

Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes March 15, 2016
Shutesbury Town Hall, 7pm

Members Present: George Arvanitis, Jim Walton, Gary Hirshfield, Eric Stocker and Weezie Houle

Members Absent: none **Non-Members Present:** Jim Hemingway

1. Meeting called to order at 7:08
2. Tax Collector, Ellen McKay, Budget review:
 - a. Her licensing fee software has gone up from \$8,500 to total amount \$9,000
 - b. Total increase in the Operating Budget of \$475 from \$19,710 to \$20,185.
 - c. The lock box fee went down and the licensing fee went up for a near wash.
 - d. Paper item spent in FY15 was over \$1,600. She is going to put in \$1,300 in the FY17 budget.
3. Meet w/ Capital Planning Committee, Ellen McKay, Jim Walton, Budget requests totaling \$242,500:
 - a. Highway: 6 Wheeler dump truck – CP approved \$192,500
 - b. Library: CP approved \$25,000
 - c. Buildings Committee: CP approved \$25,000 – multiple small repairs and renovation projects at town hall (painting at multiple buildings and repair the lower entrance door and flooring)
 - d. Ellen suggestions: The town needs to have to hire a consultant to train an off-site backup. Install a centralized server.
4. Approved the minutes from February 16th and 23rd as amended
5. Reviewed the Expense Report – Looks good
6. Review Four Town Meeting of 2/27/16 - Gary and George attended the meeting
 - a. Sean Mangano presented the budget
 - b. Leverett didn't get hit as bad as they expected to be
 - c. Shutesbury had a \$27,000 savings from the current Regional Assessment Method.
 - d. The Statutory Method never came up.
 - e. They are looking for volunteers for the next Assessment Study Committee
 - f. The Capital Plan is big. One of the side effects of combining the middle and high school will be that there will be costs involved to retrofit the high school.
 - g. George went through the presentation handout and picked out some highlights. He is going to send us the link to the presentation.
 - h. The Regional School Committee tabled the regionalization vote for a year.
7. Discuss/Appoint reps to new committees: Four Town assessment Review/Regional School Capital Planning/Visioning Committee
 - a. Weezie volunteered to be the Fin Comm rep to the Regional School Capital Planning Committee.
 - b. George volunteered to be Fin Comm rep to the Four Town Regional Assessment Study Committee.
 - c. We need Fin Comm reps on CPC and the Visioning Committee
8. Review FY17 Budget
9. Agenda for 3/29 meeting
 - a. Discussion of proposed Capital Planning items
10. Adjourned at 9:24.
11. Next Meetings:
 - a. March 29, 2016, 7pm – No Dept. scheduled
 - b. April 5, 2016, 7pm – Select board, Final Budget, Warrant voting
 - c. April 19, 2016, 7pm – Town Meeting prep

- d. May 7, 2016, 9am (Annual Town Meeting)
- e. June 2016, 7pm