

Town of Sherman
Budget Intake Meeting
Wednesday February 22, 2023 at 7pm
Mallory Town Hall

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

Member's Absent: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Audience & Invited: Business Manager Liz LaVia, respective members of boards/committees and departments.

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. First Selectman Don Lowe thanked everyone for coming and moved into the intake meeting.

Library: Ashleigh Blake, Director of the Sherman Library, presented on behalf of the library. She provided a detailed summation of past/present current events. She noted that the library is operating at pre-pandemic levels. There has been a return to in-person fundraising, outdoor charging stations have been installed, the Wi-Fi has been upgraded, and a wide range of activities have been introduced to satisfy residents of all ages. She noted many of the expenses remain flat with the exception of heat/electricity, maintenance, payroll, and fundraising/community outreach costs. The increases are a result of ongoing inflation and rise in cost-of-living expenses. The library has increased efforts in fundraising, investments in dividends but are requesting a 3% increase in grants from the Town.

Public Works: (tree removal and tree warden) Kris Fazzone kept most budget lines flat. Increases were made to wages at 1.5% (determined by wage scale), road maintenance, overtime, and tree removal. Truck repairs/maintenance saw a decrease. Public Works requested a new Loader and landscape trailer in the Capital Plan expense. Public Works is also interested in refurbishing retired SVFD vehicles to aid in the department's needs. The department is also looking to hire another full-time employee, **but that cost wasn't reflected in the budget numbers.**

Planning and Zoning Department: (Zoning Board of Appeals, Regulation Review-POCD, L/U Counsel Court) Most of the budget is flat with minor increases. Increases are reflected in printing expenses, mileage for the Land Use Enforcement Officer, and a \$1000 increase in Counsel and Court from \$6000 to \$7000.

Tax Collector: 3% salary increase and increase in costs for supplies, continuing education and mileage.

Information Technology: The budget stays relatively flat with slight increase in salary for administrator.

Assessor's Office/BOAA: Increase in the Reval Sinking Fund in order to meet the needs of the 5 year funding cycle. Increase for continuing education to accommodate new employee requirements. Fund for 1 year at a higher rate the Assessor's Assistant Field Work to provide training for the new assistant.

SVFD: (Public Safety, 911 Service Contract, Paramedic Intercept, Emergency Management) Operating Budget reflects a 7.34% increase to offset dues/contract fees, fuel, office supplies, uniforms, and EMS supplies. Costs associated with the department is off set by fundraising. Capital Plan requests for replacement tires for Engine 2 and AED (5) replacement. Long term Capital Plan reflects replacing Engine 3. Waiting on prices for the new 911 Service contract. Paramedic Intercept increased from \$66,000 to \$120,000. The department is actively applying for a Safer Grant and other grants to help aid in retention/recruitment.

Fire Marshal: Reduction of \$3300

Resident State Trooper: Reduction in line by \$21,500 due to the fringe rate change. Overtime has been budgeted.

Commissions: Historic District Commission- increase of \$1900 to cover clerk fees, and notices

Conservation Commission- no change

Housing Commission- no funding, without quorum

Land Acquisition Fund- funded at \$125

Arts Commission- request of \$900 to cover clerk fees.

First Selectman Don Lowe entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motioned by: First Selctman Don Lowe

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

Notes respectfully submitted by Margaret Beatty on March 1, 2023.