

**Shutesbury Finance Committee
Minutes
March 9, 2017 - Shutesbury Town Hall, 7pm**

Members Present: George Arvanitis, Jim Walton, Elaine Puleo, Bob Groves, Jim Hemingway **Members Absent:** Eric Stocker, Weezie Houle **Non-Members present:** Becky Torres, Selectboard, Anna Aaron (Personnel Board), April Stein (Personnel Board), Tim Logan, Jeff Lacy

1) Approved minutes of February 21 as amended.

2) Meeting with Selectboard and Personnel Committee

A. Changes to the budget since our last meeting

Line 124 – trash hauling \$15,000 increase from last year as a place holder until bids come in – expected on April 15. Asking for a 5 yr contract

2 yr contract since 2 new facilities are coming on line and competition might drive prices down.

Line 169 – Workman's comp is coming down due to being enough years out from a claim conclusion

Line 163 – retirement includes Union 28 Central Office numbers estimated at \$10,000 set aside for Union 28 – Official from the county is \$173,164. Will be firmed up mid April

State Cherry Sheet line 16-29 came in with a bit of a change. These are the Governor's numbers

B. Discussion of salary increases for the town employees – Past raises were '17- 3% '16- 2% '15- 1.5% '14 – 3% '13 – 1.5% Inflation rates hover between 0-1% based on US inflation calculator. Social security increase for this year is .3% Looking at Becky's wage increase sheet that has the costs of a 1%, 2% and 3% raises. The conversation deteriorated into a conversation revolving around the police department and the high increase of costs in their budget. A full discussion ensued about where to give municipal employee raises – from 1-3%. Each percent increase is a \$5500 cost to the budget. We came to an impasse between 1 and 2% raises. Finance committee motion (made by Elaine seconded by George) to offer a 2% raise. The vote was 2 in favor 3 opposed. The Personnel Committee voted in favor, Selectboard could not even get a second. Vote for a 1.5% increase made by George seconded by Elaine – unanimous in favor. Personnel voted in favor. Selectboard 2:1. We all agreed at 1.5%

3) Back into our own meeting – Broadband. The broadband committee is going to come to us for recommendation. See the handouts from Jim Hemingway. We will have a full discussion with the Broadband committee – hopefully after town meeting