

Joint Shutesbury Finance Committee - Select Board
Tuesday, April 9, 2024 Virtual (Zoom) Meeting

Finance Committee Present: Ajay Khashu- chair, George Arvanitis, Bob Groves, Susie Mosher, Jim Hemingway, April Stein, Jim Walton

Select Board: Melissa Makepeace O'Neill - co- chair, Eric Stocker, Rita Farrell

Attending: Town Administrator Becky Torres, Mary David, Mike Stotz, Amanda Alix, Jon Lawless, Paul Lyons, Tom Seifert, Frank McGinn, Sharon Weizenbaum, Joe Salvador, Jane Costello, Diane Jacoby, Carl Lounder,

Finance Committee meeting called to order at 6:23 pm

A. Explanation of the regional school budget component

1. From the February 17 Four-Town Meeting to present, Shutesbury's proposed increased share of the regional school budget has moved from 2.52% when the 4% guardrails were proposed, to the Shutesbury Finance Committee unanimous approval for a 6% budget increase for FY25 regional school at our April 9th meeting. 6% is Shutesbury's share of the modified 100% statutory formula currently in our regional agreement. This falls below the 8.2% increase proposed in the regional school committee's approved budget on March 14. We hope some agreement will be reached at the Four-Town meeting on April 20.

B. Voting on recommendations on 2024 Annual Town Meeting relevant warrant articles:

Article 2. Regional School Assessment Agreement – pass over

Article 3. Elected Officials salaries: Finance Committee recommends unanimously

Article 4. Compensating Balance Agreements: Finance Committee recommends unanimously

Article 5. Accept and Expend Grants: Finance Committee recommends unanimously

Article 6. Catherine Hilton, Board of Health dual role: Finance Committee recommends unanimously

Article 7. Walter Tibbetts, Cemetery Commission dual role: Finance Committee recommends unanimously

Article 8. Adopt Specialized Energy Code: Finance Committee voted 5 Abstain, 2 No

Article 9. Extend Shutesbury Athletic Club hours for liquor sales: Finance Committee recommends unanimously

Article 10. Cemetery Commission added to revolving funds: Finance Committee recommends 6 Yes, 1 Abstain

Article 11. Revolving Fund limits: Finance Committee recommends unanimously

Article 12. Borrow \$150,000 for PFAS mitigation costs: Finance Committee recommends unanimously

Article 13. FY25 operating budget: Finance Committee recommends 5 Yes, 2 Abstain

Article 14. [no article 14]

Article 15. Building Committee Renovation funds, \$30K from free cash: Finance Committee recommends unanimously

- Article 16. Police Body Cameras, \$12K from free cash: Finance Committee recommends unanimously
- Article 17. Police Pick-up cruiser, \$70,588 from free cash: Finance Committee recommends unanimously
- Article 18. Highway Storage Unit, \$4,500 from free cash: Finance Committee recommends unanimously
- Article 19. Highway Compressor and propane tank, \$25K from free cash: Finance Committee recommends unanimously
- Article 20. Highway material for gravel road maintenance, \$12K from Capital Stabilization Finance Committee recommends unanimously
- Article 21. Community Preservation allocation of estimated annual funds: \$6K to Open Space and Recreation, \$6K to Historic Preservation, \$6k to Community Housing and \$35K to Community Preservation budgeted reserve: Finance Committee recommends unanimously
- Article 22. Community Preservation funds allocated \$2,500 for administration: Finance Committee recommends unanimously
- Article 23. Appropriation of \$351,120 for MLP FY25 budget: Finance Committee recommends unanimously
- Article 24. Pay bills of prior years for \$967.25, and \$1,375: Finance Committee recommends unanimously
- Article 25. Pay bills of prior years for \$384.89, \$34.57, and \$669.55: Finance Committee recommends unanimously

Next Finance Committee meeting is at 6:30 pm on April 16. We will:

- approve minutes from 4.3.24 and 4.9.24
- review the drafted Annual Report
- prepare for April 20 Four-Town meeting
- prepare for April 24 public information presentation of FY25 budget

Meeting adjourned 7:04 pm