



Town of Sherman
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Mallory Town Hall
Thursday, April 11, 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 7:05pm conference room Mallory Town Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Led by First Selectman Cope at 7:07pm.

First Selectman Cope stated that the purpose of this meeting is to approve the finalized budget combined with the Board of Education to be presented to the Town on May 3, 2013 and then voted upon at referendum on May 11, 2013.

General Discussion:

- Selectman Jellen requested that the Board of Selectmen (BoS) reconsider the idea of possibly peeling out a portion of the budget, specifically the Capital Expenditures. This would not change the overall amount requested, only to give the taxpayers a better picture of what is being presented. This would give the taxpayer further opportunities to decide where or where not, they want the tax dollars spent. Hopefully the public has confidence in this Board and realizes that they have moved dutifully and responsibly in creating this budget. However, given the size, it could be a defeated budget and should that scenario arise this would be a useful tool to the BoS as they move forward.
- First Selectman Cope (FSC) asked how would this be worded/presented, tick boxes for the truck, the docks, etc or where would it be called.
- Selectman Jellen stated that it could be a whole dollar amount with the information being published.
- FSC stated that the Capital Expenditures is going out in a mailer.
- Selectman Jellen stated a three category format.
- FSC stated then it would be Question 1-Town, Question 2-School and Question 3-Capital Expenditures.
- Eric Holub thought the intent was to vote on the packages as if you would at Town meetings to vote on projects. As far as that, Jeff Sienkiewicz is okay with that but to peel out the \$300,000 out of the general fund budget he is not sure that is proper.

- Mr. Sienkiewicz stated that he is a little caught off guard and believed that the statute was revised a few years ago to authorize you to go to town and BOE budget. Concerned that statutorily. If appropriation to the capital reserve fund went to vote and it was approved it would be funded, then vote on the expense of the project. Mr. Sienkiewicz would be okay with that.
- It was suggested to combine two processes: voting on the budget (to include the appropriation of \$300,000 to the fund), then instead of having an additional Town meeting, also vote on the approval of appropriating the funds for purchasing these items.
- FSC stated that he was uncomfortable with this and felt that it muddies the water and becomes confusing to the townspeople.
- Much discussion was had to determine the wording of the warning for the referendum.
- Selectman O'Connor suggested that the meeting move forward and hear what the public has to say.

Public Comment:

- Howie Berger: Would like to thank the BoS. He applauds the three selectmen for their support and efforts with respect to the Candlewood Lake Authority.
- Nancy Whitfield: Had a question regarding item 001-63; Business Associate. How do you justify the 63% increase and what is that for. FSC responded that the Business Associate is responsible for AP/AR, Payroll, HR, prepares the budget, etc. The goal is to cross train the Business Associate and the First Selectman Administrative Assistant to cover each other. They are both vital for the Town. Knowing the time and effort being put into the job by the Business Associate the job description, hours and pay have been changed to reflect this. Mrs. Whitfield asked how do you justify increasing hours unless there are other projects, etc that need to be accomplished. FSC stated that it is the actual work that has required the more hours than had been allotted Mrs. Whitfield asked how it was done two years ago. FSC stated that she would have to ask that person.
- Barbara Ireland, Deer Run Trail: With regards to the capital expenditures, in order to warn the Town appropriately, do you need a motion to the effect to change the budget as it appears tonight. FSC stated that they have not gotten to an agreement to that yet. Mrs. Ireland asked if they would need a motion if it is decided. FSC stated that they would. Mr. Holub stated that this budget will not change, that what is being done in the third question is asking to authorize spending. FSC stated that they will be moving on the agenda tonight. Currently it would be question 1 and 2, but could possibly be 1, 2 and 3 and that will be moved on at the end of the meeting.
- Chris Pitcher: Needed clarification regarding the replacement of Engine 1 and 2. It was proposed that \$280,000 was needed this year and the remaining balance of \$160,000 for next year for the combo rescue/pumper. But the budget that is being presented now shows \$140,000 this year and the \$140,000 next year for a total of \$280,000. A rescue/pumper is estimated at \$550,000. What is the plan?
 - Selectman O'Connor stated that it takes 10 months to build the vehicle and that they had looked at the numbers incorrectly.
 - FSC stated that another option would be to move everything out another year.
 - Mr. Pitcher stated that there was suppose to have been a "nest egg" set up for these items in the past and that has not happened.
 - Mr. Holub asked why the \$280,000.
 - Mr. Pitcher stated that the Town's portion would be \$440,000. So they had split it to \$280,000 and \$160,000 with delivery around July. It could be split to \$220,000/\$220,000.
 - Mr. Holub stated that it is already tight, but the budget would need to go from \$300,000 to \$400,000.

- Selectman O'Connor stated that the most beneficial option was option 2, which would be to combine the two vehicles. That this would need to be revisited.
 - FSC stated that the wash bay for \$160,000 could be pushed out.
 - Selectman O'Connor and Mr. Holub stated that \$300,000 needs to be added.
 - Mr. Pitcher reminded the BoS that an ambulance is due in 2015. The SVFD is trying for a grant, the estimated town portion is at \$200,000.
 - Mike Armentano , 10 Fox Rd: How do you determine when a vehicle is needed?
 - Mr. Pitcher stated that they try for a 20-25 year cycle for fire truck and ambulances are a 10 year cycle and we are at 11 years. Engine 1 is a brush truck operating as a rescue vehicle and engine 2 is a 1985, it is pushing 30 years. Maintenance is starting to skyrocket. The next 5 years is tough in our 25 year plan for 10 vehicles.
 - Mr. Armentano: Regarding the vehicle wash station, if it does not make the budget, why can't we just take a pressure hose to clean vehicles.
 - Mr. Pitcher stated that the DEP regulates this and we would be in violation.
 - Mike, is there any place in Town that we would not be in violation.
 - Selectman O'Connor stated that most of the Town is a watershed.
- Eva Von Ancken, Spring Lake Rd: 011-06, pg 2 -General Counsel costs: It shows previously \$15,000, currently it is \$50,000. FSC state that with the firehouse litigation it was a good year for the attorney, bad year for the Town.
 - Barbara Ackerman: The IT Administrator went from 1hr to 3hrs. Is this a new position created. FSC stated that it is not a new position, that they currently she gets 1hr and it is being changed to 3hrs. Mrs. Ackerman stated that she thought the IT was handled offsite. FSC stated that this is our person at the Town Hall that handles IT issues here. Mrs. Ackerman again stated that this is a new position and FSC, again, stated that it is not a new position, this position has been in place for some time. The additional hours are per job description based on duties, not a new person/position just an increase in hours.
 - Chris Wagner, Cozier Hill: Can we bond any of our debt? Mr. Holub stated that the school bond has already been refinanced once and the rest is all new debt.
 - Barbara Ireland, Deer Run Trail: What about the overall budget reserve to satisfy the Town's bond rating? Mr. Holub stated that what had been decided was to add \$100,000 to the revenue side to indicate the increase in fund balance to show intent.
 - Linda Haberman, Mill Pond Rd: Is the IT person responsible for maintaining, update and create, etc. FSC said that she was not programming, just troubleshooting and coordinating with Network Solutions.
 - Chris McDermott, Peace Pipe Lane: Stated that she thought a 5.9% increase to the budget is too much of a burden on the people of the Town.
 - Nancy Whitfield, Rt 39 N: Possibly looking at raising revenue. What about paying to play in terms of enjoyment, fees for canoes, boats, etc. Charge to use the beach, say \$25.00 a year to residents then charge people from other towns.
 - Dan Fox, Atchinson Cove: Concerned about the significant increase to the Director of Social Services. Selectman O'Connor spoke to this. The scope of the responsibilities for this job has increased significantly. This budget reflects what is actually happening in the needs of the Town regarding Social Services. Salary is coming from two lines and is shown on one line in this budget.
 - Stan Greenbaum, Peace Pipe Lane: Believes the Town should look at Vonage for phone lines. FSC stated he would look into it.

General Discussion:

- FSC would like to return to the discussion of the possibility of breaking out the capital non-reoccurring items.
- Selectman O'Connor believed that this would help to inform the people and if they turn down the projects then we know where to cut. If it passes then we can proceed without further Town meetings.
- Selectman Jellen added that the people have not seen this kind of increase so this may help them to understand this increase.
- FSC suggested that the BoS work on the wording for the warning. Much discussion was had to determine the which items to add to the warning and the wording of it, it was decided on the following:
 - Question 3: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$220,000 from the capital non-reoccurring account to the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department to meet the expense of the first of two equal installments on the purchase of a rescue pumper with the balance to be appropriated in the next fiscal year.
 - Question 4: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$210,000 from the capital non-reoccurring account for the purchase of Public Works Equipment consisting of a heavy duty dump truck and a mower.
- If the budget were to fail and these questions pass then we know not to touch the funding of the capital non-reoccurring account when making the adjustments/cuts. If these do not pass then a Town meeting can be held to vote on the mower.
- Joe Kenneally: With the \$100,000 to the reserve fund, how much will the mill rate go up. Mr. Holub stated maybe a tenth of a mil. 16.94% to 17%=-/.
- Selectman O'Connor had further suggestions in cuts to the budget:
 - 001-60, BOS Clerk: Reduce board clerk(s) increase pay rate.
 - 014-01: HVA watershed - this was not to be funded.
 - 017-01: IT Admin - this should be changed to 2 hours.
 - 030-01, Social Services Director: reduce from \$30.00 to \$27.50, \$35,000 a year.
- FSC stated that the BoS cannot act on the warnings until the numbers are plugged in. Mrs. LaVia will plug them in while moving into the special meeting.

Moved into Special Meeting at 8:35pm.

Proposed Lease from the Housing Commission:

- Selectman O'Connor believed that they will be withdrawing from this referendum. Selectman O'Connor suggested that it not be added to the Town meeting warning.
- Mr. Sienkiewicz suggested that he meet with the Housing Commission to hammer out the issues they are having.
- Selectman O'Connor stated that the Housing Commission needs more time to develop this and to properly inform the people.
- Mr. Sienkiewicz stated that he is not sure if they have any funding left to move forward. FSC stated that they have about \$2500 left in their account. Selectman O'Connor stated that she thought they were going to apply for a planning grant. Mr. Sienkiewicz stated he thought that the Housing Commission could not legally get grants through the BoS.

Joe Keneally: asked about the CLA line, the notes do not make sense. FSC stated that they had not been updated, that will be corrected.

Break at 8:45pm was taken.

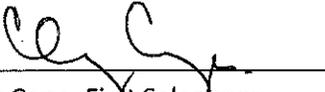
Returned at 9:08pm.

- Mr. Holub stated that the mill rate would be 17.047 for a combined 5.9%
- Selectman O'Connor moved to set the Town Meeting Agenda as detailed on the corrected warning, Selectman Jellen second; All in Favor.
- Selectman O'Connor moved that the four items on the Town Meeting Warning, specifically, the Town budget of \$4,874,864., the BOE budget of \$8,872,260 and the two capital items to be moved by the BOS to a referendum vote to be held on May 11th from 8:00am to 8:00pm at the Sherman School Cafeteria, Selectman Jellen second.
- Mr. Holub points out that it states 1 and 2, he believes it to be 1 through 4. FSC will fix it to say "resolutions 1 through 4" and sign after meeting.
- To complete move to referendum; all in favor. Selectman O'Connor moved the referendum be held on Saturday, May 11th between the hours of 8:00am to 8:00pm at the Sherman School Cafeteria, Selectman Jellen second; All in Favor.

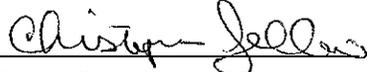
Adjournment:

Adjournment for the special meeting was called by First Selectman Cope at 9:13pm. Selectman Jellen moved, Selectman O'Connor second; All in Favor.

Respectfully submitted by,
Tabitha Fazzone, Clerk


Clay Cope, First Selectman


Andrea O'Connor, Selectman


Chris Jellen, Selectman