

Shutesbury Finance Committee
Tuesday, May 23, 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

Paul Lyons, Moderator

Members of the Public: Steve Sullivan and Mike Vinskey

Finance Committee meeting called to order at 6:40 pm

1. Minutes of May 8 approved: 1 Abstain, 5 Yes. Minutes of May 9 approved unanimously.
2. Review materials for Annual Town Meeting and prepare for FY24 budget presentation on 5/25/23
 - A. We reviewed the updated Capital Expenditure Plan in its final form.
 - B. We reviewed the Finance Committee Fiscal Year 24 Budget Report
 - a. George will send Ajay the chart comparing FY24 budgets with other towns
 - b. Paul Lyons commended the report and highlighted areas that will likely need explanation for voters
 - i. tax levy increase above 2.5% (inflation, state aid decline etc.)
 - ii. In the "Opportunities" section we removed Explore new revenue sources, (no specifics provided)
 - c. Finance Committee Fiscal Year 24 Budget Report approved unanimously.
 - C. We rescheduled the budget presentation to TUESDAY, May 30 at 6:30 to give more time for a town announce to publicize the event.
 - D. We listed the documents we want posted to provide information to citizens:
Finance Committee Annual Report for FY24, FY24 Revenue and Budget, 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, History of Capital Expenditures to date, History of Tax levy increases, Regional School Budget, Elementary School Budget
 - E. Paul walked through the process for presenting the report and follow-up dissenting opinions. There is no minority report.
3. Fire Chief's request to review Call and Training Wages
 - A. Chief Czerwonka was not able to attend. We will schedule him on the June 13th meeting's agenda.
4. Highway Department request
 - A. The highway department will need funds in FY23 to pay \$3 – \$3.5K for beaver removal services. This will be addressed at the June 13th meeting. There is money in the Finance Committee reserve fund for this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.