

Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes
Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 7pm, Town Hall

Members Present: Eric Stocker, Weezie Houle, Rus Wilson, Gary Hirshfield and Al Hanson; **Members Absent:** George Arvanitis; **Visitors Present:** Becky Torres, Michael DeChiara, Bob Mahler, Cliff Read, Fred VanDerbeck and Al Springer

- 1) Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.
- 2) School Committee
 - a) Michael spoke about the issue of sensitive information discussed at a Finance Committee meeting that showed up on the Post Office wall the next morning.
 - b) Review of School budget drivers:
 - i) What's involved in the grant reduction: All \$41,848 is for salaries that were paid for by Federal Stimulus
 - ii) Over \$6,000 of the \$14,602 in Programs and Services is for training and materials for staff to learn about the new testing that will replace the MCAS.
 - c) Pressures for the future
 - i) Breakfast – Michael presented information about the Leverett breakfast program including finances, logistics, and options. It will only lose money.
 - ii) They are looking to put a tutor in the budget. 4 kids came to the school that had limited school experience. They need 2 hours a day out of class.
 - iii) They have 24-25 preschool applications for preschool and may need to create a second pre-school class. This will evolve into potential multiple classes per grade as they age.
 - iv) They have 2 significantly disabled children in preschool.
 - d) Review of computers at the school
 - e) Lunch Program – The numbers of lunches served through February is about to exceed 2008-09 total.
 - f) Capital expense item need – Right now, they have a situation where they need \$5,500 for air conditioner for the server room. Becky recommended that the issue get sent to the Buildings Committee.
 - g) Where do we go from here: Bob Mahler: “We will do the best we can with what we get.” It will generate wear and tear.
- 3) Approve minutes of February 21, 2012 as amended.
- 4) Review of Draft FY13 budget.
 - a) Corrections Becky made:
 - i) added in the extra in the elementary school budget about \$700
 - ii) reduced the regional transportation by \$1,332
 - iii) Fire Department changes: Total difference from last month's budget is about \$5,100
 - iv) Other area in Fire area is the call wages: The actual wages last year exceeded what we budgeted for in FY12. We will need to have a conversation with Walter about this line item.
 - v) Biggest change is the U28 retirement is up \$12,940.
- 5) Review Expense Reports

- a) Snow removal expense and wages have extra funds but unemployment will be over. We will probably need to do a line item swap late one.
- 6) Committee Reports
 - a) CPA – Allen Hanson – Nothing new
 - b) Personnel – George Arvanitis – Spent a month working on the Police contract and, comparing them to other towns and preparing the negotiations.
 - c) School Committee – Weezie Houle – See the School Committee above
 - d) Capital Planning – Rus Wilson & Gary – They talked with the library and the Fire Department. The Police sent in a request for a new vehicle in FY14 and \$1500 each for 2 computers. Walter is looking for \$41,000, which includes a lot of variables. Walter needs to figure out the minimum amount of hose he really needs. Part of the \$1,900 was put in the budget. He is not looking for all of it in one year.
 - e) Library Fundraising Committee – George Arvanitis –
 - f) Educational Study Committee – Eric Stocker–
- 7) Future agenda items:
 - a) Fire Chief at the next meeting
 - b) IT backups
 - c) Assessors request for web hosting
- 8) Adjourned at 8:55pm
- 9) Next Meeting April 3, 2012

Respectfully submitted, *Weezie Houle*