

**Town of Sherman  
Budget Request Meeting  
February 26, 2020, 7:00 p.m.  
Mallory Town Hall**

**Members Present:** First Selectman Don Lowe, Selectman Kevin Keenan, Selectman Bob Ostrosky, and Liz LaVia

**Members Absent:** Eric Holub

**Audience & Invited:** Ashleigh Blake, Don Borkowski, Dave Lathrope, Chris Fuchs, Barbara Ackerman and several others from the community

**Clerk:** Margaret Beatty

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Don Lowe called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Public Comment:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**Sherman Library:** Representative Ashleigh Blake discussed positive trends and programs boosting library membership, fundraising has been an integral part in offsetting expenses. The library asking for a 2.9% increase in budgeting for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. Adding new programs

**Public Works/Tree Removal/ Tree Warden:** Representative Don Borkowski asking for a 3% increase in salaries, no change to supplies and no change to road maintenance budget. He spoke of projected projects including paving, road sweeping, and tree removal. Surplus of money in winter maintenance due to lack of precipitation. Question raised by Selectman Keenan about equipment purchases overall and whether the capital plan is being followed. Borkowski's total budget increase was less than 1% at .7%

**SVFD/Parade Committee:** Representative Chris Fuchs asking for same budget as the 2019/2020 year, he stated that the department has been able to sustain most expenses with extensive fundraising and generous donations. The department has been able to make several large purchases last year with the fundraising done, the ambulance has been able to generate capital to offset costs.

**Fire Marshal:** Fire Marshal Dave Lathrope discussed budget for dues associated with yearly membership to N.F.P.A at \$450, as well as yearly dues to Litchfield F.M. and IAAI Connecticut State Fire Association at \$550. Mr. Lathrope requested budgeted funds for basic supplies such as a computer, monitor equating to \$1000 and basic fire investigative tools such as gloves, safety glasses, masks, and hand lights at \$2000. He lastly discussed purchasing up to date Safety

Code book that reflects current fire safety standards at a budget of \$2600. Surplus from the previous year's budget can potentially counter new expenses associated with equipment and/or supplies. Also, misc. mileage of \$700 for training commutes, and \$2000 for Outside Services (OSS) on fire code consultation for new construction. The BOS asked that the FM review OSS due to the fact that any new construction plans would provide for, and include in the scope of the project, expenses for Fire Code compliance.

**Housing:** Barbara Ackerman stated the housing commission is now active and a budget is needed to offset costs of clerking and town mailing. Previous budget for commission was \$500 and the commission is asking for an increase to \$2400.

**Selectman:** No big ask, potential in salary increase but post-election cycle.

**Treasurer:** 3% raise, supply line at \$50 and freezing it at \$50.

**Tax Collector:** Everything stays flat except a raise of 3% for salaries, can be deliberated on.

**Assessor's Office/BOAA:** Basically staying flat except salary, one increase of tax maps processing due to map change processes. Going up by \$700. BOAA is staying flat.

**Planning and Zoning Commission:** Everything stays flat except salaries up 3%

**Zoning Board of Appeals:** Stays flat except legal notice up \$300 for increase posting and publication costs.

**Historic District Commission:** Flat at \$600

**Conservation Commission:** Flat at \$1900

**Regulation Review:** Flat at \$1200

**Engineering Consultants:** Flat at \$5000

**Land Acquisition Fund:** \$120 flat to cover clerking expenses

**Registrars:** Reduction of \$1208, money moved around for training that is not needed and membership needed for new registrar because of a resignation, also slight reduction in ballot supplies.

**Emergency Management:** No info yet but anticipating the current flat rate at \$2500

**Public Safety:** Supply line stays flat, trooper's line is a reduction of \$18,000 to be funded at a \$162,000.

**General Government:** Encompasses payroll, postage, legal notices at a flat rate

**Counsel and Court:** Staying flat at \$35,000, \$10,000 to general counsel and court, \$10,000 to land use, and \$15,000 to legal expenses for ongoing litigation.

**MTH IT Software/Licensing/ Fees:** Down \$4047 because no longer using Phoenix software at \$6000 per year licensing fee and purchased QuickBooks at \$2500. Network support raised fees by \$5 per hour equating to an increase of \$420 per year on billing.

**MTH Building/ Supplies/ Utilities:** Supplies stay flat, utilities up \$500 based on usage, no change in oil, \$450 increase on phones, building maintenance flat at \$40,000

**Debt:** Reduced by \$390,000, due to payment of loan, \$18,000 of interest. A \$408,101 reduction

**Miscellaneous:** No change, flat rate at \$4000

**Insurance/Employee Expenses:** Up overall at \$29,500 due to switch in medical insurance, change from Anthem to Oxford, also a minor increase in workman's comp

**Salaries/ Wages:** Place holder at 3%, to be discussed at budget meeting

**Adjournment:** First Selectman Don Lowe adjourned meeting at 8:44 p.m., unanimously