

**Town of Sherman  
Budget Intake Meeting  
Saturday, February 19, 2022 at 9 am  
Mallory Town Hall**

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

**Member's Absent:** None

**Audience & Invited:** Treasurer Eric Holub, Business Manager Liz LaVia, spokesperson for respective boards/departments, and residents from the community.

**Clerk:** Margaret Beatty

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:** First Selectman Don Lowe called the meeting to order at 9:02 am followed by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**The meeting in order of business:**

**Candlewood Lake Authority:** Mark Howard, the Executive Director of Candlewood Lake Authority, began by providing a brief explanation as to how the CLA got to where it is present day. He noted an increased boat presence on the lake since the onset of Covid, appointment of a new chief, more shifts were added that went later into the evenings, redesigned the website for easier navigation, and provided webinars. The CLA budget request for the 2022/2023 is \$129,730 which is a 7% decrease from the previous year, the decrease was a result of revising their long term capital plan. Wages were the most notable increase due to the need for more patrol on the lake.

First Selectman Don Lowe commented that he was pleased that the CLA did a great job **resolving complaints on the lake.**

**Registrars:** Increase in salaries due to need for extra training hours and attending conferences, increase for education classes

**Social Services: Women's Center/Visiting Nurse/Mental Health/WeCahr/Elderly**

**Nutrition/Veterans Center:** Budget stays flat with the exception of an increase for supplies such as ink/paper due to increases client load. Elderly Nutrition has been in the Social Services department but is more of a function of the Senior Center and funds should be transferred to that department. WeCahr requests \$500 to help support crisis management to young women in the effort to end violence.

**Senior Center:** Budget stays flat other than 3% union salary increase and an increase for hours with a competitive pay rate for the assistant.

**Commission on Aging:** Increase budget by an extra \$1000 to address community outreach to inform the public about the potential new Senior Center. The increase would cover clerk hours and media outreach, such as adds.

**Memberships: WestCOG/ COST/ CCM:** WestCOG requested a \$4.00 increase at a budget of \$7,022. COST remains flat at \$975, and CCM is flat at \$2000.

**BOE:** Submitted a budget of \$9,223,770 which is a decrease of 1.9% from the previous year's budget. A majority of the budget addresses faculty salaries and high school tuition/transportation. Contractual expenses make up 3% of the budget increases. The Board's goal is to work top to bottom and address inefficiencies and come up with a solution.

Treasurer Eric Holub inquired whether there is a long term infrastructure plan and if place holders should be recorded for future projects. Matt Vogt replied that currently there is no numerical value put together to address maintenance issues. Mr. Holub asked that a placeholder figure be provided for March meetings.

Robert Acosta of 9 Curtis Drive asked a question that pertained to a topic addressed at the BOE meeting referring to the P.E.E.P.S program initially introduced. P.E.E.P.S refers to Preschool Early Enrichment Program in Sherman which explored the possibility of having preschool full time. The program was discussed as a pilot program but the decision was made to refrain from introducing P.E.E.P.S and focus on strengthening current programs. The program can be revisited.

**Parks/Recreation Commission:** increase in appropriate wage hikes, increase in wages for part time help due to the increase in minimum wage, increase in Red Cross training funding due to inability to find lifeguards, request for an extra \$1000 for additional summer concerts. Repairs on boat docs potentially covered with labor provided by Eagle Scouts/leaders, as community service, and materials paid for by the Town amounting to \$6000 covered from Capital Nonrecurring Fund. Request to provide more employment adds and that they be placed earlier in the season to encourage applications for lifeguards. Also suggestion that John Wrenn post same to website and provide verbiage for social media as well. Fees will be increased for boat slips. Request for \$1000 to repair storage shed in Capital projects. Long range Capital request includes 2024/2025 funding of \$250,000 for a seawall at the town park.

**Consultants: HVA/ Northwest Conservation District:** will be discussed further at workshop. HVA is requesting \$300, Northwest Conservation District \$1200 which is flat. POCD plan request of \$8000 funding will be addressed by Planning and Zoning.

**Animal Control:** Decrease of \$880 because of a recalculation of population.

**Probate:** Request of \$4174, slight increase from previous year.

**Building Department:** Flat budget, no changes other than 3% union wage increases

**Health Department:** Flat, no changes other than 3% union wage increases, reduction of \$2500 from the Sanitarian line

**Inlands/Wetlands:** No changes in fees, 3% union wage increase.

**Town Clerk/ Vital Statistics:** Budget stays flat. Town Clerk requests funding to remain for Dues and Meetings in anticipation of programs resuming post Covid next year.

All budgets discussed will be explored in length at the workshop meetings.

Selectman Joel Bruzinski moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 am.

**Motioned by:** Selectman Joel Bruzinski

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

Notes respectfully submitted by Margaret Beatty on February 28, 2022.