

**Town of Sherman  
Budget Intake Meeting  
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 7 pm  
Mallory Town Hall**

**Member's Present:** First Selectman Don Lowe and Selectman Joel Brusinski

**Member's Absent:** Selectman Bob Ostrosky

**Audience & Invited:** Treasurer Eric Holub, Business Manager Liz LaVia, board/commission spokespersons, and members from the community.

**Clerk:** Margaret Beatty

First Selectman Don Lowe called the meeting to order promptly at 7 pm followed by the reciting of the pledge of Allegiance. He then acknowledged the Library member's to begin their presentation.

**The meeting in order of business:**

**Library:** The Library submitted an increase in their budget due to added payroll expenses, need for additional staffing, increased programs, and update to software functioning. A survey will be sent out gauging the level of interest from the Town on attendance for programs. The proposed budget for the 2022/2023 is \$196,780.

**Recycling/Collectibles:** submitted a budget of \$37,427 a 2% increase to cover cost for gear for volunteers.

**Public Works/Tree Removal/Tree Warden:** 3% increase for union wages, a majority of line items will remain flat, 4 projected paving projects, an increase in general landscaping funds to keep Town grounds aesthetic, increase in gas/oil, increase in overtime due to Comp time overages, and a reduction in winter maintenance due to need. A \$200 increased stipend for Tree Warden due to need for inspection. Flat budget for tree removal. No major Capital expenses have been recorded for the 2022/2023 budget.

**SVFD:** Public Safety/Paramedic Intercept/Emergency Management: The SVFD submitted an increase in their operating budget to cover expenses generated by dues and contracts, supplies, and data service increases. Also 2 new lines were added to the budget to cover tax exemptions for volunteers and to cover post high school assistance in order to garner more volunteerism from the community. An increase in the Paramedic Intercept line, Emergency Management funded at \$2500 which is a stipend to cover expenses of the office of Emergency Management for travel/hours.

**Fire Marshal:** 3% salary increase, slight increase in total budget to cover incidentals expenses.

**Resident State Trooper:** \$25,900 increase, final step of pay rate increase through collective bargaining.

**Tax Collector:** 3% salary increase, increase for dues/meetings to cover seminars.

**Assessor's office/BOAA:** flat budget other than 3% salary increase.

**Information Technology:** a \$6000 increased request that covers a program that expands on accessing extensive property information of residents, the programs expands on the field card information available to the public. An increase in entire budget to cover insurance and updated software/support expenses.

**Planning & Zoning: Zoning Board of Appeals:** Land Use Enforcement Officer requests 5% increase in salary to be more in line with other salaries, increase in training funds, and the land use officer requested funding of \$40,000 for the purchase of a new vehicle due to wear and tear on his existing vehicle. If this is not plausible, he requests use of Public Works F150 truck. He further states that the approximate \$8 per day reimbursement that he currently receives does not cover expenses. **Regulations Review-POCD-L/U** will be revisited during workshop deliberations. **Counsel/Court** has an increase due to "Anticipated increase in activity in regulation review, POCD review, etc". Also increase in to Counsel and Court ongoing litigation due to current case litigating at the appellate court level.

**Commissions: Historic District:** requested \$600 to cover the clerk and miscellaneous expenses. **Conservation Commission:** flat budget. **Housing Commission:** haven't provided a request at this moment. **Land Acquisition Fund:** request of \$120.

All boards/departments requests will be discussed at length during workshop meetings.

First Selectman Don Lowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm.

**Motioned by:** First Selectman Don Lowe

**Seconded by:** Selectman Joel Bruzinski     **All in Favor:** Unanimous

Notes respectfully by Margaret Beatty on March 3, 2022.