



# *Town of Shelburne, Vermont*

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 9, 2021

4:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 P.M.

Present in person or remotely: Chair Don Porter, Tom Denenberg, Roz Graham, Ken Albert; also, Water Quality Superintendent Chris Robinson, Wastewater consulting engineer Wayne Elliot, Finance Director Peter Frankenburg, and Town Manager Lee Krohn.

The meeting agenda and the minutes of August 19, 2021 were approved by consensus, with a change in sequence to take up the wastewater consolidation matter earlier.

Frankenburg offered an update on the August property tax collection: as of today, \$196K is delinquent, representing 1.7% of that billed for this first installment (last year it was \$210K/1.9%).

There was no public comment on items not on the agenda.

Robinson and Elliot explained that our wastewater treatment facilities were approaching the end of their service lives, summarized the wastewater consolidation options considered, and described what appeared to be the best and most cost-effective approach (converting Plant #2 on Turtle Lane into a pump station, and consolidating all treatment at Plant #1 on Crown Road). Discussion followed on costs and financing options, appropriate sizing of facilities to accommodate growth that can be reasonably anticipated, how the growth of inflows has flattened over time due to increased efficiencies of use, decreased inflow and infiltration, overall project design and permitting requirements, and the possible timing challenges of this very significant capital cost/project with other significant capital projects such as a prospective new Fire/Rescue station. Working with State programs such as CWSRF can help reduce certain costs. Further review may be needed to help advise the Selectboard appropriately.

Krohn offered a brief update on what is now known about federal ARPA appropriations to the Town: roughly \$800K in direct funding, and roughly \$1.5M in a proportional redistribution of the 'county' funding, for a total of roughly \$2.3M. Half has been received to date; the other half to come later. When Treasury issues final rules, then we will know the subset of lawful uses out of the infinite array of possibilities. As before, we have until 12/31/2024 to obligate funds, and until 12/31/2026 to spend these, so there is no need to rush to judgment on best, most appropriate uses.

It was agreed to meet monthly going forward, but with meetings from 3:30 – 5:00 P.M. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 5:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn.