



Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building
100 Maple Avenue
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

Finance Committee
January 20, 2022
Minutes

Important Notice: Pursuant to Senate Bill 2475 signed into law by Governor Baker on June 16, 2021 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting of the ***Finance Committee*** will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. All meetings and hearings listed in the agenda will also be done so through remote participation. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the town's website, at www.shrewsburyma.gov/coronavirus. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting. To listen to this meeting, dial [+1 541-600-2322] and enter the following pin: [129 094 105#]. Please mute your device.

Present: Mark Adler, Vikram Chhabra, Carlos Garcia, Judy Vedder, Rajiv Dayal, Lena Polito, Allen Jarrell, Denis O'Connell

Also Present: Kevin Mizikar, Town Manager, Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent of Schools, Patrick Collins, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, Jon Wensky, Chair of the School Committee, Sandra Fryc, Vice Chair of the School Committee, Lynsey Heffernan, Secretary of the School Committee, B. Dale Magee, School Committee Member, Jason Palitsch, School Committee Member, Alexandria Martinez, Management Analyst

Absent: Hannah Kane

1. Call to Order

Mr. Adler called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and read the remote meeting script verbatim.

2. Accept Minutes

a. December 16, 2021

On a motion by Mr. O'Connell, seconded by Mr. Garcia, on a roll call vote, Ms. Vedder – yes, Ms. Polito – yes, Mr. O'Connell – yes, Mr. Jarrell – yes, Mr. Garcia – yes, Mr. Dayal – yes, Mr. Chhabra – yes, Mr. Adler – yes, the Committee voted 8-0 to approve the minutes of December 16, 2021.

3. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Mizikar provided an update on FY22 Schedule A Local Receipts. Mr. Mizikar advised that through the first six months of FY22, \$100,000 more in receipts has been collected than what was collected during the first six months of FY21. The largest local receipt category is Motor Vehicle Excise Tax and the largest commitment is sent out in February.

Mr. Mizikar advised the Committee that FY23 departmental budget submissions are currently being reviewed and Fiscal Projection One is on track to be finalized and produced by the second week of February.

4. Joint Meeting with the School Committee for a Workshop on School Finances

The Finance Committee and School Committee participated in a joint workshop on the overview of School Finances and the School Department Budget. Topics included a general overview on the prospective budget and long term budgeting matters. Mr. Wensky, Chair of the School Committee, introduced the School Committee members and administration staff.

Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins shared a presentation on the school department budget development process, major cost categories, and sources of funding. Mr. Collins advised that the budget guidance for FY23 will feature the override model agreed upon with the Board of Selectmen and will be based on the maximum agreed upon annual increases. Mr. Collins also advised the Committee that the budget books from the School Committee will be available in February after Dr. Sawyer provides his FY23 budget recommendation.

Dr. Sawyer provided information on performance benchmarks, such as the return on investment that the school district provides. Dr. Sawyer advised that Shrewsbury Public Schools have historically ranked in the top 2% nationwide relative to educational outcomes based on the amount spent. Dr. Sawyer also commented that the impact of the operational override will allow the district to provide enhanced programming and support that has not been available in previous years, in addition to restoring programs that have been cut or determining new strategic investments to make moving forward.

Dr. Sawyer and Mr. Collins provided closing comments. The School Department budget will be reviewed in more detail during the Finance Committee budget hearings in March as well as leading up to the Annual Town Meeting.

5. Review Meeting Schedule

- a. February 17, 2022**
- b. March 24, 2022 Finance Committee Budget Hearing**
- c. March 26, 2022 Finance Committee Budget Hearing**
- d. April 14, 2022 Public Hearing on Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles**
- e. April 28, 2022 Public Hearing on Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles**

The Committee reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

6. Correspondence

- a. Email to the Finance Committee from Hannah Kane, State Representative, regarding Staffing Update, dated January 11, 2022 – so noted**

7. Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Chhabra, seconded by Mr. Garcia, on a roll call vote, Ms. Vedder - yes, Ms. Polito – yes, Mr. O’Connell – yes, Mr. Jarrell – yes, Mr. Garcia - yes, Mr. Dayal – yes, Mr. Chhabra – yes, Mr. Adler – yes, the Committee voted 8-0 to adjourn at 8:17pm.