

Shutesbury Finance Committee

Minutes 2/23/16

Present: George Arvanitis, Jim Walton, Gary Hirshfield, Eric Stocker (minutes), and Jim Hemingway (guest)

Absent: Weezie Houle

Meeting called to order at 7:08

1. We tabled minute review from the last meeting until our next meeting.
2. We reviewed the Expense Report.
3. We reviewed the Regional Assessment Agreement in preparation for the Four Town Meeting to be held 2/27/16. At this point we are fairly certain the assessment method that will be presented for FY17 is the "10% EQV method" and that a committee will be created to look at future assessment methods.
4. We discussed payroll increases for the FY17 Budget in preparation for meeting with the Selectboard and Personnel Committee. Our informal notion was that we would recommend a 2% increase for FY17.
5. At 8:00 we met with the Selectboard and Personnel Committee to discuss payroll increases for FY17. (Please see Selectboard minutes for more detail.) After some discussion the Selectboard decided to give town employees 3% raises. The main argument was that the Police contract requires 3% raises so it seemed unfair to other employees if they were not treated similarly. It was also noted that 1% seemed "insulting" and that we were in a position where we could afford to offer 3%. We also noted that each percentage of wage increase equaled about \$5,600 and that to use 3% seemed like a cheap "investment" in terms of showing goodwill to employees. Objections were that for people in town living on fixed incomes this presented a hardship and that our methodology for determining wage increases seemed unclear.
6. We discussed briefly with the Selectboard how to present (if called upon) at the Four Town Meeting.
7. We discussed an Excel Sheet that George had created re: Regional Assessments. (See below.)
8. We adjourned at 9:04.

Regional School Assessment Analysis

2/18/2016

	Regional Agreement Method					Per Pupil
	FY16	FY17	Change	% Chng	Enrollment	
Amherst	14,825,506	15,200,053	374,547	2.50%	1,219	12,469
Pelham	1,214,614	1,118,942	(95,672)	-7.90%	90	12,433

Leverett	1,465,029	1,498,615	33,586	2.30%	120	12,488
Shutesbury	1,655,434	1,727,116	71,682	4.30%	139	12,425
	19,160,583	19,544,726	384,143	100.00%	1,568	12,465

Statutory Method

	FY16	FY17	Change	% Chng	Enrollment	Per Pupil
Amherst	14,825,506	15,523,014	697,508	4.70%	1,219	12,734
Pelham	1,214,614	956,492	(258,122)	-21.30%	90	10,628
Leverett	1,465,029	1,527,758	62,729	4.30%	120	12,731
Shutesbury	1,655,434	1,537,462	(117,972)	-7.10%	139	11,061
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10% Ability to Pay

Based on Taxable Property

	FY16	FY17	Change	% Chng	Enrollment	Per Pupil
Amherst	14,825,506	15,196,144	370,638	2.50%	1,219	12,466
Pelham	1,214,614	1,125,782	(88,832)	-7.30%	90	12,509
Leverett	1,465,029	1,522,460	57,431	3.90%	120	12,687
Shutesbury	1,655,434	1,700,341	44,907	2.70%	139	12,233
	19,160,583	19,544,727	384,144	100.00%	1,568	12,465

Differences - Statutory to Five Year Rolling

	FY17	
Amherst	322,961	Statutory is Greater Than 5 Yr Rolling
Pelham	(162,450)	Statutory is Less Than 5 Yr Rolling
Leverett	29,143	Statutory is Greater Than 5 Yr Rolling
Shutesbury	(189,654)	Statutory is Less Than 5 Yr Rolling

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Differences - Five Year Rolling to 10% Ability to Pay

	FY17	
Amherst	3,909	5 Yr Rolling is Greater Than 10% ATP
Pelham	(6,840)	5 Yr Rolling is Less Than 10% ATP
Leverett	(23,845)	5 Yr Rolling is Less Than 10% ATP
Shutesbury	26,775	5 Yr Rolling is Greater Than 10% ATP
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Differences - 10% Ability to Pay to Statutory

	FY17	
Amherst	326,870	10% ATP is Less Than Statutory
Pelham	(169,290)	10% ATP is Greater Than Statutory

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