

**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman Special Meeting
Thursday April 7, 2022 at 6pm
Mallory Town Hall**

Member's Present: First Selectman Don Lowe, and Selectman Joel Bruzinski

Member's Absent: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

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

Clerk: Margaret Beatty

The meeting began 6 pm followed by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. First Selectman Don Lowe opened by thanking all who were present and then began discussion of the BOE budget. He emphasized that there were lingering questions associated with line items that still were not sufficiently answered in previous hearings. The BOS shared concern for budget items added that were not needed in previous budgets. The BOS agree that a better explanation was warranted to justify the increased line items.

Matt Vogt, BOE member, spoke on behalf of the BOE explained that as the school was moving away from the current administrative model, adding funds in specific line items would cover any expenses as the school shifts its model.

Selectman Joel Bruzinski added that it's the responsibility of the BOS to ensure taxpayer money is spent responsibly and that the BOS ask appropriate questions to maintain trust from the community. He also raised concern for funding of an Assistant Principal.

Tim Laughlin, BOE member, answered that adding the Assistant Principal salary provided flexibility in hiring due to the adopted change in the administrative model. He stated it provided the ability to bring in staff if necessary.

The BOS agree that it's hard to argue a decrease in budget but that some line items are a cause for concern.

Treasurer Eric Holub commented that his approach would have been different when addressing the severance of the Superintendent and the funding of the Assistant Principal position.

The BOE argued that spending extra in the short term will equate to a reduction in the long term.

First Selectman Don Lowe commented that he doesn't see any value in holding up the BOE budget any further. Selectman Joel Bruzinski concurred and added let the voters decide.

Business Manager Liz LaVia noted that the BOS would motion the Town budget of \$5,344,858.49 and the BOE budget of \$9,233,865 for a total of \$14,578,723.49 to a Town Meeting on April 23, 2022.

Motion: Move the Town budget of \$5,344,858.49 along with the BOE budget of \$9,233,865 making a total budget of \$14,578,723.49 to an April 23, 2022, Town Meeting.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

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

Selectman Joel Bruzinski moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Motioned by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

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

Notes respectfully submitted April 14, 2022 by Margaret Beatty.