



# *Town of Shelburne, Vermont*

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 5, 2021

4:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 P.M.

Present in person or remotely: Chair Don Porter, Tom Denenberg, Roz Graham; also, Finance Director Peter Frankenburg and Town Manager Lee Krohn.

The meeting agenda and the minutes of June 3, 2021 were approved by consensus.

There was no public comment on items not on the agenda.

Krohn reported on news regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. It appears that Shelburne will receive \$800K directly (half at a time), and that Treasury has now granted permission for the roughly \$121M of “county” funds to be redistributed to municipalities. Timing and funding/distribution formulas remain unknown. Nor has Treasury yet released the final rules on allowable uses for ARPA funds (and requirements attached thereto), and possible uses thereof. Patience was again urged until funding amounts and final rules are actually clarified, so that any discussion is fully informed re: possible uses. The Selectboard will likely seek this Committee’s guidance in these matters. We will continue to track and inform as new information is forthcoming.

Discussion followed on ‘next steps’ following David Leckey’s report and recommendations. Staffing remains a work in process, especially in light of possible blending into Planning & Zoning, or other possible reorganized department and staffing structures. The Selectboard will discuss whether to pursue Designated Downtown status next week. While some criteria are satisfied readily, others require a new “downtown” organization and dedicated funding stream. In the meantime, efforts are already underway to create a more welcoming approach to appropriate business development opportunities, and to forge greater collaboration with major entities in Town.

Business survey: although little new was revealed, primary themes were gratitude for what the Town has done to help during the past year, and concerns about the future related to COVID.

Town facility review: department heads have already been informed about budget submittals to be delivered in early fall, along with known or predicted capital asset/infrastructure needs, and staffing/operational analyses toward effective and efficient service delivery.

Porter offered a high-level overview of anticipated long term capital costs/debt load. It was agreed that a useful criterion for deciding on use of ARPA funds will be long term benefit/how it lowers the debt curve. It was agreed to invite auditor Ron Smith to the next meeting.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 5:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn.