



Town of Shelburne, Vermont

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 7, 2022

3:30 P.M.

Present: Don Porter, Jeff Carr, Ken Albert, Roz Graham, Lee Suskin; Peter Frankenburg, Lee Krohn, Gail Albert, Mary Kehoe

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M. The agenda was approved by consensus. Motion by Carr to approve the May and June meeting minutes; seconded by Albert and approved unanimously, except that Suskin abstained. There was no public comment on items not on the agenda.

Porter thanked everyone for the team effort on a very informative introductory presentation to the Selectboard on local option taxes. There is also significant information in the report given to the Board and posted online. There is still much work to be done, and the Committee is prepared to continue assisting if the Selectboard wishes. Now that it's understood that getting this on the November ballot is unrealistic, the timeframe must be clarified if this might be placed on the March ballot. Even if that occurs, and even if the voters approve, it must still be approved by the legislature; 90 day notice to the Tax Department is then required before LOT may actually be implemented. If notice is not received by April 1, then a full quarter of potential revenues are lost. Significant educational, political, and practical issues must all be resolved if LOT were hypothetically able to be implemented in Shelburne. If it passed muster locally, the best way to gain legislative approval is to keep the charter language simple, and to mimic what other municipalities have done and gotten approved. Other municipal charter language was reviewed; Carr re-emphasized the importance of keeping it simple and in least restrictive terms.

A charter change requires at least two public hearings, and significant public education. Timeframes, strategies, and audiences were discussed. Consider big picture of achieving Town vision; examples of possible projects that could be funded via LOT without adding to property taxes (or that might not get done at all); how LOT can help share the burden with non-residents who also benefit from Town infrastructure and amenities. Important to note the array of goods and services that are exempt from sales taxes generally, and thus also exempt from LOT. May also be helpful to gain experiences from businesses in other communities as to impacts or lack thereof.

The matter will again be on the Selectboard agenda for July 12; a key question being whether the SB would like the Committee to continue working on LOT matters.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 4, 3:30 P.M.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn.