

**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectmen Budget Workshop
Special Meeting
Mallory Town Hall
March 11, 2026
7PM**

Present: First Selectman Don Lowe; Selectman Joel Bruzinski; Selectman Bob Ostrosky; Treasurer Andrea Maloney; Business Manager Liz LaVia

Absent: None

Invited & Audience: Ashleigh Blake

Clerk: Nicole Zegley

Call to Order: First Selectman Don Lowe called the meeting to order at 6:59PM.

Andrea Maloney and Liz LaVia met with the school and suggested some further cuts.

Liz LaVia said that the town was able to cut \$240,000.

Andrea Maloney spoke with Barry who explained that one budget failure is acceptable and sometimes expected. Multiple budget failures can be interpreted as the taxpayers losing faith. She asked Barry if they should take from the Capital Non-Recurring or Surplus. He reassured that both options were acceptable and shows that the Board is trying to do the best thing for the town.

Selectman Joel Bruzinski inquired on the Pre-K tuition of \$25,000.

Andrea Maloney explained the \$25,000 and the Board of Ed's assumption on the shared services that was previously discussed, but a final decision was never made.

Liz LaVia explained that shared services are more complicated than simply sending staff back and forth (e.g. insurance, workers compensation, benefits, etc.).

Selectman Joel Bruzinski expressed that the optics of it are horrible. He felt the concept was a great idea, but the breakdown and accounting may not be worth it.

Liz LaVia added that Joe Riley will be finished with his training in June and will be over at the firehouse regularly. She continued by saying she spoke with Michelle Sanford at the Sherman School Business Office and noted that their supply lines were high. The reason being they were reduced/brought flat during the last budget with the renovation on the horizon.

Andrea Maloney added that \$100,000 for supplies was an excessive amount. As well as the \$10,000 HVAC maintenance line on a new building. Joel Bruzinski agreed.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky added that the Executive Assistant position was a horrible addition. Joel Bruzinski agreed and suggested that increase the hours for an existing position.

Liz LaVia also mentioned that they added a \$75,000 placeholder for fuel oil, which she orders and only costs \$25,000.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky would like to see \$150,000 reduced from the school budget.

Selectman Joel Bruzinski added that if the Town can cut \$240,000, then it wasn't unreasonable to ask that of the school.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky suggested going back to the school and asking them to take a closer look at oil, staffing, tuition, and buses.

Selectman Joel Bruzinsky asked Andrea Maloney what a \$200,000 reduction by the school would look like on the projection sheet.

Andrea Maloney and Liz LaVia both agreed that would be a fair reduction giving the Town a 3.96% increase, and encouraged First Selectman Don Lowe to make the request.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky also added that it's a 3.96% increase with two major building projects. He also asked Liz and Andrea to draft a quick letter asking the school to clean up their maintenance, supplies lines, etc, for a \$225,000 budget reduction

First Selectman Don Lowe will meet with Adrea and Liz tomorrow to draft the letter and reach out to the school.

Selectman Joel Bruzinski added that it would have been helpful to have the school budget presentation first, before town cuts were made. The Town made many cuts that may have been unnecessary if the school had reduced their budget from the start.

Everyone was in agreement.

Adjournment:

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Time: 7:59PM

Respectfully Submitted By Nicole Zegley