

# FIRST SELECTMAN COLUMN

04/06/2023 ISSUE DATE

This is will be an interesting week. By the time you read this column on Thursday, April 6, there will have been a Monday, April 3 Special Board of Selectmen Meeting solely warned for discussing the Sherman School project and particularly the 6,000 square feet of space that the building committee is proposing to eliminate from the school. There will have been held a Tuesday, April 4 Building Committee Meeting that will include thoughts and questions by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education. On Wednesday morning there will have been an SPTO where the Sherman School building project will be the topic of discussion. And then that evening, the Sherman School project will be discussed by the Board of Education at their regularly scheduled meeting.

I am pleased that this project is getting the attention it needs in the public realm. There was also an extensive article last week in a renowned local newspaper paper on the chances and ramifications of the Sherman School closing, which would mean that all of our Sherman students would be bussed to other area schools. As you may know, that is the way the education of our high school students has always been handled.

A regional approach for our K through 8<sup>th</sup> graders would be groundbreaking and a harsh change for Sherman on many fronts. Better than regionalizing, in my opinion, would be to fix the Sherman School's infrastructure problems, and then break the maintenance malaise going forward that caused these problems in the first place. Of course, these repairs need to be made within the realm of acceptability by the Sherman taxpayers. I hope the outlook on that improves after this week of meetings so we can keep the Sherman School in Sherman.

And going forward, even though state statute doesn't allow it, I would like to see the Board of Selectmen given more leeway and decision power for future Sherman School facility maintenance. Our record on capital projects for the Town is first-rate and that should extend to the Sherman School. Right now, by state statute, only the Board of Education can make those kinds of decisions.

The Old Store is now open for business on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from Noon to 4pm. Please stop by and shop. You will be surprised at what you may find there. Also, the Easter Egg Hunt is on for Saturday, April 8 at 12pm (Noon) in the Sherman Town Park. Bring your own basket! This event is rain or shine – the Easter Bunny always delivers!



DON LOWE

TOWN OF SHERMAN