

Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes
Tuesday, February 8, 2018 – Town Hall, 7pm

Members Present: Eric Stocker, , Bob Groves, George Arvanitis, Weezie Houle, Elaine Puleo and Jim Hemingway **Members Absent:** Jim Walton **Non-Members present:** Becky Torres, Michael DiChiara, Broadband Committee:

- 1) Discussion about the Regional Assessment.
- 2) Broadband Committee
 - a) Operating startup costs – There will be upfront costs, with rolling subscription income will come in later, so they will need some startup funds. They need about \$105,550 for the first year which there might be a Warrant Article at Town Meeting.
 - b) Reserves for overbuild cost contingencies – 2 big costs.
 1. Make Ready - We do not have final figures yet for these. Verizon has been paid for their work. National Grid bills are finally coming in and they are higher than expected.
 2. Actual construction – We may need more funds than originally planned. The state has acknowledged that the original estimate was too low and we may get money back down the road. BB committee will know the estimated costs before it goes out to bid.
 - c) Viability – Subscribers will pay for expenses
- 3) Approve minutes from January 25, 2018 as amended.
- 4) Motion passed unanimous to ask Sean Magano to run phase in numbers for S 10 and present them to the Regional School Committee.
- 5) Motion passed unanimous to move \$2,000 from Finance Committee Reserves to the Legal line.
- 6) Review the Draft Budget
 - a) Review formatting
 - b) It includes 1.5% Salary increase
 - c) We need the Ambulance quote. Becky is estimating an increase of 3%.
 - d) Gabe is recommending increases in Unemployment to \$20,000. We want to leave OPEB at \$50,000. The Vets went up \$5,000. There is a \$25,000 increase in Health Insurance (5%).
 - e) Linda's hours were increased from 20 to 25 hours. She is combining Conservation, Planning Board and ZBA to be the Land Use Clerk. It is budgeted for 16 hours.
 - f) The Fire training is based on 11 firefighters.
- 7) Bob got an estimate for the school roof repair. He thinks it may be about \$5,000.
- 8) Review the Expense Report
- 9) Meeting adjourned 9pm
- 10) Future Meeting Schedule:
 - a) Thursday, February 22, 2018, Assessor, Capital Planning
 - b) Thursday, March 8, 2018, Select Board, Personnel Committee
 - c) Thursday, March 22, 2018
 - d) Thursday, April 12, 2018
 - e) Thursday, April 26, 2018
 - f) Saturday, May 5, 2018, Town Meeting