

FIRST SELECTMAN COLUMN

06/01/023 ISSUE DATE

The Memorial Day Parade and ceremony at Veterans Field along with the Barn sale, the Arts sale and Library Book sale made for a splendid time in Sherman last weekend. There are so many people to thank! I'll try to cover the parade and ceremony: huge thanks to the Sherman Scouts for the set up and for helping with the hotdogs. (Thanks also to our anonymous hotdog and water providers, and for Mike at the IGA for giving us a generous deal on both.) Thanks to Sid Head and Dave Szigeti of Candlewood Farm Airport for the cool flyover. Thanks for the cannon fire from Dan Havens and crew. Thank you Donna Pepe and Rich Lenihan for organizing the classic cars. Big thanks to Ann Muoio for lending her considerable singing talents. Thanks to state representative Pat Callahan and also to Father Wolfe for being such key parts to our parade and ceremony. Thank you Pat Cosentino, Sherman School Superintendent, for joining our day and saying such important words. Thank you to the excellent Sherman School band for the amazing music and also to Jed Orosz for playing "Taps." We were so proud to honor Fran Frattini as the Grand Marshal and Bob Accosta gave an amazing speech as keynote speaker. Thank you David Jellen for organizing the tractors and thanks to all of the tractor pilots! Thanks to Victoria Luis for the great programs. Thank you Sherman Veterans for your vibrant participation and making firm the reason that we have Memorial Day. And, of course, big THANK YOU to our spectacular Sherman Volunteer Fire Department for the parade and ceremony effort and all of the preparation you provided. I'm sure I left out someone and I apologize in advance.

We set the 2023/24 fiscal year mill rate at our most recent Board of Selectmen meeting at 17.84. For those keeping score at home, this means that for every \$1000 of property assessment you will pay \$17.84 in taxes. The rest of the math is up to you. (The 2022/23 mill rate was 18.18)

As I wrote in last week's column, as required by the state, this year is a revaluation year. This will have an effect on the mill rate but not, necessarily, on your tax bill as long as your assessment is within the average increase. I make that statement assuming that, overall, there will be an increase in assessment. If that's the case, then the mill rate will likely decrease in proportion. If, over the last 5 years, you've made improvements to your home and property, then it is likely that your assessment will increase above the average, and consequently and proportionately, so will your taxes. This is all, actually, simpler than I just made it sound...

We are planning a Town Meeting with several capital expenditures at 10am on June 10th in Charter Hall. I will go over the specifics of the expenditures in the next column, but wanted to mention that one of them is for a not-exceed amount of \$4,000 towards the purchase of a new-fangled device called an "OWL". The OWL will wisely allow for our Board of Selectmen meetings to be broadcast remotely on ZOOM. Our board recognized that it was time to give a hoot about holding meetings remotely and to stop winging it solely in-person as ZOOM and other remote broadcast means seem to be the way of the present for public meetings. Hopefully this will work out to the satisfaction of all involved. We do look forward to the possibility of having more people attend BOS meetings.



DON LOWE

TOWN OF SHERMAN