



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Board of Selectmen Workshop
Fire Headquarters Training Room
Shrewsbury Fire Department
11 Church Road
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 – 6:00 PM

BOARD OF SELECTMEN WORKSHOP MINUTES

Present: Mr. John Samia, Chair, Mr. John Lebeaux, Vice-Chair, Mr. Maurice DePalo, Clerk, Ms. Beth Casavant, Selectmen, Ms. Theresa Flynn, Selectmen

Also Present: Mr. Kevin Mizikar, Town Manager, Ms. Alexandria Martinez, Management Analyst, Ms. Taylor Galusha, Principal Department Assistant (Board of Selectman and Town Manager)

1. **Call to Order**

Mr. Samia called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM

2. **Discuss Three to Five Year Financial Forecast and FY23 Budget**

Mr. Mizikar provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget and the three to five year financial forecasts to the Board. He summarized the departmental budget requests and how growth has made them increase. He noted that government aid increased to 2.7% per the Governor's budget, announced in January. He noted changes that may occur to local receipts and the growth of motor vehicle excise tax. Mr. Mizikar reviewed the override commitments the Board had made as well last year when the proposition 2 ½ override was passed by residents. He noted the new items in the budget as well and some items within the capital improvement plan.

3. **Discuss the process for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force Report**

Mr. Samia discussed his findings looking for a DEI consultant for implementing recommendations from the DEI Taskforce Final Report and how to move forward with a new DEI Committee or group. The Board concluded they would all want to meet with the groups as soon as possible. They also concluded that a training component for the Board and potentially Town Leadership is important up front in the process and gives the Town the bandwidth to implement recommendations and continue this work without the consultant being there. The Board also discussed the potential implementation of a new committee in the future and various roles it could have.

4. **Discuss a Climate Action Plan**

Mr. Samia and Ms. Casavant summarized the process so far and how this request was brought forth by a community group to members of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager, SELCO, and a few other town bodies. The two main goals of the citizen group are to establish a Climate Action Plan in the Town and also an Energy Manager. The Board was sent copies of Concord, MA's Climate Action Plan and they noted that the Town already does a lot of these items, but do not have them all together in one document. The Board noted the Town should continue to highlight the steps they are taking through policy, but also the budget, that would be in a formal climate action plan. They also noted they would like this to come to fruition collaboratively and noted a potential for an article to fund a climate action plan at Town Meeting.

5. **Discuss Town Bylaw Priorities for Calendar Year 2022**

Mr. Mizikar noted the Tax Relief Fund brought forth by Ms. Ruth Anderson at their January 11, 2022 meeting. The Board noted that they will continue to think about their Town Bylaw priorities for calendar year 2022.

6. **Adjourn**

On a motion by Mr. Lebeaux, seconded by Mr. DePalo, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Taylor M. Galusha