­ Shelburne Finance Committee Meeting

Thursday April 24, 2023, 5:30 pm

Shelburne Fire Station

18 Little Mohawk Road, Shelburne

Minutes

Call to order: Called to order at 5:30 pm by Todd Dubreuil. Those present include, Finance Committee members, Terri Mitchell, Matt Popoli, Jay Readinger, and Deb Andrew via phone.

1. Old Business:

* Joined Select Board via Zoom at 5:30 pm to discuss items for Town Meeting.
* 6:00 pm, School Committee Representative Jason Cusimano joined the meeting to answer questions regarding changes to Regional District Agreement, Articles 30-32 on the town warrant. Jason explained the history of the Regional District Agreement and tried to explain the Budget Sub-Committee’s rational for wanting to change from a rolling average to a foundation method to calculate town assessments. The foundation Enrollment would change how we calculate and count students for assessment purposes. Currently, enrollment is calculated using students attending District Schools. The change to Foundation Enrollment would count all eligible school age kids in the district, regardless of where they attend school, and use those students to calculate enrollment. Much discussion followed. The overall consensus was the changes were being pushed through at the last minute with very little information. Hard to ask voters to vote until more information is available.
* Joined the Selectboard in listening to residents concerns for a proposed streetlight conversion project for the Town to be completed by Eversource. Eversource proposed replacing 103 streetlights in the village and rural Shelburne with LED bulbs. This conversion consists of replacing streetlight bulbs with low wattage LED bulbs, free rental of the poles and maintenance of the poles and bulbs going forward. The annual savings using the lower wattage bulbs is approximately $6,600 per year in addition to the project being cost free to the town. If the town undertook the project on their own, it would cost approximately $70,000 to $75,000 to complete. In addition, the town would need to pay rent for the lights on the Eversource poles and pay to maintain the lights and poles going forward. Currently, bulbs burning out will be replaced with LED bulbs of Eversource’s choosing. Eversource is being very generous and cooperative with the town of this proposed project. As many residents have spoken out about the bulbs being too bright and are directed into their homes, Eversource has proposed aligning them and placing a shield on them to direct the light down instead of outward. This should be happening very soon. The Energy Committee has proposed doing a study to see if other options are available to the town. The issue has been continued until the results are available from the study.
* Returned to the Finance Committee meeting at 7:45 pm.
* Finance Committee continued discussion of Articles 31, 32, and 33 for a brief time.
* Reviewed items to be completed for town meeting.

2. New Business: None

3. Other Issues not anticipated 48 hours before the meeting: None

4. Next Meeting: Monday, April 28, 2023, @ 5:30 pm.

5. Motion to Adjourn by Todd Dubreuil, seconded by Terri Mitchell. All in favor. Adjournment at 8:05 pm.