

**Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 30, 2017 - Shutesbury Town Hall, 7pm**

**Members Present:** George Arvanitis, Eric Stocker, Jim Hemingway, Weezie Houle and Jim Walton, Elaine Puleo  
**Members Absent:** Bob Groves  
**Non-Members present:** Becky Torres, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil

- 1) Approve minutes from November 9, 2017 as amended.
- 2) Review YTD (FY18) Expense and Revenue Reports (if any changes)
  - a) Discussion about the Ambulance service fee.
  - b) The legal expense line item needs a transfer to cover current bills. We may need to transfer more funds later this year.
- 3) Motion passed unanimously to support \$5,000 transfer from Finance Committee Reserves to the Legal Expense item.
- 4) Update on Regional Assessment
  - a) All towns went back to their towns to see if \$10.
  - b) Amherst Select Board voted to support it. 3 of 4 towns support it.
  - c) Leverett does not like the median aggregate income – included registered voting students in Amherst. Leverett thinks the budget has fat in the budget.
  - d) Shutesbury cannot support the 5 Year rolling average. We feel the \$10 is the best for the region. It is the most stable and least volatile.
- 5) Motion passed unanimously to support the Personnel Committee recommendation for the Fire Fighter training wages to be the same as the On Call wages.
- 6) Reports from Committee
  - a) Broadband – Jim H. – Home Run – A Single fiber to each house from the main box using plug and play connectors.
  - b) Personnel – George – In their last meeting discussed the hourly rate to pay the fire fighters for training. The training has the same risks as calls. \$18.62 per hour per fire fighter. After discussion, they approved that rate. If there is 12 and they all attend it would bust the budget. But now they have only 6 fire fighters and they all don't attend all the trainings. The created a job description for Land Use Clerk combines Con Comm and ZBA and Planning clerk budgets. We will also have an increase for the Select board secretary.
  - c) Buildings Committee – The sidewalk at the school has been the sealant had turned a chalky white and was still there before Thanksgiving. He is going to power wash it off and reseal it, and do it all.
  - d) School Committee – Weezie – Discussed the preliminary U 28 budget.
  - e) Capital Planning – Elaine – We reviewed the Capital Budget Request form.
- 7) Meeting adjourned 9pm
- 8) Future Meeting Schedule:
  - a) Saturday, December 2, 2017, Four Town Meeting, Amherst Middle School, 8am
  - b) Thursday, December 14, 2017, Fire Dept., Library, Capital Planning,
  - c) Thursday, December 28, 2017, Highway Dept., 7:15pm, Jeff Lacey, 7:45pm
  - d) Tuesday, January 9, 2018, Select Board, School Committee
  - e) Tuesday, January 16, 2018, Treasurer, Town Collector, Accountant
  - f) Thursday, January 25, 2018, Police,
  - g) Thursday, February 8, 2018, Broadband,
  - h) Thursday, February 22, 2018, Assessor, Capital Planning
  - i) Thursday, March 8, 2018, Select Board, Personnel Committee
  - j) Thursday, March 22, 2018
  - k) Thursday, April 12, 2018
  - l) Thursday, April 26, 2018
  - m) Saturday, May 5, 2018, Town Meeting