

**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectmen Monthly Meeting
Charter Hall and Zoom
October 23, 2025 at 7pm**

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

Absent:

Invited & Audience: Business Manager Liz La Via; PW Supervisor Kris Fazzzone; Jean Robbins; Chris Fuchs; Tim Laughlin; David Jellen and guest.

Clerk: Nicole Zegley

Call to Order: First Selectman Don Lowe called the meeting to order at 7:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: First Selectman Don Lowe read a letter from Linda Hubbard and the Sherman Commission for the Arts

Don,

At the Board of Selectman Meeting Thursday night, please thank the board for approving the funding for the Sherman Arts & Cultural Guide.

We started to distribute them on Farm Day. Now, more than 500 have been handed out to various locations in Sherman and the reaction has been very positive.

Please let me know if you would like some copies of the brochure to hand out at the meeting. I could drop them off during the day Thursday.

Thanks for your support - Linda T. Hubbard

Administrative Items:

Approval of September 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motioned By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Seconded By: First Selectman Don Lowe

All in Favor: Unanimous

Financial Review: Business Manager Liz LaVia updated the Board that we are 4 months into this year's budget. It is incomplete currently as another cycle will be coming next week. It is tracking as expected. Liz LaVia also shared that Park and

Rec. part time wages will require further funding in the future. Two of the three audits are complete, with one left to go. Lastly, the annual reports were finished today.

Tax Refunds: First Selectman Don Lowe announced tax refunds for approval.

A Motion was made to approve a tax refund of \$9,498.42.

Motioned By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Seconded By: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

All in Favor: Unanimous

Acknowledgments/Appointments: None

Information & Discussion:

- a. **SVFD:** Fire Chief Chris Fuchs updated that the Fire Department has responded to 328 emergency calls for service. Three new members were voted in this past month. Two fire prevention education seminars for kids were performed. This month and moving into the colder weather, Chief Fuchs reminded the community to please have chimneys and fireplaces cleaned, test smoke alarms. This month they also travelled to Illinois to see the “mini pumper” that is being built. Delivery is anticipated for the end of January after the final inspection.
- b. **Public Works:** PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone updated the board that roadside mowing is complete for this year. The excavator with the mulching head has been used often as well. Two new T2 graduates, Adam and Matt (6 classes in 6 weeks). Kyle began his class A CDL. Tree work continues as they have been working closely with Eversource and Lewis Tree. Two large trees that required a crane were removed on Church Road. .Dangerous tree removed on Cozier. Kyle has saved the town thousands of dollars with the body work he was able to perform on truck 3. The roof on the gazebo and summer office at the beach is complete and they were able to repair the weathervane.

PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone continued with a request from the Board. Currently the loader owned by the town is either a 1987 or 1989 and is having issues. It is one failure away from needing a replacement. PW employee, Kyle, explained that salt corrosion is extensive on the axle, which could lead to a very expensive tow bill and possible injuries. The floor pan is almost completely rotted out, there is a hydraulic leak being contained by a coffee can, and the head bolts are pushing coolant, which could potentially blow the motor. The loader currently has 11,000 hours on remanufactured motor, making the true hours significantly higher. Kris and Kyle both stated that the loader has served the town well, but is 10 years past its life expectancy and requires replacing. PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone suggested replacing it with a ZW140 Loader.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky recalled this item being brought to the board before and inquired if it was the same machine and a higher quote?

PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone clarified that it is the same machine, but the quote may be about the same. Even though prices may have increased over the past few years, this quote will include a \$8000 trade in discount value of the town's current loader, no side dump bucket, and a possible Sourcewell discount.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky inquired if this machine would need to be built or if they had one ready to go?

PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone responded that one is available now in Westchester. This new machine also offers an auto greasing system which they would like to purchase for \$10,000, but would like to attempt the installation in town to save money. There is also two warranty options of 2 year/2000 hours or 4 year/2000 hours for \$5000 extra

The Board collectively agreed that an amount not to exceed \$175,000 would cover all of the cost.

PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone continued with his next request of lift platform attachment that goes on the front of the Avant. This piece of equipment would help with gutter work and cleanout, small manageable tree limbs, and possibly the Hometown Heroes flags when they come to Sherman. The cost is approximately \$14,000.

PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone moved on to his last request, a 15,000 pound truck lift for the shop. Kyle explained that repair pits in garages are illegal to work under vehicles and this would be a safe way to maintain the town's equipment. He would be able to repair the Subaru, Jeep, the 250, senior center vans, as well as perform rust prevention and clean and recoat the frames of the work trucks. The International would be too heavy to lift, and would be impractical due to the size and weight of replacement brake parts.

The cost of this project would be \$15000 for the lift unit, \$3000 to run the electrical, and \$2000 for the installation of the lift unit. These prices are without any government discount.

The Board decided that two of these will be moved to a future Town Meeting.

A Motion was made to move to a future Town Meeting an amount not to exceed \$175,000 out of the Capital Non-recurring Fund for the purchase of a ZW140 Loader, warranty coverage, and an auto greaser.

Motioned By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Seconded By: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

All in Favor: Unanimous

A Motion was made to move to a future Town Meeting an amount not to exceed \$25,000 out of the Capital Non-recurring Fund for the purchase of a vehicle lift, installation and electrical.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

Supervisor Kris Fazzone thanked the Board and invited them to please come visit the shop to see first hand the work being done.

The Board thanked them for all

- c. **Sherman School Renovation Update:** First Selectman Don Lowe shared that he and Andrea Maloney attended a meeting with Newfeld. The project continues to run on schedule.
- d. **Happy Acres Leases:** First Selectman Don Lowe updated that the town attorney drew up the property manager agreement regarding the Happy Acres lease with a 5 year guaranteed renewable lease, stipend increase and release from lease protection clause for David Jellen. The Lyscynski Lease was modified to include a 5 year renewable lease, by the Board of Selectmen, for the bull pasture only. Also in the lease is the clarification that both parties are responsible for mending their own fences.

Selectman Joel Bruzinski inquired into tightening up some language regarding cleaning up the field of old manure, trash and baling twine, as phone complaints have previously been registered with the town. There needs to be clear communication with the tenant.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky clarified that the lease has a 90 day out.

The Board will work on clarification of the Lyscynski Lease and will bring to the November meeting

- e. **Proposed Sherman Senior Center Update:** First Selectman Don Lowe updated the board on the informational forum that took place on Saturday October 25th at Mallory Town Hall. Nixle will continue to be used, along with making it more accessible on the Town website and a mailing funded by "Friends of the Senior Center". Andrea Maloney added that the SPTO agenda also included the information.

Treasurer Andrea Maloney requested a more detailed breakdown of expenses for the proposed Senior Center. This will help her answer any question that could arise.

A motion was made to send to Town Meeting a Referendum warning for the vote for the new senior center.

Motioned By: First Selectmen Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectmen Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

- f. **Scout House Update:** First Selectman Don Lowe announced that the Scout House is one week from being finished. Contractor Joe Beatty did an incredible job. A celebration or ribbon cutting will be coming.

PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone suggested mats to protect the new flooring.

Business Manager Liz LaVia suggested extending the town's cleaning service to include the Scout House.

Other Business:

Selectman Bob Ostrosky suggested Town Hall as a future project when the next grant comes along.

PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone also suggested composting bathrooms for Volunteer Park.

First Selectman Don Lowe added that Friday November 14, 2025 the Connectivity Group will be going on a site walk of the town.

PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone suggested the purchase of digital traffic signs.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky requested he gather all of the information for a future meeting.

Public Comment:

Adjournment:

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Time: 8:12pm

Respectfully Submitted By Nicole Zegley