

**Shutesbury Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 17, 2015, Town Hall, 7pm**

**Members Present:** Weezie Houle, Rus Wilson, Eric Stocker, George Arvanitis and Susie Mosher, Al Hanson and Gary Hirshfield, **Visitors:** Becky Torres, Jim Aaron, Mike Vinsky, Steve Rice, April Stein, Meryl Mandell and Jeff Lacy on Skype.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.
2. Minutes of February 3, 2015 approved as amended.
3. Personnel Committee: Prepare for contract negotiations. The board\committee representatives and preliminary schedule for each contract are as follows:
  - a. Highway Superintendent - 2/20/2015 @ 10:00 AM\*
    - i. *PB: April Stein, FC: Eric Stocker, SB: Michael Vinsky*
  - b. Town Administrator - 2/19/2015 @ 7:00 PM\*
    - i. *PB: George Arvanitis, FC: Al Hanson, SB: Elaine Puleo*
  - c. Fire Chief - 3/9 or 3/23/2015 @ 6:00 PM\*
    - i. *PB: Kathy Carey, FC: George Arvanitis, SB: Elaine Puleo*
  - d. Police Officers - 2/25/2015 @ 8:00 AM\*
    - i. *PB: Ralph Armstrong, FC: Rus Wilson, SB: April Stein*
  - e. All dates are contingent on employee and committee confirmation
  - f. The board also had a conversation about pay increases. CPI was .8 in 2014. Capacity in the budget. Police is getting 3%. Teachers are getting XX%. Rus asked Becky to put a 2% increase in the budget for the staff salaries.
  - g. The town staff has gotten the following %s increases over the past 5 years: 1.5, 1.5, 1.5, 3, 2, an average of 1.9%.
  - h. Becky is going to put a staff increase in the budget at 2%.
4. Planning Board Presentation
  - a. The Planning Board would like to initiate the next Master plan with a “Shutesbury Master Plan Update: Community Visioning/Goals/Objectives/Policies plan.
  - b. They are asking for \$10,000 in next year’s budget to pay for a consultant to help the working group develop a vision for the Master Plan.
  - c. The consultant’s tasks include attending 2 working group meetings, 3 Community Meetings and a report. The timeline is about 6 months.
  - d. There were several questions and discussions about the Master Plan. Susie wanted to know who is responsible for post-Master Plan implementation. Before we start a new one, let’s review and/or implement some of the old recommendations.
5. Regional Assessment Agreement
  - a. The Fin Com will finish the response letter to Jeff tonight.
  - b. Eric stated that the Fin Com basically agrees that we need to continue to press the other towns, next year, to review the assessment formula.
  - c. The Fin Com still wants to move forward with the study committee.
  - d. The Fin Com wants to see any and all plans vetted forward and back as many years as is feasible.
  - e. The Fin Com wants to stay the course for FY16, using the current Alternative Agreement.
6. Review Expense Report – none tonight
7. Budget Review –
  - a. Made note of items that were missing.

8. Committee Reports: - none tonight
  - a. Rus Wilson and Gary Hirshfield – Capital Planning - none
  - b. Al Hanson – CPC - none
  - c. Susie Mosher – School Committee – none
  - d. George Arvanitis – Personnel – none
  - e. Eric - Broadband Report –
    - 1.) WiredWest is sending out a packet next week.
    - 2.) The soonest we may have to do long term borrowing is after about 4-5 years.
    - 3.) We reviewed the Financial Questions and Answers WiredWest handout.
    - 4.) Motion passed unanimously to support the Financial Questions and Answers with our suggested changes.
9. Next Meeting:
  - a. March 3, 2015, 7pm, Police, 7:15pm and Capital Planning, 7:45pm
  - b. March 17, 2015, Energy Committee
10. Meeting adjourned: 9:40pm