

Shutesbury Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 10, 2013, Town Hall

Members Present: Eric Stocker, Al Hanson, , George Arvanitis, Rus Wilson and Weezie Houle, Lori Tuominen **Members Absent:** Gary Hirshfield, **Visitors Present:** Becky Torres, Tom Harding, Parker Elmore, Gabe Volker and Gail Weiss, Bill Wells, Mike Vinsky

1. Meeting Called to order at 6:35pm
2. Tom Harding, Police Chief did not present his FY14 budget as he is missing some numbers.
 - a. They have received a donation of 5 computers.
 - b. Tom presented an overview of the new logging system. He is waiting for the numbers to come back. It requires a cell signal. He is leery due to the low cell service available.
 - c. No longer gets the Community Policing Grant. He had previously gotten funds that had paid for community events.
 - d. Crown Vic has 80,000. They are no longer making them.
 - e. The car that is now being used is the Ford Explorers. This could be the replacement vehicle for the cruiser.
 - f. Discussed side arms and shotguns.
 - g. Hand held radar used to be paid for with grant money. We are going to get a new radar gun as we can't get parts for it.
 - h. He is asking for level funding, having cut \$1,400 out of this year's budget from having cut computer maintenance.
 - i. The current year's budget is \$18,000. It may have to go up as high as \$20,000. He is obliged to spend certain amount on the officer's equipment. He has to spend \$5,000 on uniforms and equipment. \$2,700 on radio use.
 - j. One third is of the budget is spent on clothing, equipment and dry cleaning.
 - k. Discussed the Quinn money. The Quinn line item has merged into the wages line item.
 - l. Staffing hours: Tom Harding: 40, Wendy Masiuk: 40, Sean Sawicki: 40, Part-timers: Mike Thomas, Tim Batchelder, Ben Peters, Mike Geleneas. Jeff Soto has accepted a position at UMass. He got paid by us for the 6 months in the academy and he will be paying us back for the fees.
3. Parker Elmore presented the GASB 45
 - a. Actuarial Valuation has jumped from our previous one. Our current valuation changed due to the policy change of adding family policies calculated into it.
 - b. We should not expect our low annual increases in health insurance premiums to continue. We can expect an 8% increase.
 - c. He explained our future retiree health insurance liability.
 - d. He discussed the pros and cons of the funding options for OPEB.
 - e. George will set up a spreadsheet so we can look at some OPEB funding options.
4. Approved the minutes of October 29, 2013 as amended.
5. Upcoming Budget Alerts
 - a. Increase in health care is about \$42,000
 - b. The Regional assessments spread from \$40,000-90,000
 - c. Elem School may have an increase in SPED of \$40,000
6. Heating issue at the school
 - a. Software upgrade needed \$5-10,000.
 - b. Could take a month to get this fixed.

7. **Vote taken and passed unanimously to fund up to \$10,000 from Finance Committee Reserves to upgrade the heating system software at the Elementary School.**
8. There is a new issue with the gym roof. We need to hear from a structural engineer before Becky can apply to the MSBA for grant funding to help pay for the repairs.
9. No Reports:
10. Next meeting is Tuesday, January 7th, 2014, 7pm
11. Upcoming Finance Committee meeting dates and Department Head presentations of FY15 budget.
 - Jan 7: School (w/Select Board)
 - Jan 21: Police; Financial Team: Treasurer, Accountant and Assessor
 - Feb 4: All Boards Meeting – at the Elementary School, Fin Comm. to present
 - Feb 18: Personnel Board, Library
 - Mar 4: School, Part 2
 - Mar 18: Fire Dept., Capital Planning, Tax Collector
 - Apr 1: Regular Mtg.
 - Apr 15: Final Budget, Warrant voting
 - Apr 29: Town Meeting presentation prep
 - May 3 Annual Town Meeting
12. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.