

Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 2017 - Shutesbury Town Hall, 7pm

Members Present: George Arvanitis, Eric Stocker, Bob Groves, Jim Hemingway, Weezie Houle and Jim Walton, Elaine Puleo **Members Absent:** **Non-Members present:** Becky Torres, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil, Mike Vinsky, Bob Wells, Jeff Lacey, Dan Hayes, Michael DiChiara, Lauren Paquin-Thomas, Tim Logan, Sharon Raymond

- 1) Approve minutes from October 12, 2017 as amended.
- 2) Meet with the Select Board to discuss the Regional Assessment Committee Report.
 - a) George and Michael DiChiara presented the 8 page report.
 - b) After long discussion, it was agreed to not support the levy gap methods, to have transportation recalculated by bus route, not support S5. George would like to request a recalculation of S4.
- 3) Police Head Chief Sharing with Leverett
 - a) The Select Board went to Leverett Select Board Meeting to discuss. They are going to discuss it with their Fin Comm. They were more open than they expected.
 - b) Tom is in favor of a shared Police Chief.
 - c) Hardwick / New Braintree have a shared police chief and we could use their model.
 - d) We need to explore the numbers, the hours, the benefits and liabilities.
- 4) Review EOY (FY17) Expense and Revenue Reports (if any changes)
- 5) Review YTD (FY18) Expense and Revenue Reports (if any changes)
- 6) Progress report on annual letter to go out to Departments/Committees re: Budget Request – The letter has been distributed to the department heads.
- 7) Explanation to the Select Board about how the budget process and meeting with the Dept. heads works.
- 8) Update (if any) on rewriting by-laws with respect to Building Committee, Finance Committee, and Capital Planning Committee.
- 9) Over the last 10 years, budgets have gone up 2.5% each year and inflation has gone up 2.7%
- 10) Meeting adjourned 9:20pm
- 11) Future Meeting Schedule:
 - a) Thursday, November 9, 2017, Highway, Regional Assessment
 - b) Thursday, November 30, 2017, Capital Planning, Four Town Planning
 - c) Saturday, December 2 or 9, Four Town Meeting, Amherst Middle School
 - d) Thursday, December 14, 2017, Fire Dept, Library
 - e) Thursday, December 28, 2017,
 - f) Tuesday, January 9, 2018, Select Board, School Committee
 - g) Tuesday, January 16, 2018, Treasurer, Town Collector, Accountant
 - h) Thursday, January 25, 2018, Police,
 - i) Thursday, February 8, 2018, Broadband,
 - j) Thursday, February 22, 2018, Assessor, Capital Planning
 - k) Thursday, March 8, 2018, Select Board, Personnel Committee
 - l) Thursday, March 22, 2018
 - m) Thursday, April 12, 2018
 - n) Thursday, April 26, 2018
 - o) Saturday, May 5, 2018, Town Meeting