

**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectmen Monthly Meeting
Charter Hall and Zoom
December 18, 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; Jean Robbins; Missy Alexander; Karen Cardillo

Clerk: Nicole Zegley

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

A Motion was made to move agenda item H - Electrical Upgrade at the Sherman Playhouse, to follow Public Comment.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

All in Favor: Unanimous

A Motion was made to add to the agenda item I - Dock Repair.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

2. Public Comment: None

h. Playhouse Power Upgrade/Possible Town Meeting: Selectman Joel Bruzinski met with Missy Alexander and agreed that an upgrade is needed. The estimate from Deak Electric for \$33,740 does repairs from the meter into the building, but additional work may be needed from Eversource. Selectman Joel Bruzinski also explained that the added TBD items could be quite costly. Another issue discussed was the fact that no one knows where the power source for the Playhouse initiates (3 transformers were suggested). A power trace would be needed before any work can be discussed.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky suggested paying an electrician to trace the power source before this item is moved to Town Meeting.

Selectman Joel Bruzinski also mentioned that one air conditioning unit appears to be newer and one is older, other upgrades may also be considered to make the playhouse run more efficiently.

3. Correspondence: None

Approval of November 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motioned By: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

Seconded By: First Selectman Don Lowe

All in Favor: Unanimous

Financial Review: Business Manager Liz LaVia updated the Board that everything is tracking as normal. The 2024/2025 financials have been completed and filed with the state. The budget process will begin next week.

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

A Motion was made to approve a tax refund of \$340.02.

Motioned By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Seconded By: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

All in Favor: Unanimous

Acknowledgments/Appointments:

PARK AND REC

A Motion was made to reappoint Stan Greenbaum as a commissioner for 3 years, term ending 1/1/2029.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

A Motion was made to reappoint TJ Fazzone as a commissioner for 3 years, term ending 1/1/2029.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

A Motion was made to reappoint Kris Fazzone as a commissioner for 3 years, term ending 1/1/2029.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

A Motion was made to appoint Patrick Dillet as a commissioner replacing Rachel Booth for a remaining term ending 1/1/2028.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

INLAND WETLANDS

A Motion was made to reappoint Michael Humphreys as a full commissioner for 4 years, term ending 1/1/2030.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

A Motion was made to reappoint Bill McCann as a commissioner for 3 years, term ending 1/1/2029.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

A Motion was made to reappoint Colette Schulman as a commissioner for 3 years, term ending 1/1/2029.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

A Motion was made to reappoint Breezy Grenier as a commissioner for 3 years, term ending 1/1/2029.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

All in Favor: Unanimous

HRRA

A Motion was made to reappoint Don Lowe as Sherman delegate concurrent with elected term.

Motioned By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Seconded By: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

All in Favor: Unanimous

A Motion was made to reappoint Ruth Byrnes as Sherman's alternate delegate concurrent with the First Selectman's elected term.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

COMMISSION ON AGING

A Motion was made to reappoint Janet Wey as a commissioner for 3 years, term ending 1/1/2029.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

A Motion was made to reappoint Linda Hubbard as a full commissioner for 3 years, term ending 1/1/2029.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

A Motion was made to reappoint Terri Hahn as a full commissioner for 3 years, term ending 1/1/2029.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

A Motion was made to reappoint Mary Jane Magoon as a full commissioner for 3 years, term ending 1/1/2029.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

A Motion was made to reappoint Christy Bonaiuto as a full commissioner for 3 years, term ending 1/1/2029.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

A Motion was made to appoint Henry Cooperman as an alternate commissioner for 3 years, term ending 1/1/2029.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

First Selectman Don Lowe announced that Phyllis Schaer stepped down from her position on the Candlewood Lake Authority after 17 years of service.

A Motion was made to appoint Bob Paladino to the Candlewood Lake Authority as a representative for Sherman.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

A Motion was made to appoint Tim Simpkins as the Health Director for Sherman.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

4. Information & Discussion:

- a. **SVFD:** Fire Chief Chris Fuchs was not present with an update, but First Selectman Don Lowe expressed how busy they had been lately. Member Kris Fazzone added that tree sales sold out in record time (3 days) at \$50 a tree. Call coverage has increased with more responders. The pancake breakfast was also a successful and free event for the town.
- b. **Public Works:** PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone updated the board that tree work is ongoing as they have been working continuously with Gentile. More than 11 loads of wood from the tree cutting surplus has been delivered to residents. PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone clarified that the wood is unprocessed (log length, not split). The new loader has been working out well, an excellent purchase for the town. He continued by informing the Board that sand will need to be purchased this year. Almost a full bin of salt sand has been used with the storms to date. Maintenance and a motor replacement to one of the sanders was performed. As well as, prepping an old plow to be a backup.

PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone requested a survey of the public works property. The purpose is for a future out building for equipment storage.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky requested an estimate from Paul Szymanski of Howland.

PW Supervisor made a request, based on his Capital Plan, to repurpose Engine 3 (1997 with 7000 miles) into a plow truck. The original cost was estimated at approximately \$140,000, but has now been reduced to \$60,000 - \$65,000 with Kyle being able to do most of the work inhouse.

First Selectman Don Lowe added that Sherman is going to have to account for all of their culverts in the future.

- c. **Sherman School Renovation Update:** First Selectman Don Lowe updated that a meeting will be held Friday at 9AM. Wednesday there was a ground breaking ceremony.

Selectman Joel Bruzinski added that Supervisor Matt from Newfield is doing an amazing job.

- d. **Sherman Senior Center Building Committee Update:** First Selectman Don Lowe updated the board on the passing of the referendum on December 6, 2025. An official building committee will be created and presented at the next town meeting in late January. Currently they are working as an advisory building committee. Nicole Zegley will be hired as the clerk for that committee being paid from Board of Selectmen funds. In the new budget year, it could be paid on a new budget line.

Karen Cardillo mentioned that a few current members may be leaving. She will meet with First Selectman Don Lowe after the holidays and confirm the list of members.

First Selectman Don Lowe asked Andrea Maloney, Bob Ostrosky and Joel Bruzinski to also be members of the SSCBC.

Treasure Andrea Maloney agreed to join.

Selectman Joel Bruzinski agreed to join.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky was interested, but needed time to decide.

First Selectman Don Lowe inquired if this project would require a 'Clerk of the Works' position, but further discussion would be needed.

First Selectman Don Lowe explained that the SSCBC had chosen a construction manager.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky explained that in protecting the town, the advisory committee does not have that capability until after it becomes an official building committee.

Selectman Joel Bruzinski clarified the process and duties of the advisory committee (conceptual drawings to a referendum).

Karen Cardillo asked if the SSCBC would need to go back out again for another architect and construction manager, the response was a unanimous yes. She also mentioned Henry Cooperman was interested in being a liaison with the contractor.

First Selectman Don Lowe and Karen Cardillo will clarify with all parties involved that there is a municipal process that needs to be followed.

- e. Possible Maintenance Supervisor Position for Town Buildings:** Selectman Bob Ostrosky suggested tabling this item until budget. First Selectman Don Lowe agreed.
- f. Electronic Signs - Possible Purchase and Town Meeting:** First Selectman Don Lowe suggested tabling this item until budget. Selectman Bob Ostrosky agreed that it is a valuable item for the town, but agreed to wait until budget. The newer signs would be approximately \$38,000 for 2.
- g. Stone Wall Repair at Happy Acres Farm (Taber Road):** First Selectman Don Lowe informed the board that repair would be approximately \$9,830 from Two Brothers Masons

A Motion was made to move to Town Meeting an amount not to exceed \$12,000 out of the Happy Acres Restricted for stone wall repair on Taber Road.

Motioned By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky
Seconded By: Selectman Joel Bruzinski
All in Favor: Unanimous

h. Playhouse Power Upgrade: Moved to beginning of Meeting

i. Dock Repair: First Selectman Don Lowe discussed an email from John Wrenn regarding dock repair expenses that could cost between \$10,000 - \$15,000.

Treasurer Andrea Maloney suggested that Park and Rec should pay since their account holds over \$60,000 and the auditor suggested the same.

Business Manager Liz LaVia also said that the auditor suggested spending that money down on repairs such as this and multiple bids would be needed.

Selectman Joel Bruzinski also agreed that Park and Rec is subject to the same town bidding ordinances and wouldn't need instant access to that much money.

Other Business:

Selectman Bob Ostrosky is waiting on the AARP 2026 grant applications to be released. They can be up to \$50,000.

Thursday January 8, 2026 at 9AM in Ridgefield for the housing bill COG

Thursday January 29, 2026 6PM Charter Hall - Connectivity Committee Public Meeting

Public Comment: None

Adjournment:

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

Time: 8:19 PM

Respectfully Submitted By Nicole Zegley