

**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectmen Monthly Meeting
Mallory Town Hall
April 23, 2026 at 7PM**

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

Absent: None

Invited & Audience: Business Manager Liz LaVia; PW Supervisor Kris Fazzino; Chris Fuchs; Nelson Fall

Clerk: Nicole Zegley

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

2. Public Comment: None

3. Correspondence: None

4. Administrative Items:

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2026 meeting.

Approval of March 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2026 meeting.

Approval of March 4, 2026 Budget Workshop Minutes

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2026 meeting.

Approval of March 9, 2026 Budget Workshop Minutes

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

All in Favor: Unanimous

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2026 meeting.

Approval of March 11, 2026 Budget Workshop Minutes

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2026 meeting.

Approval of March 25, 2026 Budget Workshop Minutes

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

Financial Review: Business Manager Liz LaVia updated the Board that everything is tracking as expected 10 months into this budget. She continues to track EMS and Park and Rec as they may need further funding.

Tax Refunds/Tax Suspension: First Selectman Don Lowe announced the tax refunds and tax suspensions for approval.

A Motion was made to approve a tax refund in the amount of \$13,204.45.

Motioned By: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

All in Favor: Unanimous

A Motion was made to approve a tax suspension in the amount of \$15,540.30.

Motioned By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Seconded By: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

All in Favor: Unanimous

Acknowledgments/Appointments:

A Motion was made to appoint Michael Conforti as a Full Commissioner for the Conservation Commission for a 3 year term ending January 1st, 2029.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

All in Favor: Unanimous

5. Information & Discussion:

- a. **SVFD:** Fire Chief Chris Fuchs updated that they have responded to 99 calls consisting mostly of motor vehicle accidents, falls, and hiking trail incidents. Crews began boat training last weekend. The mini pumper arrived in CT today and is at the dealers shop. It is currently being fitted with hoses and tools and after some training should be put into service in early June.

Liz LaVia inquired if there was an invoice. Chris Fuchs estimated mid-May.

Andrea Maloney inquired if it would be in the parade. Chris Fuchs replied yes.all Committee has already begun planning

Chris Fuchs continued by updating that the Ball Committee has already begun planning with a date set for August 1st, 2026.

- b. Public Works:** PW Supervisor Kris Fazzino updated the board on the past 4 days of tree work around town (Meadow, Cedar, Town Park, Saw Mill, etc). Two more days of tree work are still in the budget. Sweeping around town has been completed. There was a resident that swept the sand into the road after cleanup was finished, PW were able to make it back to that site before returning the machine.

First Selectman Don Lowe reminded everyone that this has happened in the past and a town ordinance was created.

PW Supervisor Kris Fazzino continued by relaying that chip sealing was to begin next week, but may be delayed due to predicted rain. The sealant is called MC3000 and needs to be applied by a specific date. The roads in need are Barlow Farm, Mauweehoo, Wagon Wheel, Peacepipe, Stonewall, Leach Hollow, Hardscrabble, Briggs, Chimney and a double coat on Cedar Lane. Sherwood Hill was too word for chip sealing. Holiday Point also would need a full repair, but the catch basins are in good shape.

Kris Fazzino moved the meeting to discuss the fuel management system from American Petroleum. Currently, they are the only company that has returned calls and offered a quote of just over \$29,000. The first year of service is included in that price, but additional service contracts will be billed to the town.

Liz LaVia clarified that the contract would be paid from the IT line as it is software that occasionally needs servicing and updating.

The docks have been put in with the help of Mike from CLA. Some docks pulled from the seawall and needed repair (3 out of 4 have been completed).

Liz LaVia to review the invoices for dock repairs.

Treasurer Andrea Maloney attended a registrar's conference. With the Community Expo happening the same day, it was suggested that 12 parking spaces closest to Charter Hall be clearly marked, by PW, for voters only (10 minute limit). She also suggested participants of the expo park at the school.

- c. Sherman School Renovation Update:** First Selectman Don Lowe gave a brief update of the school renovation. It remains on budget and progress continues.

- d. **Sherman Senior Center Building Committee Update:** First Selectman Don Lowe updated the board on the work accomplished by the committee. They are currently completing the RFP.
- e. **Authorize an Appropriation For Farm Related Expenses:** First Selectman Don Lowe explained the Item E are annual expenses that get sent to town meetings. Item E covers maintenance and repairs on the farm.

A Motion was made to send to Town Meeting to authorize an appropriation of \$25,000 funded from the accumulated cell tower revenue for farm related maintenance and expenses for the fiscal year 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2027.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe
Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky
All in Favor: Unanimous

- f. **Authorize an Appropriation For Contractual Property Management:** First Selectman Don Lowe explained the Item F are annual expenses that get sent to town meetings. Item F covers contractual property management services.

A Motion was made to send to Town Meeting to authorize an appropriation of \$42,000 funded from the Happy Acres Restricted Fund for contracted property management services for the fiscal year 7/1/2026 to 6/30/2027.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe
Seconded By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky
All in Favor: Unanimous

- g. **Veterans Field Bathrooms:** First Selectman Don Lowe explained that he recently toured the bathrooms on Veterans Field. After 8 years they are in need of some repairs. Nelson Fall has submitted an estimate for the work of \$4,765. Selectman Lowe also noted that a project under \$5000 does not require further quotes or a town meeting.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky inquired where the repairs would be funded from.

Business Manager Liz LaVia explained that they could be paid from building maintenance.

Selectman Joel Bruzinski asked if there was water down in the bathrooms.

PW Kris Fazzone replied that they add water twice a week, but the school will be adding water in the future.

A Motion was made to approve an amount not to exceed \$4,950 to refurbish the Veteran's Field bathrooms.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

All in Favor: Unanimous

- h. Veterans Field Basketball :** First Selectman Don Lowe moved the meeting to discuss the basketball court resurfacing.

PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone explained that the estimate for the court and asphalt would be \$34,425. That price does not include the removal of 3 sides of fencing (additional cost). The best dates to start the project will be between August 1st and September 15th. Painting is based on how soon fresh asphalt can be painted.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky clarified that for less than \$40,000, the fence will be removed on 3 sides (leaving soccer field side), repaved, no lines painted, existing posts and hoops remain, and PW will remove the existing slab.

A Motion was made for repairs to the basketball courts, removal of 3 sides of fencing and repaving (per conversion with Kris) for an amount not to exceed \$45,000 from Capital Non-Recurring.

Motioned By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Seconded By: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

All in Favor: Unanimous

Treasurer Andrea Maloney suggested talking to Matt at Newfield to see if it can be done at the same time as the school courts.

PW Kris Fazzone also added that PW was able to resurface the track at no charge.

- i. Sherman Church Historical Plaque:** First Selectman Don Lowe explained that the Scout House was originally the Sherman Church. Board Members of the Sherman Church would like to have a historic plaque to commemorate. The Board of Selectmen were all in agreement. First Selectman Lowe will approach the Historical District Commission next.
- j. Sherman Playhouse Power Upgrade:** Selectman Joel Bruzinski requested more time to evaluate the power needs of the playhouse. With the new LED lighting that is being used, the electrical draw has lowered. Selectman Bruzinski would like to reevaluate the situation with the air conditioners running and full power draw.

k. **HRRA Member Ordinances:** First Selectman Don Lowe moved this item to the May BOS monthly meeting.

l. **Town Meeting: Health and Building Department Fees:** First Selectman Don Lowe amended a motion for town meeting item L.

A Motion was made to send to Town Meeting to amend the Health and Building Department fees.

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded By: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

All in Favor: Unanimous

Other Business: Business Manager Liz LaVia noted that the Mill Rate will need to be set after the budget passes.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment:

Motioned By: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Seconded: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

Time: 7:53PM

Respectfully Submitted By Nicole Zegley