



Town of Sherman
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Mallory Town Hall
Budget Workshop
Thursday, March 14, 2013

Attendees:

Clay Cope, First Selectman Andrea O'Connor, Selectman Chris Jellen, Selectman

Call to Order:

Meeting is called to order by First Selectmen Cope at 7:00pm conference room Mallory Town Hall.

I. Historic District: Janet Hopkins

- Has a number of issues:
 - * Parking space in front of MTH - needs to be removed.
 - * 2 a/c units outside of MTH - needs a certificate of appropriateness.
 - * Undergrowth has been removed from the hillside outside MTH creating an erosion problem.
 - * Scout House - broken window frame repaired with duct tape.
 - * Playhouse - nothing has been done and the windows continue to deteriorate.
 - * Veterans Memorial at the Old Town Hall - the bronze plaques are loose and the cement has broken down.
 - * Crabapple Tree on the Green needs to be pruned.
- Budget Request:
 - * Lamp Post - will cost \$2,000 for pole and base restoration, \$600 for base installation, \$500 for electrical, \$300 for lamp base replacement and \$100 for rust attention on wrought iron totaling \$3500.
 - * They are requesting \$4,000 for lamp post plus \$700 for clerical for the 2013/2014 budget year.
 - * First Selectman Cope stated that he had moved the \$4,000 from their budget to the capital non-recurring. The Historical District budget will only reflect the \$700 for clerical.

II. Workshop:

- The Town expenditures are at 17.7% and the BOE is at 4.5% for a combined 9.0%
- 34-28, Land Acquisition Fund: \$381,681 removed altogether. Selectman O'Connor agrees. That we should not be looking at a mil rate contribution until Happy Acres is paid for. Also, LAFAB budget could be cut in half safely to \$620. They will be meeting quarterly instead of monthly.
- Health and Welfare: 39-57 Senior Van/ADA Driver request: Selectman O'Connor stated that she is concerned with this request is because it is a fulltime position. We can't fund a fulltime position. Mr. Holub suggested 2 part-time people. Suggests leaving it flat right now at the 9.75hours.
- 33-28, Reserve for Capital Expenses: PW Truck 2 is priority 1. SVFD \$556,000 and that includes engine 1. \$280,000 does not include the \$160,000 for rescue pumper. It could be 1/2 one year and 1/2 the next year. Looking into wash station and decreasing costs there. Maybe put the \$280,000 into 2014/15 and 2015/16.

- Selectman O'Connor asked to go back to public works. Remove the \$15,000 for replacement mower from line 28-27, Public Works Equipment and put it into the capital non-reoccurring. Otherwise, all right with the general fund budget requests for public works.
- It was agreed to remove the \$15,000 from line 28-27 and added to capital requests 2013/14.
- Selectman O'Connor also asked about capital plan for SVFD engine 2. It is \$195,000 not \$225,000.
- Mr. Holub asked about if there are two chippers, \$50,000 and \$75,000. The \$75,000 should not be there, it should only be \$50,000 for 2014/15. \$213,000 to the total on 2017/18.
- Roads (budget line 28-20): Farm Rd, Mauweehoo, Anderson Ext, Peace Pipe and Evans Hill for this year and Corn Tassel, Wimisink, the list goes on for next year. First Selectman Cope asked if there is wiggle room with the \$225,000. Donny stated that petroleum prices will play a part and Selectman O'Connor stated that they should change that one.
- Selectman O'Connor suggests eliminating the tax maps online and should focus on the updating. Field cards only online.
- 12-30: CCM - should subscribe at \$2,059.
- 17-21, Town Hall Technology: Good there.
- Counsel/Court Costs: \$3,500 seems low to Mr. Holub. First Selectman Cope stated that a lot of that revolved around the firehouse. Mrs. LaVia asked about bid packages for next year. Potentially 4. Mr. Holub asked about the Senior housing lease. Selectman O'Connor believes that it is being done this fiscal year. Also, bid packages can be built off of old bid packages. Mrs. LaVia asked about ongoing court costs. \$5,000: historically that has been running over. Leaving \$15,000, \$15,000 and \$5,000. Would be concerned about the appeal. Leave that line at \$7,000 for total of \$37,000.
- Selectman O'Connor suggests small cuts:
 - * 01-07, Sel Dues, Meetings, Mileage: Cut in half to \$400
 - * 03-02, Tax Collector Supplies: Cut to \$500
 - * 03-07, Tax Dept. Dues & Meetings: Cut to \$300
 - * 04-07, Town Clerk Dues & Meetings: Cut to \$500
 - * P&Z/Land Use: no rational for requested increases was provided.
 - * 08-02, P&Z Supplies: Cut to \$400
 - * 08-03, LUEO Supplies and Equipment: Cut to \$400
 - * 08-04, P&Z Printing: Cut to \$450
 - * P&Z ED: Cut to \$400
 - * 08-13 Land Use ED: Cut to \$250
 - * 09-02, Zoning BOA Supplies: Cut to \$150
 - * 09-13, ZBA Continuing Education: Cut to \$250
 - * Wetland Schools: Cut to \$400. Mrs. Viola stated that they have a new commissioner and a vacancy. Looking at getting CD's for training. She also stated that her schooling comes at certain times of the year.
 - * 12-07, Registrars SOS Meetings: Cut to \$600
- Library 35-28: Have asked for a \$10,000 increase. Selectman Jellen and O'Connor are comfortable at \$115,000. First Selectman Cope stated he would be comfortable with \$120,000 because of the electric costs. Leaving at \$115,000.
- Firehouse: They are asking for a 30% increase but Selectman O'Connor suggested a 25% increase instead. First Selectman Cope suggested sitting down with Chris and getting the budget down to a 25% increase. Selectman O'Connor brought the building operations. The Town will be taking on more costs

for the firehouse that the fire department will not need to have in their budget; i.e. trash disposal, misc. items, etc.

- Facilities Maintenance: Mrs. LaVia reduced this line by \$2,000 because of historic numbers, maybe that should be restored. Mrs. Viola asked about water tests/oil separator. Add the \$2,000 back in. Will revisit this line in a couple of weeks.
- OTH: Supply Line: Selectman O'Connor wondered if this should be put in the buildings supply line since it is used by multiple groups. 39-02, Senior Center Supplies, was being increased by \$250. Also, assuming there is a way to lock up their supplies. Mrs. Viola stated that they come to MTH for toilet paper and paper towels. So the locked cabinet is the only thing needed.
- First Selectman Cope stated they will plug in these changes and that way we can see where we stand. He will sit down with Chief Pitcher about decreasing the budget to a 25% increase., speak with Dale Baird about ongoing litigation and Ron Cooper about Continuing Ed.
- Capital Non-Reoccurring: Is at \$556,000. Need the first response fire truck. Mr. Holub asked about the \$280,000. When does the truck need to be paid by? Selectman O'Connor stated her understanding was that there was two options given: Just replace the truck needed now or combining two engines into one for a vehicle, pumper/rescue. Her understanding is that if they put 138,400 in this year's capital non-recurring then next year pick up the other 138,400 for when the truck is ready. Mr. Holub stated \$140,000 in 2014 and \$140,000 in 2015 and split it between the fiscal years. This is out 20%. Change the \$280,000 to \$140,000 on that line.
- Mower at \$15,000 has been added to the capital expenditure reserve.
- 195,000 for the Ford, \$15,000 for mower, \$140,000 for Engine and \$29,000 for Police Officer Vehicle.
- Selectman O'Connor had mentioned that her sheet reflected the new vehicle as being \$34,000. The base package was \$23,000 but then you need to add all the things that make it a police car. First Selectman Cope stated that he had spoke with John Hodge about possibly purchasing an old Crown Vic from New Fairfield that is being cycled out. She was also suggesting the start up cost of this position come out of capital non-recurring because these are one-time costs.
- Mrs. LaVia added that FICA, Workmen's Comp, Car Insurance for the Police Officer position needs to be considered too.
- First Selectman Cope also brought up that Bridgewater leases their vehicle and at the end of the contract the town purchases it for a dollar. This is something we could look into.
- First Selectman Cope also brought up that the additional Police Officer position could bring revenue. Roxbury's officer brought in \$4,200 last year. When work is being done by AT&T, etc the town office gets priority for these situations: i.e. \$65/hr for a minimum of 3 hours, which \$25 goes to the town and \$40 to the officer; then for private events it is \$50/hr with \$15 to the town and \$35 to the officer.
- \$36,471 will be the start up costs for the officer. FICA, Workmen's Comp, Car Insurance goes into the regular line items. This could be reduced if we lease the vehicle.
- Selectman O'Connor asked if we had any money left in our Capital Non-Recurring fund now. Mr. Holub stated that we do, \$370,000 was unallocated but now we have the truck and senior housing coming in leaves maybe \$225,000. Plus we need to decide what kind of buffer we want for the unexpected expenditures.
- Selectman O'Connor suggests separate of capital expenditures, something think about and to do in this year's budget.
- Barbeques need to be corrected. It is not a \$1000 purchase, it is two for \$250 each.

- 33-36: First Selectman Cope asked about this. Planning on applying for \$26,000 this year and next. Mr. Holub stated that we do not budget the revenue or expenditure. So it will be a wash. He stated he would note on his reconciliation \$75,000 approved for school, LoCIP not yet received.
- 2012/2013 Estimated Revenue: Mr. Holub submitted worksheet. He stated that we are about \$160,000 better than the budget. That is the \$163,497. He briefly reviewed the departments and stated that we are okay on revenue.
- 2013/2013 Revenue Proposal: He assumed a flat mill rate against the new grand list from AI, which provided an increase of \$118,829 for property taxes. He again briefly reviewed the departments with an overall increase of \$241,225.
- Mr. Holub stated that he took the budget before the cuts today and added \$100,000 for the reserve that needs to be built and the mill rate would go to 17.457 which is an 8.4% increase, but if you take out the Land Acquisition's \$381,000 then the mill rate would be 17 which is a 5.6% increase. It could be back to an 8% increase if the Capital Non-Recurring is at \$550,000 and of course the salaries are not in this.

General Discussion:

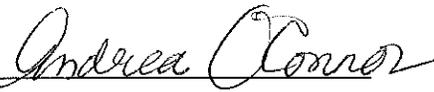
- Need to have an additional meeting before the April 11th meeting. Penciled in for the 20th at 7:00pm. Personal issues to be discussed in executive session.

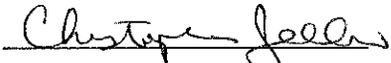
Adjournment:

Adjournment for the special meeting was called by First Selectman Cope at 8:25pm; all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,
Tabitha Fazzone, Clerk


Clay Cope, First Selectman


Andrea O'Connor, Selectman


Chris Jellen, Selectman