

**Call to Order:** Bob Manners called the meeting to order. Other members present: Joseph Judd and John Payne.

**Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Joe presented a motion to accept the minutes of April 2, 2013 as presented. John seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Appointments:**

**3:30 p.m. Finance Committee RE: Review of FY'14 Budget and Annual Town Meeting Warrant** (John Rees, Leo Ojala, and Tamarack Hanna) – John Rees reported that members of the Finance Committee met last week for an initial review of the overall budget. While the Committee is supportive of the proposed budget; they are concerned with the level of taxation used to fund it. Members of the Selectboard agreed and explained that declining state aid and town revenues are contributing factors.

The discussion began with a series of questions regarding any budgetary line item reflecting an increase of more than 3%. Members were particularly concerned with the budgetary increase for the police department and asked for further explanation. John Payne, serving as the Police Department's liaison reviewed all aspects of the budget including the capital request for safety related equipment. After hearing the explanation, members were supportive but hoped that the budget would reflect little or no increases next year.

Finally, Finance Committee members expressed concerned for the Mohawk Trail Regional School District budget. Members felt that the \$85,000 increase was not prudent or reasonable therefore; they will not recommend the budget at town meeting. Bob suggested sending a letter to the District towns notifying them of Shelburne's decision to reject the school's budget with the hope that other towns will follow their lead. Everyone agreed.

In closing, John Payne asked Finance Committee members if they were willing to begin a review of the town's "budget to expense" report on a quarterly basis as a means of monitoring the town's spending. Finance Committees agreed that the exercise would be beneficial for everyone. Members of the Finance Committee will not meet with the Selectboard on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> as originally planned.

**Other Business:**

**Hill Cemetery RE: Tapping of Maple Trees** – Several citizens including members of the Cemetery Commission are concerned that the Lewandowski family tapped maple trees in the Hill Cemetery as part of their maple sugaring operation without permission. The Hill Cemetery is designated a historic site therefore the overall health, and well being of the trees need protection. John presented a motion to prohibit tapping the maple trees in future years. Joe seconded the motion. Joe will draft a letter to the Lewandowski family advising them of the Board's decision. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:** John presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Mosher, Town Administrator