

FIRST SELECTMAN COLUMN

02/02/2023 ISSUE DATE

Budget season starts in February and the first budget intake hearing is on Wednesday, February 22 at 7pm in Mallory Town Hall. The second budget intake hearing will be held on Saturday, February 25 at 9am in Mallory Town Hall. These are also called “pre-budget” hearings and this is the time when the Board of Selectmen (BOS) acting as Board of Finance listens to the budget presentations and asks questions of the presenters.

On Monday, March 6 at 7pm the BOS holds its first budget workshop wherein we discuss the individual budgets and make decisions on what remains and what gets cut. The second budget workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 8 at 7pm in Mallory Town Hall. Following that, is another difficult session of what goes in the budget and what does not. Our business manager Liz LaVia, will then plug in all the numbers and we’ll gain some idea of what the budget looks like. On March 29 at 7pm in Mallory Town Hall there is a hearing and an opportunity for entities in Town to make a final case for their budgets.

Ultimately, this culminates into the budget referendum on Saturday, April 29 to be held from 8am to 8pm at Charter Hall in an all-day in-person vote. Sherman residents and land owners can vote either YES or NO on both the Town Budget and the Education Budget – two separate votes.

It has been wonderful to watch the steady program growth of the Sherman JCC these last few of years. While it has always been a place of profound and fascinating programs, it seems recently to have stepped it up even more. Music from thoughtful to foot-stomping is performed nearly every Saturday night. The Sunday series is an eclectic mix of speakers and artists. The JCC hosts art shows, classical music performances, jazz, and personal celebrations. There are various classes in the mornings and afternoons. In addition, the JCC holds a thriving open mic on Thursday nights that is open to all levels of talent and welcomes musicians, comics, and poets. Feel free to check out the schedule and see if there is something that interests you. I commend the JCC for becoming something that I think Sherman needs: a Community Center.

This Thursday Kris Fazzone (public work supervisor) and I are meeting with delegates from the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WESTCOG) to discuss the possibility of Sherman proceeding with a transportation infrastructure grant – roadway improvements. So much of the transportation work at WESTCOG is geared toward the attentions of our southern neighbors along the I-95 corridor, so I’m delighted that we are being considered for some of this Federal money to help our roadways. I hope to give positive updates on this possibility.

The Town is still looking for a volunteer to sit as a commissioner on the Commission on Aging. All ages may apply. And to conclude, although it may be considerably colder when you read this column, today (Monday) is a spring-like early January afternoon and I’ve lost all hope for any ice fishing. Which is fine. No problem. I’ll get over it. Sort of.



DON LOWE

TOWN OF SHERMAN