

Town of Sherman
Board of Selectman Budget Hearing
Wednesday March 30, 2022 at 7 pm
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, BOE members, respective board members of town organizations, and residents from the community.

Clerk: Margaret Beatty

First Selectman Don Lowe called the hearing to order at 7:02 pm followed by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. The hearing allows for Town boards and organizations to provide further information on their proposed budget and for residents to ask thoughtful questions. The purpose of the meeting will move the budget to a Town Meeting. Due to last minute changes of the BOE budget, a BOS special meeting will be warned once a date and time has been selected later during this meeting for Town input prior to moving the BOE budget to Town Meeting.

First Selectman Don Lowe began by giving a review of the most significant increases in the Town budget. The most notable changes were increases in salary lines, minimum wage requirements, utilities, Library, and SVFD. He opened the floor up for discussion for those in attendance to ask questions relating to a particular budget or increase. Business Manager Liz LaVia reiterated that gas and oil significantly increased due to inflationary costs, that cyber security and insurance costs increase, and that Covid dramatically changed the landscape of budgetary costs resulting in an overall increase in the Town's budget. First Selectman Don Lowe added that despite the increases the Town has witnessed a very strong Revenue year and turned the conversation over to Treasurer Eric Holub to provide a brief synopsis. Treasurer Eric Holub commented that the Grand List is up 4.3% driven by the real estate market and motor vehicle. He stated that the projected Mill Rate of 18.06% and that the tax rate should decrease by 3% depending on the final BOE budget. Selectman Bob Ostrosky also reminded that the Town has a Capital Plan but that it only serves as a plan. He noted that the Capital Plan has been funded at \$500,000 and any projects listed in the Capital plan requires a Town vote by residents in order for funds to be allocated. First Selectman Don Lowe offered the floor to BOE member Tim Laughlin to provide the current status of the BOE budget.

Tim Laughlin provided a brief synopsis of the most recent adopted budget. He stated that the current numbers stand at \$9,234,855 which represents an \$84,965 reduction. He reviewed

tuition costs/revenue, as well as programs added to the curriculum. The BOE has some adjustments to solidify before they can present a finalized budget.

After discussion, the BOS and BOE agreed to a special meeting on April 7, 2022 to discuss the finalized BOE budget. The meeting will be warned with specifics.

First Selectman Don Lowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm.

Motioned by: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded by: Selectman Joel Bruzinski

All In Favor: Unanimous

Notes respectfully submitted by Margaret Beatty on April 2, 2022.