

Joint Meeting Select Board / Shutesbury Finance Committee
Tuesday, May 9, 2023 Virtual (Zoom) Meeting

Members Present: Ajay Khashu, Bob Groves, Jim Hemingway, Susie Mosher, George Arvanitis, Jim Walton, and ex-officio member, Town Administrator Becky Torres

Select Board Members: Rita Farrell, Chair, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neill, Eric Stocker Paul Lyons, Moderator

Members of the Public: Tom Seifert, Frank McGinn, Gail Fleischaker, Jon Lawless, Amanda Alix, Leslie Luchonok, Penny Kim, M. Hunter, Steve Sullivan, Mary Anne Antonellis, Sally Fairfield, Mark Rivers, Allen Hanson, Joan Hanson,

Finance Committee meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

1. Ajay Khashu reviewed our process of assembling the proposed FY24 budget, unanimously approved by the Finance Committee on May 8, 2023. The proposed 2023 Annual Town Meeting warrant was reviewed with the Select Board.
 - A. Article 11, the proposed FY24 budget: This budget is a 3.5% increase over FY23. There are concerns about the Legal budget of \$40K. Will it be enough with the legal costs of the lawsuit and the multiple legal expenses we experienced in FY23?
 - B. A summary of ten items totaling an increase of \$213K were described.
 - C. The Capital Expenditure (CapEx) Plan was discussed. It was agreed that this tool is very clear and helpful. The Security Camera System and School roof numbers will be lower than the current CapEx draft, so the cash reserves will be higher than shown.
 - D. The language for a few capital spending articles were changed at the suggestion of the Moderator to make information clearer for the voters.
 - E. The Select Board approved the 2023 Annual Town Meeting warrant, subject to review by town counsel. They thanked the Finance Committee for their work to prepare the budget.
2. Transfer to Finance Committee Reserve FY23 line
 - A. The Finance Committee Reserve funds have been almost totally depleted due to many unanticipated expenses in FY23. A motion was made and seconded to transfer \$30K from line 167 Health Insurance, to line 12 Finance Committee Reserve. Motion was approved unanimously by both the Select Board and the Finance Committee.
 - B. Paul Lyons mentioned that in other towns, the ATM approves the bottom line for each department instead of individual budget lines in order to give departments more flexibility for meeting their expenses. This is for future consideration.

The Finance Committee adjourned their meeting at 8:15