

**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman Monthly Meeting
Thursday March 27, 2025, at 7pm
Charter Hall**

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

Member's Absent: None

Audience & Invited: Treasurer Andrea Maloney, Business Manager Liz LaVia, Park and Recreation committee members, PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone, and residents from the community

Clerk: Maragret Beatty

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

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: None

Administrative Items:

A) Approval of Minutes:

2/19/2025 BOS Budget Intake Meeting

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

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

2/22/2025 BOS Budget Intake Meeting

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

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

2/27/2025 BOS Monthly Meeting

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

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

3/5/2025 BOS Budget Workshop

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

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

3/10/2025 BOS Budget Workshop

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

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

B) Tax Refunds: The Town accepts refunds in the amount of \$10,377.15

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

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

- C) **Financial Review:** Business Manager Liz LaVia noted that the Town has entered its 3rd fiscal quarter and tracking as expected. The budget mailer will be sent out April 11, 2025. No other business to report.

- D) **Acknowledgements/Appointments:**

Motion: Appoint Scott Murray to a 5-year term as a full-time commissioner on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

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

Motion: Appoint Brett Pransky for a 5-year term to the Historic District Commission.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

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

Information & Discussion:

- A) **Tim Laughlin Sherman School renovation report/request:** Tim Laughlin was unable to attend the meeting due to attendance for a Planning and Zoning meeting related to the renovation project. During a June 2024 Town meeting, the BOS allocated \$50,000 from the CNR Fund for expenditure related to summer repairs. There is a remaining balance of \$35,000 from the June request that the BOE would like to use for 2 new/different expenses unrelated to summer repairs.

Motion: For the BOS acting as the Board of Finance to approve use of funds authorized at Town Meeting on June 13, 2024 for electrical enabling and repair work permitting the installation of air conditioning to mitigate temperature and humidity, security features related to access control, alarm systems, and fire safety alarm systems in the area of Sherman School that will be used as a temporary school facility, and fire suppression tank inspections.

Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

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

Motion: To add an agenda item A1), emergency repairs for the school.

Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

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

A1) Emergency repairs for the school:

Motion: To allocate a number not to exceed \$35,000 from the CNR Fund for use by the school and BOE for the following: electrical enabling and repair work permitting the installation of air conditioning to mitigate temperature and humidity, security features related to access control, alarm systems, and fire safety alarm systems in the area of the Sherman School that will be used as a temporary school facility, and fire suppression tank inspections.

Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

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

- B) **SVFD monthly:** Fire Chief Chris Fuchs was unable to attend the meeting, but he provided First Selectman Don Lowe an overview of the month's activities. The firefighters trained on searching and removing victims from a burning building using their self-contained breathing apparatus and radio communications. Emergency medical technicians and responders conducted a CPR recertification and trained on how to care for patients who have suffered a stroke. There are 2 members finishing their EMT certification course, 1 member beginning EMT certification, and 1 member beginning FF2 class. Lastly, the public is reminded to obtain a burn permit through the Fire Marshal office and to check daily weather conditions prior to burning.
- C) **Public Works report:** PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone provided a review of the department's daily maintenance. He informed that road sweeping and pot hole filling are in the works. Chip sealing will begin in the next couple of weeks and a Nixle will be sent to inform residents of any road issues/traffic. Park maintenance has begun and tree work will also continue until the budget is maxed out. Discussion on paving Anderson Road will be addressed at the next BOS Monthly Meeting.

Motion: Move agenda item H) Orange Pepper Road discontinuance to C1).

Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

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

C1) Orange Pepper Road discontinuance: The Town must warn neighboring residents 30 days in advance that the property in question is up for a vote of discontinuance. The BOS have tentatively agreed that May 20, 2025 a Town Meeting will be warned to discuss the issue. The meeting will provide neighbors/residents clarity on details surrounding the expectation for the discontinuance.

- D) **Park and Recreation discussion and resolution regarding summer camp fees:** The BOS, upon discussion during budget workshop meetings, agreed that offsetting some of the financial deficit of Park & Rec could be attributed to marginally raising summer camp fees. Neighboring town fees were considered in the decision process. Park & Rec argued that due to upcoming town expenses (school renovation, potential large capital expenses) this current summer was not ideal to visit changing camp fees. The commission believes that the camp provides residents with something unique without being costly. The BOS noted that increases in minimum wage, supply costs effect budgeting accurately. With much collaborative discussion, the BOS and Park & Rec Commission agreed that keeping camp fees similar to the 2024 season but add a late penalty fee for anyone who signs up after May 20, 2025. For residents it will be an additional \$75 and \$100 for out of town participants after May 20th. Confirmation of the changes will be discussed at the next Park & Recreation scheduled meeting on April 12, 2025.

- E) **Emergency SVFD repair for \$7005.64 to go to Town Meeting:**

Motion: To move an emergency SVFD repair for \$7005. 64 to go to a future Town Meeting.

Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

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

The item will be on the April 19, 2025, scheduled Town Meeting.

F) Accept 2025/2026 Town and BOE budgets:

Motion: Move to accept the 2025/2026 Town and BOE budgets as per the Business Manager's amount, Town at \$6,546,632, and the BOE at \$9,931,764, for a total of \$16,478,396.

Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

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

G) Move 2025/2026 Town and BOE budgets to an April 19, 2025, Town Meeting:

Motion: To move the 2025/2026 Town and BOE budgets as stated by our Business Director to an April 19, 2025, Town Meeting.

Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

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

H) Orange Pepper Road discontinuance: Discussed earlier in the meeting under agenda item C1).

I) Town signage: No new progress on the topic, will be discussed at a future BOS monthly meeting.

J) Sidewalk for ESF/Route 39N: The Town is looking to apply for a Connectivity Grant through the state, the school will provide the drawing necessary for the DOT.

K) Sherman School renovation project update: Nothing new to report, waiting on sign offs from Zoning.

L) Proposed Sherman Senior Center update: The committee is working on determining the cost of the overall project, an RFP went out for a Construction Manager. Information can be found on the Town website in regards to the RFP.

M) Town Beach dock additions and redesign work update: No new movement, the plans are still with FirstLight and waiting for approval to FERC. Money has been previously approved for FERC application.

N) Traffic enforcement: 52 stops have been recorded for the month, enforcement continues.

Other Business: None

Public Comment: None

The Selectman agreed to adjourn the meeting.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky motioned to adjourn at 8:42 pm.

Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

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

Notes respectfully submitted on April 10, 2025, by Margaret Beatty.