Lowe

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

**C) Tax Suspense List:** The Town is provided a list of taxes that it has given up on collecting amounting to \$3,842.72.

**Motion:** Accept the Tax Suspense List as presented

**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 10 months into the fiscal year and tracking as expected. Some line items are starting to run higher due to price increases, supply, and utilities. ARPA has been reported and the Town is set for 2023.
- E) **Appointments:** None

### Information & Discussion:

- A) **SVFD monthly report:** Fire Chief Chris Fuchs reported that the department has responded to 134 EMS calls. Marine 7, the Town's rescue boat, is docked on the lake and ready for service, 12 members participated in a water rescue training, as well as a refresher training. A department member will hopefully be finishing up their EMR, Emergency Medical Responder, class and certified by spring. Another 2 members will be finishing up Fire Fighter 1 training in May. The department is still struggling filling daytime calls (from 6am-6pm), PW Supervisor Kris Fazzino has been filling in whenever he has an opportunity. The department has been actively discussing ideas on how to address the daytime shortage.
- B) **Capital request from Public Works for a 200,000 BTU Renzor propane hanging heater and a 400-gallon upright Roth oil tank to possibly bring to Town Meeting:** The request is a shared project and will be presented as one capital request.  
Motion: Move to future Town Meeting a purchase of a 200,000 BTU Renzor propane hanging heater and a 400-gallon upright Roth oil tank for a cost not to exceed \$26,000 from the Capital Nonrecurring Fund.  
Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky  
Seconded by: First Selectman Don Lowe    All in favor: Unanimous
- C) **Public Works report:** PW Supervisor Kris Fazzino noted that the department has completed more days of tree removal with Gentile. Eversource has approved an 8-month long project of tree cutting and wiring with Sherman likely benefiting as part of the project. Bids for paving (Saw Mill) were sent out and S&S was the only company to respond, their bid satisfies the criteria. Paving will be complete prior to Memorial Day festivities. More roads are in discussion for repair. Sweeping has been completed and under budget. Morton salt company has notified PW that another load of salt needs to be delivered to satisfy the minimum in the contract. Inlands/Wetlands has approved the work for the tank removal project. Lastly, PW's is in discussion to repair Truck 3, multiple options are in the works.
- D) **Further discussion of the two building repairs at the Sherman Town Park:** Two buildings (red/white) are in a state of disrepair. Selectman Joel Bruzinski provided correspondence addressing the building. He suggests re-examining the use of the buildings and the

alternatives to fixing. Purchasing a shed might satisfy the need and be more cost prohibitive. First Selectman Don Lowe will explore prices for structures to satisfy the spaces. Historic relevance of the buildings will be discussed at the next Park & Recreation when addressing the repairs and the proper course of action.

- E) **Bid reports:** Bids will be going out in May to address 7 building at Happy Acres under a STEEP grant. Projects include building resurfacing, electrical. A grant was issued to do an architectural study of the Scout House, once plans are settled the Town will be responsible for paying half of the costs of preservation and a second grant installment will cover the rest. Paving bids are out. WestCog accepted the Town's grant request for Old Greenwood Extension Bridge project at a cost of \$1,450,000.
- F) **Revision to the Public Works union contract: boot/clothing allowance:** Employees receive a \$275 allowance for new boots every year. The employees have requested to have that allowance include clothing/uniforms, and/or safety gear. The Board must be in agreement to accept an MOU.  
**Motion:** The Board accepts the MOU as written.  
**Motioned by:** First Selectman Don Lowe  
**Seconded by:** Selectman Bob Ostrosky   **All in Favor:** Unanimous
- G) **Traffic enforcement report:** Enforcements efforts were tampered down recently because of a lag in funding disbursement. The funding has been solved and the Town has \$50,000 to use from now until December 31, 2023. Speeding still an issue but is on the decline.
- H) **Proposed Sherman Senior Center report:** The workshop group has dissolved and moving into creating a building committee. The committee is looking to host its first meeting in May and the goal is to create a proposal to present to the Town.
- I) **School Building Committee report: Selectman Joel Bruzinski:** Selectman Joel Bruzinski was unable to attend the meeting but updated First selectman Don Lowe. He noted that the Committee is currently in a holding pattern and is looking to hold the first referendum in September. Treasurer Eric Holub inquired if the Committee is making an application to the state. Board members will directly send any questions they have to the committee.

**Other Business:** None (Note: work is being done on redoing the Town website and will be presented to the Board at a later meeting for decisions)

**Public Comment:** Rick Hudson of 20 Crooked Furrows asked the Board when the potential work on the scout House will commence.

First Selectman Don Lowe reminded that Saturday, April 29, 2023, is the referendum for the Town Budget vote and encouraged all to vote.

Fire Marshal Dave Lathrop informed that the water system at the firehouse has been redone, alarms are all tied into the computer system. He also noted that his office applied for a state grant and was granted money to buy CO meters for himself and the fire chief.

Bob Ostrosky moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm.

**Motioned by:** Selectman Bob Ostrosky

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

Notes respectfully submitted by Margaret Beatty on May 16, 2023.