

## Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Town Hall 7:00 P.M.

**Members Present:** George Arvanitis (minutes), Jim Hemingway, Bob Groves, Eric Stocker, Jim Walton

**Members Absent:** Weezie Houle and Rita Farrell

**Non-Members Present:** Becky Torres and Walter Tibbetts

- 1.) Reviewed the Fire department with the Fire Chief
  - a. Requesting a \$600 increase from FY19
  - b. Operating (\$200) and turnout gear (\$400)
  - c. Purchasing two turnout gear items per year. Maintain current equipment to stay in compliance
  - d. Grants for equipment is typically based on Financial need, Shutesbury doesn't meet need criteria.
  - e. Maintenance expense includes all building, equipment and trucks
  - f. Operating expense is offices supplies, licenses, fee...
  - g. Staffing is lower than desired, but there is a core responders
  - h. Calls are at 160 for the year to date 2018. The highest year was 172.
  - i. State (police) are going from an analog communication systems to a digital systems. The state is working with Franklin County to prototype a new digital communication system to replace the radio system. The current system is aged and has failed on occasion and needs to be replaced. State is working to get enough towns involved to support a new system here. State will pay for build out and not charge some fees we currently pay, so it's expected to lower the town's annual costs. It's anticipated to cost double current cost if we stay with UHF. Chief will keep FinCom appraised.
  - j. There is a request for Capital Planning to replace the chassis on the 1989 rescue vehicle. Use the old chassis on the brush truck.
- 2.) Approved the minutes from 11/08/18.
- 3.) Police department is below normal staffing levels and the Sergeant resigned.
- 4.) Discussed Shutesbury Elementary School budgets and guidance for the FY 202 budget:
  - a. Increased costs of \$50k
  - b. Loss of Grants of \$89k
- 5.) Approved the transfer \$1,752 to Town Administrator Salary line from the Finance Committee Reserve to fund the Administrators new contract
- 6.) Approved the transfer of \$5,000 to the Legal Expense line from the Finance Committee Reserve to cover the shortage in the line due to the establishment of the MLP a number of confidential issues.
- 7.) Next meeting is 12/4 with Highway and Assessor. Town Administrator will check to see if Highway chief will be ready and may move Police to that date if not.
- 8.) We adjourned at 9:38.