

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
FINANCE COMMITTEE
SELECT BOARD
FEBRUARY 28, 2024
TOWN HALL
5:30 PM**

Finance Members Present: Julie Hannum, Chairman
David Macy
Nadine A. Hawver
Colin Smith
Kenneth Smith

Board Members Present: Robert C. Kilmer, Jr., Chairman
Nadine A. Hawver
Rene C. Wood

Others Present: Rhonda LaBombard, Town Administrator
Jill Hughes, Assistant Town Administrator
Members of the Public

Chairman Hannum opened the Finance Committee meeting at 5:30 PM.

Chairman Kilmer opened the Select Board meeting at 5:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Selectman Wood moved to approve the meeting minutes from February 14, 2024 and February 21, 2024, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Macy moved to approve the meeting minutes from February 14, 2024 and February 21, 2024, seconded by C. Smith. The motion carried unanimously, K. Smith abstained from voting on the 2/14/24 minutes.

Administrator LaBombard discussed her concerns from the last meeting.

DISCUSSION REGARDING FUNDING FOR TREE REMOVAL:

K. Smith discussed his proposal for a warrant article in the amount of \$100,000 for tree removal in the town right of-way and along roadsides. There was discussion on the cost of tree removal, the line item in the Highway Department budget for trees, the Tree Warden position, and National Grid's work when there are power lines involved. Administrator LaBombard suggested a town meeting warrant article in the amount of \$30,000 for a tree program. It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend a warrant article for tree maintenance in the amount of \$30,000.

FY2025 BUDGET OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION:

The Committee reviewed and discussed the following FY2025 budgets:

K. Smith moved to recommend the Library budget in the amount of \$292,166 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by C. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

N. Hawver moved to recommend the Memorial Day budget in the amount of \$1,200 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by C. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Smith moved to recommend the American Legion budget in the amount of \$2,400 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by N. Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

N. Hawver moved to recommend the Care of Soldiers' Graves budget in the amount of \$1,400 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by C. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

N. Hawver moved to recommend the Ashley Falls Historic District Commission budget in the amount of \$250 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by C. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

N. Hawver moved to recommend the Agricultural Commission budget in the amount of \$1,000 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by K. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

N. Hawver moved to recommend the Interest on Loans budget in the amount of \$1 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by C. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

N. Hawver moved to recommend the Berkshire County Retirement budget in the amount of \$334,831 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by K. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

N. Hawver moved to recommend the Workers Compensation budget in the amount of \$25,200 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by C. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

K. Smith moved to recommend the Unemployment Compensation Fund budget in the amount of \$5,000 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by C. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

N. Hawver moved to recommend the Group Health (32B) Insurance budget in the amount of \$500,000 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by C. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Smith moved to recommend the Employer Medicare budget in the amount of \$31,000 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by K. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

K. Smith moved to recommend the Insurance & Bonding budget in the amount of \$84,000 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by N. Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

N. Hawver moved to recommend the Reserve Fund Article in the amount of \$77,000 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by D. Macy. The motion carried unanimously.

N. Hawver moved to recommend the Emergency Response Fund Article in the amount of \$750 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by C. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Smith moved to recommend to raise and appropriate the Fire Department Compensation Article in the amount of \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by N. Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

N. Hawver moved to recommend the Highway Trucks Article in the amount of \$239,190 for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by C. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator LaBombard stated there will be a Special Town Meeting on March 18th. She stated the Select Board has been working on the purchase of a building for the new highway garage.

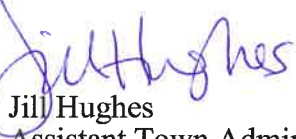
Selectman Wood moved to adjourn the Select Board meeting, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Smith moved to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting, seconded by K. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hannum adjourned the meeting at 6:43 PM.

Chairman Kilmer adjourned the meeting at 6:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Jill Hughes
Assistant Town Administrator

Documents reviewed at this meeting:
Draft Meeting Minutes
Email from K. Smith
FY2025 Budget