

Shutesbury Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 19, 2016, Town Hall, 7pm

Members Present: Gary Hirshfield, Weezie Houle, Eric Stocker, George Arvanitis and Jim Walton **Members Absent:** none **Visitors:** Becky Torres, Mike Vinskey, Select board, April Stein, Select board, Gabe Volker, Treasurer

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.
2. Report from Gabe Volker, Treasurer, Review of Budgets
 - a. They are up to October 2015 with the data recovery. They have closed FY15, just tonight.
 - b. We may run short on the Health Insurance budget lines for FY16. Gail will adjust the number and give it to us.
 - c. Health Insurance is going up for the PPO, The budget needs to be adjusted up for accommodate the increases which are 6.6% HMO, PPO 7.6%, and 6.8% Medicare
 - d. 90 % of participants are from the school
 - e. Gabe balances the line item with one extra single plus one and a family plan.
 - f. We will see the premiums go up for the next few years.
 - g. She would like us to level fund it at \$20,000. We had 2 and 1 is gone, but sometimes a vet can show up any time.
 - h. Unemployment: Gabe got a bill for \$13,000, 2 people are collecting and will continue to collect. That is for 4 months. We need to plan for them to continue for a while. Gail carried over \$16,000 from last year. Gabe is recommending that we start a trust for Unemployment. Gabe level funded it at \$15,000, but we will be over \$30,000 next year.
 - i. Veterans Benefits: The state reimburses us for 75%. We put the whole amount in our budget as we have to front the funds. We have budgeted \$20,000.
 - j. Tax Title: We are generating Tax title collections. She is budgeting level funding. Unpaid Property taxes. She has a few very old hanging uncollectable due to non-identification of owners. She does engage in collecting current tax titles from sales of the property, or other means that the owners come up with.
 - k. Short term borrowing is usually \$2,000 that covers borrowing note fees.
 - l. OPEB Actuarial needs to be renewed by the end of June. We save for 3 years to pay for the tri-annual fee.
 - m. OPEB Trust: FY16 contributions \$50,000. The amount in the trust fund is \$167,185, plus this year's budgeted amount.
 - n. Retirement Assessment: Nothing we can do anything about. Franklin Regional Retirement system. It is our portion for them to actualize their goal for funding their OPEB. We have \$180,000 in our budget for next year. We are still waiting for Union 28 needs, then we can finalized the line item budget. We are doing very well for a little town.
 - o. Medicare – Gabe level funded this line. If we do COLA we should increase the budget.
 - p. Treasurer: Gabe's line item is level funded. There is a new ACA reporting requirement that will increase our payroll costs by \$50.00 per month for monitoring the information, plus filing fees of \$600. The Fed Govt wants to know the value of the health insurance per employee. If you have over 50 full time employees this year, the employers have to report. They keep changing the rules and the rollout dates. We use Harpers payroll services out of Worcester.

- q. The debt payment still needs to be done.
 - r. The county health dept., Dave Zarazinski. We take care of the payroll for him. Our line item should be \$1,750.
3. Assessors Budget: Overall in their 4 line items, there is a \$210 increase in their budget.
 4. Accountant: There is a 7% increase in her maintenance fee. There is a \$200 increase.
 5. Reviewed the Excess and Deficiency report from the Region.
 6. Regionalization Assessment Discussion
 - a. Four Town Meeting: Reviewed of actions that day.
 - b. Information from Gary re: Regionalization Assessment Discussion
 7. Gary Hirshfield resigned the Finance Committee.
 8. The tax rates and average tax payment per town. Shutesbury is 115th,
 9. Motion passed unanimously for George Arvanitis and Eric Stocker to be co-chairs of the Finance Committee.
 10. WiredWest: The negotiating team is hard at work at a few meetings. WW and MBI are presenting to the MBI board. Different perspectives on the operating agreement. MBI put out an RFP, which stipulates that the towns own the network. MBI is doing the build out.
 11. Meeting adjourned 9:30pm
 12. Next Meetings:
 - a. February 9, 2016, 7pm – Budget, Expense and Income Reports
 - b. February 23, 2016, 7pm – Capital Planning, 7:15pm; Tax Collector, 7:45pm
 - c. March 8, 2016, 7pm – Personnel Board, 7:15pm
 - d. March 22, 2016, 7pm – No Dept. scheduled
 - e. April 5, 2016, 7pm – Final Budget, Warrant voting
 - f. April 19, 2016, 7pm – Town Meeting prep
 - g. May 7, 2016, 9am (Annual Town Meeting)