

Town of Shirley

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



7 KEADY WAY – SHIRLEY, MASSACHUSETTS - 01464-2812

Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator

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Dear Shirley Residents,

Recently the Town held a Master Plan Public Forum to gather input from residents on important issues of the Town. There was a common theme that emerged out of the forum, which was resident outreach. Participants suggested different ways in which the Town could notify its residents. Currently the Town has a web page and has recently begun mailing out the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to all residents. But more can be done. In this information age social media has become commonplace, and it's time for Shirley to enter that medium. Therefore the Town has created a Facebook page. We will also be placing a Facebook link onto the Town's Website.

The Facebook page will be a way for residents to view upcoming events, meetings and important documents. The Town will receive postings and suggestions from those who wish to comment. The Town is hoping that this helps enable more outreach to residents, discussed at the Master Plan Forum. If people would like to request community postings be placed on the Facebook page please contact me at pgarvin@shirley-ma.gov.

The Master Plan Public Forum also was a good format for residents to voice their opinions on every aspect of the Town. Other areas that were discussed were the strengths of Shirley, economic development opportunities, as well as ways to increase revenue. A final report will be submitted by the MRPC and posted online.

The Board of Selectmen recently formed a Budget Coordinating Committee. This Committee was formed to assist the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee in its decision process as it relates to information regarding a Proposition 2½ override. Proposition 2½ (Mass. Gen. L. c. 59, § 21C) is a Massachusetts statute that limits property tax increases. Municipalities may exceed or reduce their taxes by 2 ½ percent with the prior approval of the majority voting in an override election. For more explanation on a Proposition 2 ½ override follow the following link:

<http://www.mass.gov/dor/docs/dls/publ/misc/levylimits.pdf>

The Board of Selectmen is the elected body that sets and determines override elections. The Budget Coordinating Committee will meet through the summer and report to the Board of Selectmen. The Committee will make recommendations to the selectmen as it relates to an override. There will also be public forums and input sessions so the residents can come and discuss this very important topic. These forums will be posted far enough in advance for residents to attend.

The Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee and now the Budget Coordinating Committee will be working on a five year projections plan, and how an override factors into those projections. This projection plan takes into account recurring revenues and expenses. One time revenues will be marked as such. The goal of the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee has been using **Recurring Revenues for Recurring Expenses**.

Please take the time to look in on this most important committee that will impact all occupants of the Town of Shirley.

Sincerely,

Patrice Garvin, Shirley Town Administrator