­  Shelburne Finance Committee

Monday, December 16, 2024, 5:30 pm

Shelburne Fire Station

18 Little Mohawk Road

Meeting Called to order: Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by Todd Dubreuil, Chairman. Those present include Terri Mitchell, Jim Burnham, and Matt Popoli via phone. Absent: Jay Readinger.

**Appointments:**

**6:00 – Selectboard – FY 2026 Budget Directives:**

Joined the Selectboard to discuss Budget Directives to be used by Departments and Committees in the development of their FY 2026 Budgets. The Selectboard asked what the Finance Committee recommends for FY 2026 we asked what the criteria the Selectboard has used in the past when determining the across the board increase for Salaries & Wages. Andrew said that the past few years they attempted to align the increase with the CPI, the Consumer Price Index. The past several years that amounted to a 4% increase. The Finance Committee agreed that if that was the criteria used in past years, that to be consistent CPI should be used as a guide for the FY 2026 Budget as well. At the time of the meeting the latest CPI available was November 2024’s at 2.7%. December 2024’s CPI will not be out until 1/15/2025. The Finance Committee recommended a preliminary increase of 3% in wages for budgeting purposes, to remain consistent with past years. This amount can always be adjusted up or down right up until the warrant for Town Meeting closes. The Selectboard and Finance Committee have agreed to ask all Dept. Heads to create realistic budgets based upon prior year expenses and anticipated upcoming expenses.

1. **Old Business:**

* Reviewed 9/30/24 Draft Meeting Minutes for approval or revision. Motion made to accept the minutes as written and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **New Business:**

* MTRSD Capital Requests/Capital Procedures - There was question as to if the replacement of the Hot Water Heater at the High School should be a Capital Cost or just routine Maintenance. Finance Committee will bring it up with our School Committee Rep’s.
* Validation of number of Students – The Committee will be getting in touch with the Town Clerk for the validated number of students in FCTS, BSE, and MTR as of October 1, 2024, for assessment purposes.
* Update on the Shared Police Services – Todd gave the Committee an update from the Shared Police Services Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee is working on the Wage Study. Chief Bardwell mentioned that there has been a discussion about the possibility of a Full-time Resource Officer at MTR. The discussion is in the preliminary stages.
* Discussed the possibility of holding a Finance Committee Forum prior to the Annual Town Meeting to discuss items before the Town at the ATM.

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

4. **Next Meeting:** None scheduled.

5. **Adjournment**: Motion to Adjourn by Todd DuBreuil, seconded by Jum Burnham. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Mitchell,

Finance Committee