



Town of Shelburne, Vermont

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Town Manager Report: February 2025



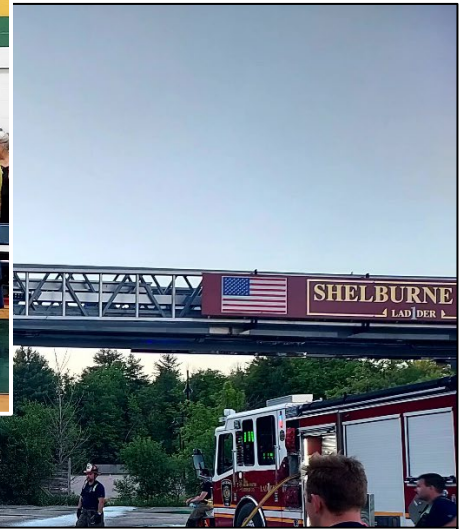
From the desk of Matt Lawless

Board passes budget

On Jan. 28 the Selectboard approved the budget and capital plan for the fiscal year starting July 1.

The budget is up for final adoption at Town Meeting in March.

The utility budgets for water, wastewater, and stormwater have a later process, with budgets and rates set in the spring.



Solid Pay and Benefits

The Town budget mainly represents people delivering services: about two-thirds of spending goes to pay and benefits. The adopted budget funds 4% raises in July, consistent with union contracts. Benefits packages are fully funded and stable. Retaining our staff is essential to public services.

Healthcare costs remain a threat, across Vermont and the US. Reform will be necessary in the future, but there is time to weigh the options.

Improved Staffing

The Selectboard approved budget adds a few new staff to improve services and relieve some overworked teams of Town employees:

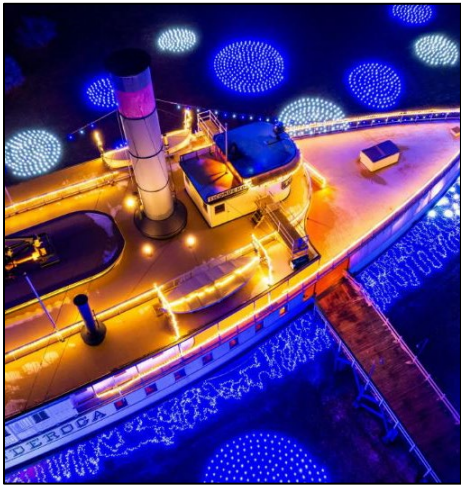
- A paramedic to improve ambulance coverage
- A recreation aide to help with camps and sports
- A library aide to support schedule coverage
- A grants manager to bring in more revenue

Notable Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

- February 7:** Valentine Dance at gym
- February 11:** Regular Selectboard meeting
- February 17:** offices closed for Presidents Day
- Feb. 18:** open house for Webster-7 bike study
- Feb. 21:** MLK sculpture dedication at library



What's new around town



Experience Shelburne, a new community effort

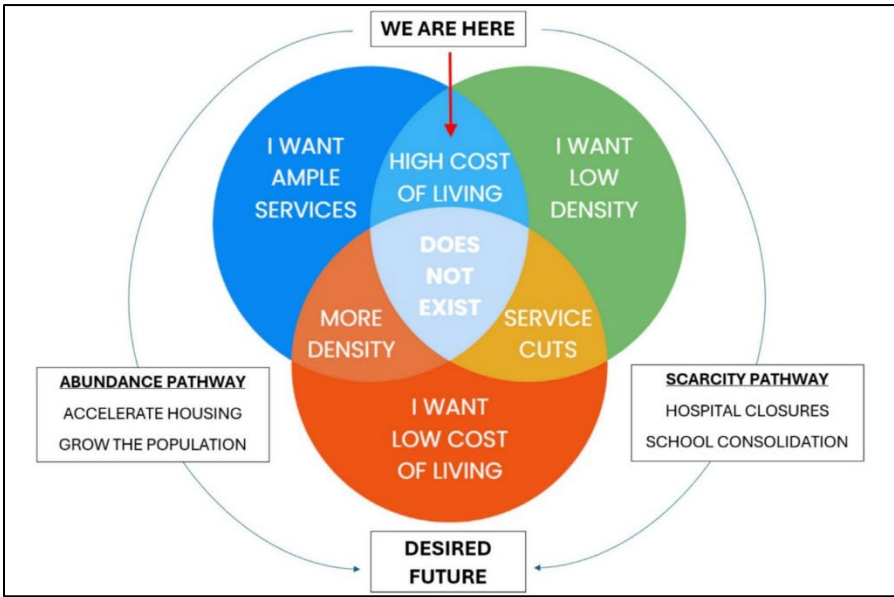
Also in January, the Selectboard chartered a new community and economic development committee. Marketed as *Experience Shelburne*, this team will encourage cooperation among Shelburne businesses and shape the town as a destination for tourism and business growth. The Town has considered action like this for a long time, so taking this step is exciting for everyone involved!

There are many opportunities to get involved, especially for local business owners. Contact Town staff to learn about membership!



Housing Progress

The new affordable homes at Bay Ridge are making progress, and 24 of them are for sale now! If you or a friend are interested in living there, call 802-861-7373 or visit www.GetaHome.org/BayRidgeCondos



Tying it all together

This chart is a represents my thoughts about the connections between all the issues in this newsletter. In a time of tight budgets, expensive housing, and high expectations from folks in town, we have some hard choices to make about strategy. We want to honor our public servants, deliver a good value to the community, and enjoy our great Vermont quality of life. New investments in housing and local business must be part of the answer. We need to grow our tax base, and we can do it in a sustainable manner.



On the Ballot: Capital Construction List

The Town budget includes a capital plan for larger projects. The Local Options Tax pays for about half of the list, reducing pressure on property tax. The other half is debt financed. Town Meeting has a ballot item for \$1.4 million, primarily:

- Roofing and HVAC repairs at the town office
- Normal replacement of highway and police vehicles
- Road and sidewalk repairs, and some new sidewalk and path construction, locations to be determined

These projects are essential to community services, and the capital plan pays for them without property tax increases.