­ Shelburne Finance Committee Meeting

Monday September 11, 2023, 5:30 pm

Shelburne Fire Station

18 Little Mohawk Road

Minutes

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by Terri Mitchell. Those present include, Finance Committee member Jay Readinger and Jim Burnham. Absent: Todd Dubreuil and Matt Popoli. Guest – School Committee Rep, Jason Cusimano.

1. Old Business:

* Review meeting with Terry Narkewicz, Town Administrator on August 29, 2023. Discussion of Meeting Protocols and Town Procedures. Committee Members got answers to questions on Budgets, Warrants, Capital Requests, and Budget Presentations.
* Reviewed Draft Meeting Minutes for 8/28/23 & 8/29/23. Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

2. New Business:

* Fall Schedule – Postponed until a full Committee is present.
* Special Town Meeting – Discussion postponed until a full Committee is present.
* New Member – The Committee welcomed Jim Burnham back to the Committee. Jim brings much insight to the Committee and we are fortunate to have his service.

3. Other Issues not anticipated 48 hours before the meeting:

* School Committee Representative, Jason Cusimano, joined the meeting to discuss with the Committee the Changes to the District Agreement on the Special Town Meeting Warrant, October 11, 2023. Shelburne, along with Heath, voted down the changes to the District Agreement at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2023. The Town of Plainfield tabled the discussion. Jason shared that the changes are all about fairness to the towns. The changes will bring us in line with DESE and most other school districts in the state. There are 3 amendments to the current Regional Agreement. The amendments are supposedly just changing the way enrollment is defined as the basis for town operating assessments. Jason provided us with and analysis comparing the current assessment methodology with Foundation Enrollment Methodology. The analysis assumes no changes in the current in-district or out-of-district enrollment and no change in the required minimum required local contribution. The calculation of foundation enrollment will be phased in over 5 years to minimize any big swings to any one town in the first year. For Shelburne, the proposed changes, provided in the analysis, will not mean significant changes to our assessments. It was pointed out to Jason that the proposed language revisions ADD maintenance to the definition of Capital Costs. The Article revisions basically deletes the entire cost allocation section from the existing agreement and replaces it with new wording changing the definition of Capital costs to included maintenance. The changes are NOT limited to how we count students for assessments. Jason is fairly certain that the changes made to the verbiage in Capital costs was unintentional, but the Committee was not liking the changes made outside of enrollment calculations. Since we must vote on the Articles as written we could not make changes and would have to amend the Agreement at a later date to address the change in Capital costs as written in the Agreement in the proposed Articles.

4. Next Meeting: September 25, 2023 @ 6:15 pm.

5. Motion to Adjourn by Jay Readinger, seconded by Jim Burnham. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.