

Shutesbury Finance Committee
Tuesday, May 6, 2025 Virtual (Zoom) Meeting

Members Present: Ajay Khashu - chair, April Stein, Bob Groves, Susie Mosher, Kathy Salvador, Jim Hemingway and George Arvanitis Absent: None Attending: Hayley Bolton – Town Administrator, Rita Farrell, Eric Stocker & Melissa Makepeace O’Neil – Selectboard members

Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m.

I. Budget overview for the Selectboard

- A. The total operating budget is \$7.7M, a 5.9% increase from FY25
- B. Reviewed list of large expenses increases from FY25
- C. Discussed the Regional School budget, assessments and impacts of these on the other towns in this school district
- D. \$126K of cash reserves will be used to fund the budget
- E. Excess levy capacity of \$149k will be used to fund the budget
- F. The average single family tax bill in FY26 is projected to increase by roughly \$338. It’s expected that this is the high end of the expected increase
- G. Reviewed the list of items to be funded by cash reserves by the following categories: capital requests, the operating budget and two other items: PFAS mitigation and solar bylaw litigation

II. Reviewed Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

- A. Article 10 is to fund PFAS mitigation with cash reserves.
- B. Article 11 is to rescind one of the approved borrowings for PFAS Mitigation. This would be withdrawn if article 10 is not approved by the voters
- C. Article 16 amount of \$8k may be lowered to \$4k if the Lake Wyola Association commits to providing \$4k towards the grant match
- D. New article for a prior year’s bill: Oncore Fire Protection for \$134. The Finance Committee voted to recommend this article – Approved unanimously

III. Other Business

- A. Ongoing discussion for the Solar Bylaw Litigation may require more funding for FY25

Our next meeting is May 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.