

FIRST SELECTMAN COLUMN

01/26/2023 ISSUE DATE

About 60 people showed up for a Town Meeting in Mallory Town Hall last Saturday morning. The voters present – about 55 -- voted unanimously to support an expenditure not-to-exceed \$265,000 to purchase a new 2024 International six-wheel truck for public works. When this truck arrives (estimated to be about a year from now), it will round out and fortify the necessary public works truck fleet for many years forward.

Also approved were the purchase of two more speed indicators that will be placed on Sherman roads to combat speeding there – not-to-exceed \$10,000. These indicators along with the accompanying enforcement are the best tools for keeping speed reasonable on our roads. Two people voted against the purchase and, I believe, they voted against because the neon speed indicators detract from the rural nature of our roads. I don't necessarily disagree with that. They certainly aren't very bucolic devices. Yet, my board is charged with the safety and wellbeing of our citizens, hence the support for anything reasonable that will get drivers to slow down on our roads.

Lastly, and the item that took up most of the meeting time, was a vote to install a new commission – The Commission for the Arts -- within the realm of Sherman government. This ultimately passed; however, seven individuals voted against it and the subject raised many questions. The main questions revolved around the need for it and the purpose of the commission. The primary purpose of this seven person board of volunteers is to coordinate and bring awareness to activities and events by all of the collective arts organizations. Some of these organizations include the Sherman JCC, The Sherman Playhouse, The Arts Association, and the Sherman Chamber ensemble. It could also include Sherman School artistic events (art shows, plays, etc.) Park and Rec sponsored music concerts, or other special events in Sherman that involve music, acting, dance, fine arts and other disciplines.

The Commission for the Arts will only have a budget (probably around \$1,000) to fund a clerk. It won't have a budget to fund events, but will encourage the attendance, raise awareness, and keep a calendar/schedule of artistic events. This commission begins in the start of the new fiscal year, July 1, 2023.

The Board of Selectmen regularly scheduled monthly meeting is on this Thursday, January 26 at 7pm in Mallory Town Hall. Among other items, we will be considering three capital requests: one for the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department and two for Parks and Recreation. The agenda is posted on the Town website.

Following last Saturday's Town Meeting, the Sherman School held a tour and presentation of the necessary repairs of that facility. Both Senator Stephen Harding and Representative Pat Callahan attended as did our entire Board of Selectmen. Present also were the architects that the school has hired, the building committee, and members of the Sherman School administration and faculty along with Board of Education members. They all were on hand to answer questions and concerns. This was a good start to what will be a challenging, profound, and provocative capital project.

We are looking for a volunteer for the Commission on Aging as there is one commissioner's seat open. You don't have to be "up in years" to sit on this commission. Anyone can serve. Feel free to reach out to my office if you'd like to be a part of a valuable advisory commission.



DON LOWE

TOWN OF SHERMAN