**Selectboard Meeting Minutes April 22, 2025 BSE 5:30 pm**

**Call to Order**: Rick LaPierre called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Others present: Selectboard members Andrew Baker, Tricia Yacovone-Biagi, and Town Administrator Terry Narkewicz.

A motion was put forth by Andrew to approve the minutes of April 3, April 7, and April 14. This was seconded by Tricia. Roll call vote: Tricia – yes; Andrew – yes; Rick – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Appointments:**

**Meeting with Finance Committee to Finalize the Annual Town Meeting Warrant** (Todd Dubreuil, Terri Mitchell, Jim Burnham~~,~~ of the Finance Committee) – After learning that if the town did not allocate a certain amount of funds to the library, the library could lose state aid, it was agreed to change the budget number back to its original $37,328. A motion was made by Andrew to change Shelburne’s appropriation from $35,044 to $37, 328. This was seconded by Tricia. Roll call vote: Tricia – yes; Andrew – yes; Rick – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

The other article causing discussion was Article 25 involving the allocation of CPA funds for playground equipment at BSE. Andrew felt that since the facility was shared with Buckland there should be a way of saying that Buckland needs to contribute to this project. This article may need to be amended on the floor at Town Meeting. A motion was put forth by Tricia, seconded by Andrew, to accept the 2025 Town Meeting warrant as presented. Roll call vote: Tricia – yes; Andrew – yes; Rick – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Department Liaison Reports:**

**Highway Department:** Andrew had observed the equipment test with one candidate for the laborer position. Jeff Johnston is currently checking that person’s references.

**Emergency Management:** The previously scheduled Emergency Management Committee meeting was postponed.

**MVP:** Results of the MVP Action Grant application will not be known until summer. Tricia is looking into a Culvert Replacement Grant for a culvert on Colrain Shelburne Road.

**Town Hall:** Everyone has been busy preparing for Annual Town Meeting and the town election.

**Town Election:** Six elected positions are open with no one running for them. There are open seats on the Board of Assessors, Planning Board, Shelburne Free Public Library, School Committee, and two openings on the Recreation Committee.

**Memorial Hall:** One bid has been received from a general contractor for Phase 2 of the renovations. The bid is within budget.

**Old Business:**

**Highway Laborer Position** – Two applicants were interviewed, but one of them has since taken another job. The other applicant did a road test and now references are being checked. The Board agreed to authorize Jeff to solidify the hiring once background checks are done. A motion was made by Andrew, seconded by Tricia, to accept the candidate for the highway laborer position contingent upon results of background checks and Jeff’s recommendation. Roll call vote: Tricia – yes; Andrew – yes; Rick – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Cowell Gym Insulated Shade Proposals RE: Recommendation for Award** (John Walsh, Cowell Gym Director) – John said that only one bid had been received and it was well under the amount provided by a grant. The bidder was Window Depot of Boston, the same contractor who is doing the windows. The bid was $23,100 for 10 mechanical shades. A motion was put forth by Tricia, seconded by Andrew, to accept the bid of Window Depot of Boston, of $23,100 for 10 mechanical shades. Roll call vote: Tricia – yes; Andrew – yes; Rick – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**New** **Business:**

**Jacqui Goodman, Shelburne Cultural Council RE: Request to appoint Leslie Taylor and Deb Verhoff** – Leslie’s letter of interest and resume have been reviewed. A motion was made by Tricia, seconded by Andrew, to appoint Leslie Taylor to a three-year term on the Cultural Council. Roll call vote: Tricia – yes; Andrew – yes; Rick – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0. Deb’s request has been reviewed. A motion was made by Tricia, seconded by Andrew, to appoint Deb Verhoff to a three-year term on the Cultural Council. Roll call vote: Tricia – yes; Andrew – yes; Rick – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Street Use Permit for OktoberFest with Revised Dates** **–** A permit had previously been granted but the dates have since been changed to October 4, from 11 am until 6 pm, with a rain date of October 11. A motion was put forth by Andrew to approve a permit for OktoberFest for October 4, with a rain date of October 11. This was seconded by Tricia Roll call vote: Tricia – yes; Andrew – yes; Rick – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Any Other Business:**

**Memorial Hall Renovations** – Andrew said the deadline for bids for Phase 2 of the renovations was April 18. One sub bid for painting was received for $31,000. One general contractor bid of $149,000 was received from Renaissance Builders, which included the sub bid. A bid for chairs at $190,000 had already been accepted. The total is well within the budget. Andrew said the Take A Seat campaign will take place the first two weekends of May, then Highland Seating will remove the remaining seats. Other work could begin as soon as mid-May. A motion was made by Andrew, seconded by Tricia to accept the bid from Renaissance Builders and authorize the Chair to sign contracts with the bidders. Roll call vote: Tricia – yes; Andrew – yes; Rick – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Mass Municipal Association Request** – The MMA has asked towns to contact state legislators for their support of various amendments including unrestricted local aid, Chapter 90 supplemental aid, and the rural school amendment. A motion was put forth by Andrew, seconded by Tricia, that the Town of Shelburne will support the MMA amendments as outlined, with a letter of support. Roll call vote: Tricia – yes; Andrew – yes; Rick – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Next Meeting** – The next Board meeting will be on May 5, via Zoom. Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 6.

**Correspondence:**

**Norman Davenport, Conservation Commission RE: 49 Mechanic Street** – A memo from Norm recapped a recent site visit to 49 Mechanic Street. It suggested that an RDA should be sought from the Commission and that a delineation of wetlands might be done. Wetlands scientist Bill Lattrell contacted the DEP and it was agreed no delineation was needed. Bill will apply for an RDA and Andrew will meet with the Commission in June. Habitat for Humanity thought a survey of the property would be helpful prior to a Special Permit hearing. Tricia thought a delineation should also be done. Andrew agreed that it would be done if the Con Com asked for it.

**Public Comment:**

Laurie Wheeler said the cuts made to the Arms Library budget came as a shock. She said in the past the library had been given a chance to make a presentation about how cuts would affect the library. She asked what was the point of making such a large cut and asked if other departments were being cut to such a degree or if the cuts were disproportionate.

Leiha Maldonado asked why the Board believed that students’ reports about inappropriate behavior between a police officer and a student were not credible. She said it tells people who are brave enough to report abuse that they won’t be believed.

Deborah Andrew said people in the audience could not hear the Board meeting and did not have documents to follow along. She felt the Board was being dismissive of the presence of the public.

Nick Doneilo said he had a lot of questions about 49 Mechanic Street and said the article on the warrant regarding funding for the property seemed to have been expedited and voters had not had time to get informed.

Amanda Kingsley said she shared the concerns mentioned by Leiha Maldonado. She felt she did not feel she could communicate with the town and felt people were owed an explanation about why the Board retained someone who she felt was a complete danger to the community.

**Adjournment**: At 6:33 pm a motion was made by Tricia to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Andrew. Roll call vote: Tricia – yes; Andrew – yes; Rick – yes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Special Town Meeting –** A Special Town meeting, which lasted seven minutes, unanimously approved three articles. Article one was to rescind a vote creating an opioid settlement fund and place the funds in an opioid settlement revenue fund. Article two transferred $17,972.65 from the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund to the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund. Article three

transferred $24,300 from the Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Reserve Account and allocated said funds to the following accounts: $8,100 Historic Resource Reserve Account, $8,100 Community Housing Reserve Account, and $8,100 Open Space Reserve Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Whitney, Recording Secretary