­ Shelburne Finance Committee Meeting

Monday October 2, 2023,5:30 pm

Shelburne Fire Station

18 Little Mohawk Road

Minutes

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 5:40 pm by Todd Dubreuil, Chairman. Those present include, Finance Committee members Terri Mitchell and Jim Burnham. Absent: Matt Popoli and Jay Readinger. Guests – School Committee Rep’s Jason Cusimano, Willow Cohen, Community Member Deb Andrew, and Selectboard Member Rick LaPierre.

1. Old Business:
* STM Articles 2, 3, & 4 - Jason reiterated 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 proposed language changes will use Foundation Enrollment as the basis for Assessments going forward. The amendments are supposedly just changing the way enrollment is defined. 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 include maintenance. The changes are NOT limited to how we count students for assessments. If only dealing with the changes in enrollment calculation, the Finance Committee is in agreement with the changes. It is the changes to the Capital Costs definition to include Maintenance that is the sticking point with no explanation given for the change by the School Committee. It was agreed upon by all present that we need a much tighter definition of what is considered maintenance or capital costs. The discussion was had that if the Finance Committee supports and voters pass the changes to the District Agreement, the School Committee could bring an amendment forward in the spring making changes to the definition to capital costs. Jim Burnham suggested that we should put off passing the Agreement until all changes have been made and vote only once. Once the Agreement has been voted on and passed, there is no guarantees that the School Committee will bring forward the changes in capital costs in another amendment in the spring at Annual Town Meeting. The Finance Committee would like to see the language pertaining to capital costs be rolled backed to the latest version of the Agreement. Motion was made by Jim Burnham that the Finance Committee NOT support the Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles # 2, 3, & 4 at this time. Motion seconded, all in favor. Motion passed unanimously. The Committee does NOT support the Amendments.
* Reviewed Draft Meeting Minutes for 9/25/23. Minutes were unanimously approved as written for posting.
* Fall schedule – Tabled until a full Committee is present.

2. New Business:

* Formatting for Budget Requests - Tabled until a full Committee is present.
* Conflict of Interest Training – Terri Mitchell asked Committee Members to update their Conflict of Interest training as soon as possible and distributed the link to all to do so.
* Todd Dubreuil has volunteered to represent the Finance Committee on the Streetlight Committee.

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

4. Next Meeting: November 6, 2023 @ 5:30 pm.

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