

**Town of Sherman  
Board of Selectmen Monthly Meeting  
Mallory Town Hall and Zoom  
June 26, 2025 at 7pm**

**Present:** First Selectman Don Lowe; Selectman Joel Bruzinski; Selectman Bob Ostrosky; Treasurer Andrea Maloney

**Absent:** Chris Fuchs

**Invited & Audience:** Business Manager Liz LaVia; PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone; Bill Butts; Chris Vlangas; James Munch; Jared Bonner; Roy Vasquez; Jean Robbins; Gary Albert; Breezy Grenier

**Clerk:** Nicole Zegley

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

First Selectman Don Lowe made a motion to adjust the order of the meeting by moving item #3 Correspondences to item # 2. Public Comments will then follow.

**Motioned By:** First Selectman Don Lowe

**Seconded By:** Selectman Joel Bruzinski

**All in Favor:** Unanimous

**Correspondence:** First Selectman Don Lowe read a letter from Sherman resident Breezy Grenier.

*To the Board of Selectmen,*

*As a tax-paying citizen and lifelong resident of Sherman, I am going to be very clear and specific in my requests.*

*As a Veteran and lifelong resident of Sherman, I respectfully request that the role of Veterans Municipal Representative be treated with the seriousness it deserves. The individual appointed to this position should not only be highly qualified, but must also be a Veteran. Representation matters—this is a role that demands lived experience. To ensure its success, the town and state must also provide the necessary tools, resources, and funding to support this position effectively, which includes access to an up-to-date list of Veterans and Service Members living in Sherman.*

*I request that the town create and monitor a dedicated email for Veteran communications—such as Veterans@townofshermanct.org—to provide consistent, reliable contact, regardless of changes in personnel within the town or the SVA. Additionally, I recommend that all town positions have role-specific email addresses to ensure continuity and preserve institutional knowledge beyond each election and/or hiring cycle.*

*I formally request that the town help organize and support a social event specifically honoring Veterans and Service Members of Sherman—not their spouses, not their children—but the individuals who served. This event is meant to be a clean slate, a chance to reconnect with Veterans who feel they've lost their sense of community here in Sherman.*

*The groundwork is already done:*

*Charter Hall is reserved for July 17th*

*Guest speakers and the Guest of Honor are confirmed*

*Award citations are in the works from State Representatives*

*\$1,000 in funding from the Sherman Veterans Association for food and \$50 from the current Veterans Municipal Representative are already pledged*

*What we need now is town support and outreach to make it happen.*

*I also propose we plan a Veterans and First Responders Festival, ideally over Labor Day weekend, or sometime in September, to fill the void left by the beloved Italian and Irish festivals formerly hosted by Holy Trinity. Much of the planning and connections are already in place. What's needed now is leadership and collaboration from the town to bring it to life.*

*I'm willing to help however I can:*

*As Ms. August for Pin-Ups for Vets, I will proudly represent for the July dinner and Labor Day festival.*

*As the Education & Outreach Chairman for the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department, I will support the Labor Day festival.*

*Ironically, I am not currently a member of the Sherman Veterans Association. I haven't been able to afford dues for the past three years and hold no leadership roles. But I care deeply, and I am committed to making sure our community does better for those who served.*

*Additionally, I request the town to establish a streamlined process for Veterans to report concerns and challenges with not only the VA healthcare system, but access to benefits earned. No disabled Veteran in Sherman should have to drive two hours for access to care they earned.*

*Finally, I ask that the town hold the Sherman Veterans Association accountable to their own bylaws, particularly regarding elections and leadership. The Association must prioritize Sherman's Veterans and Service Members over personal agendas, internal politics, and the community. I have attached a copy of the SVA by-laws. I will specifically refer to Article II-Section G, Article III- Section A and Article VII.*

*I will be attending the Board of Selectmen meeting this evening and formally ask that the appointment of a new Veterans Municipal Representative be prioritized. This role is critical and cannot remain vacant.*

*Thank you for your time and consideration. Our Veterans deserve action—not just words,*

*With Kind Regards,*

*Captain Breezy Grenier, FRGS, MN'17*

First Selectman Don Lowe addressed a SVA representative, Bill Butts, to confirm if this was the SVA stance on Veterans Affairs. It was confirmed by the rep that some of those items were discussed at the last meeting, nothing voted on and Ms. Grenier's letter is not the position of the SVA. SVA did however confirm the contribution of \$1000 to the Veterans event at Charter Hall.

**Public Comment:**

James Munch expressed the importance of the knowledge needed to be a Town Liaison for Veterans. They must have experience and a strong veteran background. Mr. Munch also strongly encourages young veterans to join the American Legion and/or VFW as they are a wealth of information.

Breezy Grenier- 5 Taber Road; read a statement requesting help in rebuilding the Veteran Community and helping Veterans that are struggling both mentally and physically receive the care and resources they desperately need.

Chris Vlangas - 4 Upland Pasture Road; commented that even a point of contact has limitations for those services Ms. Grenier mentioned. The person hired to this position won't be able to provide most of those services or be able to discuss them, but should be able to make a quick decision on who can. These are underfunded positions. Mr. Vlangas also suggested that once the position is filled, that a small group of 3 Veterans volunteer to work quarterly with the Veterans' Municipal Representative to assist and help point Veterans in the right direction to find resources available to them.

Roy Vasquez - Corrected Mr. Lowe on the letter read from Ms. Grenier. The amount was read as \$100, but the donation was \$1000.

Sid Head -7 Farm Road; Agreed with Ms. Grenier's comments and inquired if it was a paid position. The answer was "no".

First Selectman Don Lowe assured that he will be looking to the SVA and that Mr. Vlangas' suggestion on a support committee will be considered and taken seriously.

**Administrative Items:**

**a. Approval of May 22, 2025 Minutes**

**Motioned By:** Selectman Joel Bruzinski

**Seconded By:** Selectman Bob Ostrosky

**All in Favor:** Unanimous

- b. Financial Review:** Business Manager Liz LaVia updated the board that the fiscal year is ending and we are tracking as expected. Final expense figures will not be available until the end of July. The school has reported that they are on track to "break even". The first payroll of July will have to be split between the two fiscal years resulting in 4 days being accrued in the 2024/2025 year, as was adjusted last year as well. State Trooper came in under budget as the actual fringe rate was less than the estimated rate provided by the state at budget time. As previously discussed, the 2024/2025 Park and Rec part time wages are over budget and a budget adjustment is requested both on the revenue and expense side. The request is for increased P&R Camp revenue of \$45,000 and increase P&R Part Time wage expense of \$45,000. This is due to increased camp enrollment for the Summer 2024 season.

Motion was made to increase both the Park and Rec Revenue and Expense by \$45,000 for the 24-25 fiscal year

**Motioned By:** Selectman Joel Bruzinski

**Seconded By:** Selectman Bob Ostrosky

**All in Favor:** Unanimous

- c. Tax Refunds:** None

- d. Acknowledgments/Appointments:** First Selectman Don Lowe motioned for the appointment of two new commissioners for the Commission on Aging. The board also mentioned that they will find and appoint a representative to the Veterans as quickly and properly as they can, as it is a very important issue to all.

Motion was made to appoint Merialis Lewis to a 3 year term on the Commission on Aging.

**Motioned By:** First Selectman Don Lowe

**Seconded By:** Selectman Bob Ostrosky

**All in Favor:** Unanimous

Motion was made to appoint Susan White to a 3 year term on the Commission on Aging.

**Motioned By:** First Selectman Don Lowe

**Seconded By:** Joel Bruzinski

**All in Favor:** Unanimous

**Information & Discussion:**

- a. SVFD:** First Selectman Don Lowe read a report from Chris Fuchs (not in attendance). *"We have responded to 191 emergency calls to date. Our members recently completed their annual swiftwater rescue refresher training. Additionally our members trained for obstetric emergencies, rescuing a trapped victim from a fire, and operating our off road utility vehicle. The annual Fireman's Ball will be held on Saturday evening August 2nd. Tickets are available on our website."*

Kris Fazzone also added that the Life Pack35 is now in use on the ambulance and approximately 17 members went through specialized training to learn usage. They are now capable of doing 12 lead EKG's in the field prior to paramedics arrival and transmitted to the hospital to predetermine where the patient needs to be transported to.

- b. Public Works:** PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone updated the board on the completed chip sealing. Roads have been sealed and swept. A second sweeping of loose stone will be done if necessary before the top seal is applied. Much work has been done with Park and Rec including fencing, new wood chips at the playground, preparing the JCC for Junior Camp And moving Park and Rec offices out of the school. Mowing at Veterans Field has increased this season due to increased rains. Selectman Bob Ostrosky asked if additional signage can be added at Veterans Field for unleashed pets and dog waste. PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone agreed. A request was made for an additional PW employee and First Selectman Don Lowe will take it under consideration after this fiscal year.
- c. Income Threshold for Tax Relief for Elderly & Disabled**  
First Selectman Don Lowe and Treasurer Andrea Maloney have researched the threshold of other towns and Sherman is arguably low. Treasurer Andrea Maloney noted that Sherman has not changed since 2015. Selectman Bob Ostrosky offered his support on getting the Sherman Threshold balanced with the State plus an additional amount. Discussions will continue at a later date.
- d. Resurfacing Anderson Road/ Choosing a Bidder**  
PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone updated on bidding from S&S and Asphalt Repair Solutions. It was explained that one bid was missing an important item and once added it put it higher. First Selectman Don Lowe agreed that based on that information S&S should get the job.

Motion was made to approve the bid from S&S for Anderson Road.

**Motioned By:** First Selectman Don Lowe

**Seconded By:** Selectman Joel Bruzinski

**All In Favor:** Unanimous

PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone gave clarification that S&S bidding also included Hoyt Road and the basketball court was made. The cost of Anderson Road is at \$521,690.40. The cost for the basketball courts are estimated at \$34,925 and plus \$18,000 for line painting. The tennis courts will also need to be done soon. The Board asked that the basketball and tennis courts be tabled until the next meeting. PW Supervisor Fazzone expressed the urgency of the basketball court as it will be needed for school activities during renovations. Hoyt, if done at the same time, would cost \$74,252, but it can be funded from the existing budget.

Motion was made to move to a Town Meeting resurfacing of Anderson Road not to exceed \$521,690.40 from capital non-recurring funds.

**Motioned By:** Selectman Bob Ostrosky

**Seconded By:** Selectman Joel Bruzinski

**All In Favor:** Unanimous

Motion Made to a future Town Meeting the rehabilitate basketball courts not to exceed \$60,000 from capital non-recurring funds.

**Motioned By:** Selectman Bob Ostrosky

**Seconded By:** First Selectman Don Lowe

**All In Favor:** Unanimous

**e. HERRA Food Scrap Program**

The HERRA (Housatonic Recovery & Resource Association) offered a free food scrap container to the town, however the removal and cleanup would still become an added expense. The Board passed on this program at this time.

**f. Local Traffic Authority Report/Connectivity Study**

Study the town and connect The Library, Volunteer Field and Colonial Field together. They are putting a committee together. Steve Frattini has already volunteered, Joel Bruzinski is also interested. A third person member is being sought.

**g. Town Entity Email/Social Media Account Policy Review**

Selectman Joel Bruzinski updated the Board on the email change of .org to .gov as it hit a one week IT delay. .Org emails will still filter through once .gov emails are in use. Treasure Andrea Maloney expressed the importance of educating employees, as group emails could qualify as a meeting.

**h. Sherman School Renovation Project Update**

Building Committee Meeting on Monday 6/30/2025 Evening at Charter Hall at 7pm

**i. Proposed Sherman Senior Center Update**

Meeting Tuesday July 1, 2025 at 7pm. The location of the Sherman Social Services and Park and Rec are being discussed. First Selectman Don Lowe is sticking firmly to the \$4 million budget and is hoping to come in under budget. He also expressed that moving Park and Rec into the new Senior Center is financially a better decision. PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone expressed the importance of including Park and Rec in those meetings on the Senior Center.

**j. Town Beach Dock Additions/Redesign Work Update**

First Selectman Don Lowe informed the Board that the First Light is moving forward on the Town's application.

**k. Traffic Enforcement**

The Town lost its grant for extra traffic enforcement. Selectman Joel Bruzinski educated the Board on a Garmin Varia device on bikes that has a camera, radar capabilities and looks like a tail light. The option of speed cameras were discussed, but many felt it would be an invasion of privacy and not "the Sherman way" to do things. It was agreed that the camera idea would be revisited in the future.

**Other Business:** None

**Public Comment:**

Jean would like to publish the new town emails for the town.

Liz LaVia suggested adding a note in emails to please update to new .gov

Chris Vlangas added that there is great data about combining youth and seniors as far as the new Senior Center is concerned. He also commented on traffic and suggested an exploratory committee on speeding and research.

**Adjournment:**

**Motioned By:** Bob Ostrosky

**Seconded:** Joel Bruzinski

**Time:** 8:46pm

Respectfully Submitted By Nicole Zegley