

Shutesbury Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 22, 2015, Town Hall, 7pm

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

Members Absent: none **Visitors:** Becky Torres

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.
2. Approved the Minutes of August 22, 2015 as amended.
3. New Business
 - a. Scheduling Department Heads. We will formalize the schedule at the next meeting.
 - b. Discussion regarding the department head letter. Gary will review the letter with Becky and send us a copy for comment. We will review at next meeting.
 - c. We will set our schedule for our Jan to March meetings at the October meeting.
 - d. Weezie will try to post the approved minutes of the previous month within 2 weeks of the meeting
 - e. Weezie will update the website
4. Review Expense Report – none
5. Review Income Report – none
6. Budget Review – none
7. Committee Reports: -
 - a. Capital Planning - Gary Hirshfield & Jim Walton - none
 - b. CPC - Al Hanson - none
 - c. School Committee - Weezie Houle - none
 - d. Personnel Board - George Arvanitis – none
 - e. Regional Assessment Summer Study Committee - George Arvanitis & Eric Stocker, reports –
 - 1.) The committee has been meeting twice a week.
 - 2.) They reviewed the Regional Assessment method Working Group’s Report of November 2014.
 - 3.) They learned how all methods work.
 - 4.) The committee created a spreadsheet that would analyze how various factors will impact each town’s Chapter 70 aid the impacts on the town.
 - 5.) All indicators show that in fact, Shutesbury has lower income, property values and calculate the need and ability to pay, than the other three towns.
 - 6.) The committee believes that the ability to pay needs to be included in the formula.
 - 7.) The committee is going to recommend to the Select Board that we engage the region. We believe the current method is not fair. Shutesbury should be getting some benefit. They want to suggest a 4 year transition plan for a modification in the assessment method.
 - f. Broadband Report - Eric Stocker – The committee is launching a 60 Day to 60% campaign.
 - g. Visioning Committee – Al Hanson – none
5. Set agenda for next meeting.
6. Next Meeting:
 - a. October 13, 2015, 7pm
 - b. November 10, 2015, 7pm
 - c. November 24, 2015, 7pm
 - d. December 8, 2015, 7pm
 - e. December 22, 2015 , 7pm
7. Meeting adjourned 9:05pm.