

**Town of Sherman
Board of Selectmen Budget Workshop
Mallory Town Hall
March 4, 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; Katy Osborn

Clerk: Nicole Zegley

Call to Order: First Selectman Don Lowe called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

Business Manager Liz LaVia began the meeting with a revenue review.

Heating and Propane increased \$900 from \$16,100 to \$17,000
Paramedic Intercept was \$125,065 and now \$128,920
Town Gas and Oil (trucks and buses) was \$58,450 - increase to \$59,600
Housatonic Probate were flat from last year, now \$6895
ESF Utility increased from \$74,400 to \$75,200
Pavilion operating expense was \$1800 a reduction of \$300 now \$1500
WestConn Candlewood Lake water testing \$850 and is now \$1000 with \$150 increase
St. Lights Electric was \$3827, reduction of \$402 to a total of \$3425
IT contracts and support was \$104,550, reduction of \$192 to total \$104,358
All in - total increase \$5793

Selectman Bob Ostrosky requested Treasurer Andrea Maloney to look at revenue, the debt schedule for the next 5-6 years and the bond premium.

Treasurer Andrea Maloney, explained the Mill flat and each of the revenue categories.

Building Permits was budgeted for \$258,000 for this year, but only collected \$130,000. Andrea Maloney inquired with Trish about her opinion on what's causing the drop. Trish has seen a big drop off the past few months and thinks it's economy related. Andrea Maloney explained that she took the 5 year average, cut 75,000 off of it to total \$161,000.

Zoning has seen a decrease.
Health Department remains steady.
Wetlands remain fairly steady.

Town Clerk remains consistent.

Park and Rec has a projection from John Wrenn, of \$70,000. Anderea Maloney predicted that will likely increase.

Board of Education has an upcoming budget presentation. Andrea Maloney decided to wait until it was presented.

State of Connecticut explained that most items remained similar to previous years.

Andrea Maloney explained that Supplemental Municipal Aid has a cap of 2.8% spending for the town and could get cut in half by the state.

Capital Interest remains on track.

Treasurer Andrea Maloney expressed that the Miscellaneous Town Revenue number was too high and suggested reducing it to \$30,000.

Andrea Maloney noticed an error of \$87,267.

Liz LaVia corrected the numbers and the new debt interest total was \$1,262,064. New town budget request of \$18,320,168.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky and Andrea Maloney worked the numbers on the projection spreadsheet for the bond premium payments from surplus and a 5 year plan. Focusing on the importance of the amount chosen will be the payment for the next 4 years.

Selectman Joel Bruzinski inquired as to the projected mill rate.

Treasurer Andrea Maloney replied that the mailer for the school renovation projected a mill rate of 17.08, but that was before the approval of the new Senior Center.

First Selectman Don Lowe expressed that he would like to see the school budget decreased a little more.

Treasurer Andrea Maloney inquired on the expense paving of Anderson Road.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky explained that PW Supervisor Kris Fazzone has his schedule of repairs for town roads.

Selectman Bob Ostrosky inquired if there are any large capital projects in the near future.

First Selectman Don Lowe explained that there are the boat docks and the paving of Anderson Road.

First Selectman Don Lowe suggested that in the future the town should consider having a part time town clerk.

The Selectmen, Andrea Maloney, and Liz LaVia continued line by line looking for reductions.

First Selectman remained flat and the 4% increase was removed.

Selectmen salaries changed to flat after removing the 4% increase.

Tax Collector - Unchanged
Town Clerk - Unchanged
Town Clerk, Clerical - Unchanged
Assessor - ReVal - needs more research, but \$10,000 reduction made
Board of Assessment - Unchanged
Building Inspector - Unchanged
Building Fees to the state - \$1000 increase
P & Z - Unchanged
Court Costs - Inland - \$5000
Litigation Counsel - Drop to \$2500
Registrars - Reduction to \$2300
West Cog - Unchanged
CCM - Removed
Water Shed - Flat
Consultant - Reduction to \$2000
Government Supplies - Unchanged
Technology - Unchanged
Utilities - Unchanged
Resident Trooper -
SFVD - Increase for round the clock services
Cell Tower - Unchanged
Fire Marshall - Increase with school renovation
SVFD - Insurance Increased
Utilities - Increased
CLA - Unchanged
Eco - Reduction to \$1600
Animal Control - (\$60,000) Reduction to \$0
PW - Additional employee request - Denied
Paving - \$330,000
Health and Safety - Unchanged
Social Services - Part time employee request - Denied
United Way Donation - \$500 Removed
CIRMA - 3 year Policy (PW vehicles
Library - Additional employee request - Denied
Library - Increase \$18,848
Land Acquisitions - \$100 Removed
Park & Rec - JCC - Temporary
Park & Rec - Phones - Unchanged
Park & Rec - Part time help - Reduction to \$10,000
Park & Rec - Revenue increased to \$90,000
Senior Center Clerk - Unchanged
Tree Removal - Unchanged

Selectman Bob Ostrosty acknowledged that the goal would be to get below 5%.

First Selectman Don Lowe expressed that the school budget really needs to be reduced in order to pass.

Adjournment:

Motioned By: First Selectman Don Lowe

Seconded: Selectman Bob Ostrosky

Time: 8:57 PM

Respectfully Submitted By Nicole Zegley