

Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman
Budget Intake Meeting
February 20, 2021 at 9 am
Via ZOOM Teleconferencing

Member's Present: First Selectman Don Lowe, Selectman Bob Ostrosky, and Selectman Kevin Keenan

Member's Absent: None

Audience & Invited: Treasurer Eric Holub, Business Manager Liz LaVia, BOE members, Park & Rec members, CLA members, and residents from the community.

Clerk: Margaret Beatty

The budget intake meeting began promptly at 9:00 am followed by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Selectman Bob Ostosky reminded listeners to remain muted throughout the meeting unless they are presenting a budget. He also added that he would monitor the chat for any pertinent comments or questions.

Social Services: Discussion moved to Wednesday February 24, 2021 budget intake meeting.

Senior Center: Representative Suzette Berger commented that the most notable change in the Senior Center budget was a transfer of \$1000 from the trip expenses to the activity line. Salary increases were also submitted for drivers. More clarification was needed to reinstate the elderly nutrition line under the Social Services budget, the amount was decreased for the new fiscal budget but Mrs. Berger noted that she helps manage senior dining and provide the services even though the budget line falls under Social Services. Business Manager Liz LaVia commented that she would contact the Director of Social Services to reinstate the elderly nutrition in full as reflected in the previous fiscal budget.

ARC: No information provided, First Selectman Don Lowe added that the Town possibly would not be contributing this fiscal year.

TBICO: No information, part of Social Service which will be discussed Wednesday February 24, 2021.

Commission on Aging: Same budget as the previous year at \$2000

Women's Center, Visiting Nurse/Mental Health/WeCahr/Elderly Nutrition, and Veterans Center will be discussed during February 24th intake under Social Services. The meeting is scheduled at 7pm via ZOOM.

WCCOG: Same budget as the previous year of \$7018

COST: Same budget at \$975

HVA: Same budget at \$250

CCM: asking budget of \$2035, decrease of \$35

BOE: Superintendent Jeff Melendez presented a comprehensive PowerPoint breakdown of the school budget. The school, for the fifth year, submitted a 0% increase. Jeff Melendez highlighted the schools strategic plan to continue providing a high level of education without an added financial burden to the residents. Universal Pre-K was reintroduced and a topic that may be explored again moving forward.

Comment: Corinne Kevorkian of 1 Jericho Road South cautioned against subsidizing Pre-K and that the topic should be explored as a need base program.

Park & Recreation: John Wrenn prefaced his budget by commenting that P&R is anticipating having a normal summer with all activities and camps restored. He noted a 3% increase in salary, an increase in minimum wage for summer help, notable lifeguards/park entrance attendants, more summer concerts were added to schedule resulting in a \$1000 increase changing the concert budget line from \$2000 to \$3000. He commented to offset some of the budgetary increases summer program fees would increase. Note: the budget reflects the addition of part time maintenance help that was introduced last budget but not filled due to Covid.

CLA: The CLA provided slides highlighting the needs of the CLA. The budget reflects the increased safety issues due to the accelerated use as a result of Covid. The budget is a \$50,000 increase broken down in segments, \$30,000 for the purchase of a new boat (a shared expense between Lake Towns), \$10,000 would replenish the Capital Fund, and \$10,000 increase efforts to keep the public safe i.e. longer patrol shifts and boats, maintenance.

Comment: First Selectman Don Lowe questioned if the \$30,000 that has been allocated for a new boat be an ongoing amount for future budgets and other expenses moving forward.

Northwest Conservation District: Planning and Zoning wanted to continue their partnership with the association at a cost of \$1200.

911 Service Contract, Paramedic Intercept, and Police Protection will be discussed at the next budget intake scheduled for Wednesday February 24, 2021 at 7 m.

Animal Control: Budget decreased but a firm number will be available by March 8.

Collections/Recycling: 7% budgeted increase for weekly garbage pickup for Public Works, parks, Mallory Town Hall, and Senior Center. Another sizable increase is reflected in the hazardous waste day event due to an increase in popularity. Mileage for meetings can be reduced to less travel and the use of remote ZOOM for meetings.

Probate: Budget increase of \$86, topic will be taken up at workshop.

Cemeteries: \$100 budget for flags for parades and maintenance of gravestones.

Building Department: Budget will stay same but subject to change and will be discussed at workshop.

Health: No real changes, Business Manager Liz LaVia recommended that the Health Inspector mileage line moved to a stipend payment instead of an expense report payment in keeping with practice with other mileage stipends, keep part time help to continue work on scanning, walkover plan is finished and a Town meeting needs to be called to vote on removing the ordinance.

Inland Wetlands: 2 openings available on Wetlands board, no changes in state fees, in the process of revising regulations and will need to go to a Town meeting for approval, budget to stay same.

Town Clerk/Vital Statistics: Town Clerk reported no increases to budget except for wages.

Selectman Kevin Keenan move to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 am.

Motioned by: Selectman Kevin Keenan

Seconded by: First Selectman Don Lowe All in Favor: Unanimous

Notes respectfully submitted by Margaret Beatty February 26, 2021.