

Shutesbury Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 17, 2015, Town Hall, 7pm

Members Present: Weezie Houle, Rus Wilson, George Arvanitis and Susie Mosher, Al Hanson; **Members Absent:** Gary Hirshfield, Eric Stocker **Visitors:** Becky Torres, Ellen McKay, Capital Planning, Mike Vinskey, Select Board

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.
2. Minutes of March 2, 2015 approved as amended.
3. Capital Planning - Ellen reviewed the list of needs that total: \$103,000, as shown below, a-d:
 - a. School needs rugs in both hallways, will be replaced with the vinyl - \$25,000
 - b. Highway need a new cutter bar with a 3 point hitch \$17,000
 - c. Annual appropriation for the Library - \$25,000
 - d. Replace the SUV cruiser – not more than \$36,000
 - e. The committee voted to support the WiredWest fiber network bond.
 - f. The school will be coming to us to handle some emergency transfer for some maintenance issues they have (Stove \$3-400, Warming drawer \$2,000 and Washer/dryer: \$1,500).
4. Committee Reports: - none tonight
 - a. Capital Planning - Rus Wilson and Gary Hirshfield — see above
 - b. CPC - Al Hanson – none
 - c. School Committee - Susie Mosher — none
 - d. George Arvanitis – Personnel – Completed negotiations with the Town Administrator. Need to set up meetings with the Fire Chief. The new union rep called Becky. Sean Sawicki is the union steward.
 - e. Eric - Broadband Report – absent
5. The Elementary School compiled a more extensive list of future Capital needs; funding ideas were suggested for a few of the items:
 - a. The stage curtain
 - b. Radios/walkie-talkies - Emergency Management, Police and Fire departments
 - c. Computer leases
 - d. Sidewalk and shed roof repair
 - e. Playground equipment - PTO and Amherst Rotary partnership (Ellen will research)
6. Personnel Board will meet 3/19. Town Assistant contract negotiated. Fire Chief contract negotiations are yet to be done.
7. Discussion of the Planning Board's visioning request for \$10,000 was tabled in light of up-coming presentation by Judi Barrett on March 24.
8. Review of FY 16 revenue figures - Governor Baker released his proposed cherry sheet numbers. Total net gain \$2,958 instead of earlier projections of net decrease of \$25,867
 - a. line 16 Chapter 70 increase \$19,074
 - b. line 17 Charter Tuition Assessment Reimbursement decrease \$19,319
 - c. line 22 Unrestricted Aid increase \$5,432
 - d. line 31 School Choice expenses decrease \$16,279
 - e. line 43 Court Fines \$18,000 - number derived from the recap sheet
9. Other budget items we discussed were:

- a. line 5 secretary to select board - slight decrease; new hire
 - b. line 166 OPEB
 - c. line 10 Fin Com Reserve - will cover \$7,500 school purchases, budget overruns for snow, fuel
 - d. line 168 Medicare costs adjusted to cover effect of wage increases
 - e. line 165 Health insurance - line can cover small, projected rate increase
10. Discussion of Capital Stabilization fund, level of debt carried, and Free Cash balance
 11. Cruiser and Mower capital costs will come from FC, leaving a balance of 1,223,793.
 12. Discussed moving \$300,000 of FC into Capital Stabilization
 13. It may be prudent to grow the capital debt capacity by 3% a year since the cost of items to be purchased will increase over time.
 14. Overall the governor's numbers put the budget into the black. Hopefully these numbers will hold.
 15. Failed to make contact with the Energy Committee. They will be scheduled for 3/31 mtg.
 16. Next Meeting:
 - a. March 31, 2015
 - b. April 14, 2015
 17. Meeting adjourned 8:55