

Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman Budget Workshop
March 14, 2022 at 7 pm
Mallory Town Hall

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

Member's Absent: None

Audience & Invited: Treasurer Eric Holub, Business Manager Liz LaVia, and members from the Board of Ed.

Clerk: Margaret Beatty

The meeting was held in the cafeteria room, due to limited space and a full room, the Selectman decided to acknowledge the Pledge of Allegiance in spirit to preserve space between those attending. First Selectman Don Lowe called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Business Manager Liz LaVia opened by stating that the existing requested budget provided by the BOE amounted to \$9,223,770 but the new figure has been adjusted to \$9,249,190 based on their latest submission. Along with the new adjusted figure the BOE submitted a Capital Plan consisting of replacing the roof area AC at \$350,000, water system component repair/replacement at \$150,000, general mechanical/electrical/plumbing and component repairs at \$100,000, and architectural/engineering services at \$400,000.

BOE Member Tim Laughlin confirmed the new adjusted BOE budget at \$9,249,190. He confirmed that the latest projected numbers account for all students Pre-K to 8th (272 students) and an estimated 124 students from 9th through 12th (which can be subject to change). He noted that the adjusted budget increase reflected the negotiation line is order to be flexible with contractual obligations. He also added that the school was able to use reserved grant money to put towards the budget. The amended budget reflected an overall reduction.

Treasurer Eric Holub commented that the negotiation line was at \$4,900 and with the new figures, the line significantly increased to \$229,000. He asked if that was the settlement reached with the current superintendent's resignation package. He wondered why a package was negotiated for someone who voluntarily resigned. BOE member Brian Berlandi replied that the school was contractually obligated to pay the superintendent for 2 more years but the negotiation were structured so that he was only going to make a portion of his actual contract, in the event it was difficult to find employment, he was payed a portion until a new position was lined up. The current superintendent was willing to resign to accommodate the schools new model of leadership but he was unwilling to resign with no compensation since there was 2 years left on his contract. Lastly, the projects proposed for the Capital Plan are just projects planned in advanced, the suggested projects aren't necessarily for the next fiscal year.

Business Manager Liz LaVia reviewed the latest figures with Board since the workshop on March 7, 2022. The latest figures have the auditor costing \$25,000 at a 3 year agreement. The quoted crime policy amounted to \$700 and the cyber policy is still pending but can potentially double according to CIRMA. Discussion about Ransomware was included in insurance quote and whether another, larger company hosts Town emails, instead of on-premise, to provide added protection of Town servers. The Building Inspector wages have been adjusted from \$86,653 to \$149,605 all driven by revenue projections. The Commission on Aging will remain funded at \$2000 reduced by \$1000 from their original request.

The projected Town budget comes in at \$5,343,158 and the adjusted school budget at \$9,249,190 as noted by Business Manager Liz LaVia. The Board, along with the treasurer and business manager, discussed on the fence requests before finalizing the projected 2022/2023 budget. After deliberations, the Board agreed to cut the negotiations line in the BOE budget. The Board decided to fund the line at \$64,500. The proposed budget, with the cut, amounts to \$9,184,690. The combined budgets amount to \$14,527,848. The changes will result in a further reduction in the Mill Rate. The Board will hold a special meeting of the BOS March 30, 2022 following the budget hearing to approve the 2022/2023 budget for Town Meeting.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Motioned by: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Seconded by: First Selectman Don Lowe

All in Favor: Unanimous

Notes respectfully submitted by Margaret Beatty on March 21, 2022.