

Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes
February 16, 2017 - Shutesbury Town Hall, 7pm

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

- 1) Approve minutes from 1/10/17, 1/24/17 as amended.
- 2) Walter Tibbets, Fire Chief
 - a) We reviewed the FY18 Budget.
 - b) The big change this year is the addition of the Turnout gear line item.
 - c) The NFPA, National Fire Protection Association rules say that the equipment cannot be over 10 years.
 - d) If they go to training and any part of their gear is over 10 years old, they send them home.
 - e) We need to build into the budget the annual purchase of 2 sets of gear so that we don't end up with a bill of \$25,000 every ten years. Just the jacket and pants cost \$2,200 per set.
 - f) It is required that it is replaced for liability and safety. He has 8 sets of turnout gear expiring July 2019.
 - g) He got a grant for 9 SCBAs, value of \$58,000. The expected life is 15 years.
 - h) The total budget proposal is \$33,300, 50% is ongoing capital expenses.
 - i) This year's budget is going to come out as predicted even though he is a bit ahead of half.
 - j) Discussion about paying by the hour for drill and training versus by a stipend.
 - k) The Rescue truck is 29 years old. He is thinking of rearranging bodies and chassis to upgrade 2 trucks.
 - l) The old truck has been listed for over a year at a used vehicle.
 - m) They transferred \$10,000 worth of equipment onto the new truck.
- 3) Discuss the Four Town Meeting
- 4) George reviewed the RFP for the consultant for the Regional Assessment Working Group.
- 5) Review FY18 Budget
 - a) Revenue:
 - i) We now have a \$8,939 increase in Aid
 - b) Expenses:
 - i) Does not include the salary increases
 - ii) When do maintenance costs go down? We should analyze investments in the town and their impact on maintenance costs.
 - iii) Elem School Budget is now \$1,943,593. They had previously presented \$1,924,000.
 - iv) Hauling will definitely be going up, possibly 25%, around \$15,000.
 - v) Right now the surplus is at \$42,941 doesn't include the hauling, salary increases or Town Buildings Fund
 - vi) OPEB - \$50,000 in the budget
- 6) Review YTD Expense and Income Reports
 - a) What is the \$57,000 in the Energy Efficient Project?
- 7) Reports from Committee
 - a) Broadband Committee: Eric –
 - i) The Committee latest plan is to go it on our own.
 - ii) We would need a STM soon, to authorize \$60,000 for the design of the network.
 - iii) We would come back for more later to build the network.
 - iv) The town has already approved \$1.63 Million.
 - v) We will need about \$300K later.
 - vi) The state will give us \$510,000 for the building. The gap is the \$300K.
 - vii) The timeline is 2 more years. First it gets designed, then you know what it will cost.
 - viii) There is a possibility that MBI will reimburse us \$360,000 for "Professional Services" in 7(ii) and 7 (v.)
- 8) Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm
- 9) Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 21, 2017, 7pm, Financial Team and Select Board, 7:15pm
- 10) Upcoming FY17 Meeting Schedule
 - a) Tuesday, February 21, 2017, 7pm,
 - b) Thursday, March 9, 2016, 7pm, Personnel Board, 7:15pm
 - c) Thursday, March 23, 2016, 7pm, Capital Planning, 7:15pm
 - d) Thursday, April 6, 2016, 7pm, Final Budget, Warrant voting
 - e) Thursday, April 20, 2016, 7pm, Prep for Town Meeting
 - f) Saturday, May 6, 2016, 8:30am, Town Meeting

g) Thursday, June 8, 2016, 7pm