

Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes
April 24, 2017 - Shutesbury Town Hall, 7pm

Members Present: Eric Stocker, Elaine Puleo, Bob Groves, Jim Hemingway, Weezie Houle and Jim Walton
Members Absent: George Arvanitis **Non-Members present:** Becky Torres, Mike Vinsky, Debbie Makepeace-O'Neil, Jeff Lacey, Tom Harding, Jackie Mendonsa, Laruen Thomas-Paquin, Fred Steinberg, Penny Kim, many Shutesbury Elementary School parents

1. School Committee, Jackie Mendonsa, and various parents. Jackie, the principal, presented:
 - b) They had cut the budget, then the state cut the IELP grant in the amount of \$11K this year, \$22K next year, and \$33K the year after. She can absorb 11K this year, but cannot absorb the rest.
 - c) The town is responsible for children who have special needs. If we don't have a pre-school, the children would have to be out-placed, which would cost about \$50K, per child or \$250K this year for the 5 students.
 - d) We have 4 students on reduced tuition, 6 on free lunch, which equals 60% of reduced tuition students.
 - e) They have lost their Kindergarten Grant from the state – an unfunded mandate
 - f) The expenditure has not increased, the income is going away.
 - g) Due to the present preschool, we estimate that we spend \$120,000 vs \$200K to out place them, which doesn't include transportation.
 - h) We are asking that they tighten their budget by \$10,000 not that we don't want to eliminate the preschool.
 - i) George recommended that we hold off on all budget decisions until the end of the meeting.
- 2) Police Chief
 - a) Tom was not involved in the Police wages negotiations and was not aware of the budget overruns until the end of the current fiscal year.
 - b) Tom submitted a budget this time last year before he knew about the overrun from last year.
 - c) Tom is willing to be creative with the schedule.
 - d) Tom would like to replace the one 20" shotgun with a smaller barrel or use it as a trade in on a new one that is shorter.
 - e) Tom is willing to rescind the operating expense line item and recalculate the wage line item. He will return to the meeting after he calculates the wages.
- 3) The Select Board budget:
 - a) Discussion about the levy
 - b) Eric asked the Select Board what line items the Finance Committee Reserves were earmarked for.
- 4) Finance Committee Budget changes:
 1. Retirement: line item: 164: Increase of \$2,129.
 2. Regional Transportation: line item: Reduction of \$6,184
 - a) The changes nets out to a .91% increase in the levy, a \$44K increase in the levy
- 5) Select Board Budget line item review
 - a) Elaine's:
 3. Line 10: Administrative support: This has been due to the supplement the admin secretary item once the Town Clerk and the Select Board Secretary were split into 2 different jobs.
 4. Line 12: Reserve Fund: Too much funds in the Fin Comm Reserve
 5. Line 62: Repairs: This is reduced by \$4,500
 - b) Eric's questions:
 1. Lines 58 and 63. The oil line is too low.
- 6) Police Chief returns: What Becky came up with is close to what his estimates are \$120K
- 7) Select Board Budget line item review
 - a) George's questions
 1. Line 185: Gasoline leak at the Fire Station: We are paying \$5,000 per year to the EPA. Ongoing general maintenance is \$10,000. We had hoped to get a final report, but the wells were dry. They need to come and test. All the neighbor's wells have to be tested.
 - b) Elaine: New Library Fund
- 8) We have reduced the Shutesbury Fin Comm Budget by a total of \$19,415:
 - a) Fuel: \$2,000

- b) Heating: \$3,000
 - c) School Transportation: \$6,184
 - d) County Retirement \$3,231
 - e) Gas line item: \$5,000
- 9) SES School Budget – The budget was reduced \$10,737 by and they are requesting they get it back.
 - 10) Police is requesting an additional \$5,000 for the Police wages.
 - 11) Motion made and passed by 5 and 2 abstained to re-fund the SES Elementary School Budget by \$8,000, leaving them at \$2,738 lower than requested.
 - 12) Motion made and passed by 4 and 3 opposed to fund the Police Wages line item budget at \$120,533.
 - 13) Motion made and passed by 5 and 2 abstained to **NOT** recommend Select Board Committee's Budget.
 - 14) \$47,293 budget increase, for a total \$6,242,051, approximately 1%.
 - 15) Elaine suggested that the Select Board withdraw their budget. Mike DiChiara agrees with Elaine's suggestion.
 - 16) The Select Board decided to withdraw their budget from the warrant.
 - 17) Meeting adjourned at 10pm
 - 18) Next meeting Tuesday, May 2, 2017
 - 19) Upcoming FY17 Meeting Schedule
 - a) Tuesday, May 2, 2017, 7pm
 - b) Wednesday, May 3, 2017, 7pm
 - c) Saturday, May 6, 2017, 8:30am, Town Meeting
 - d) Thursday, June 8, 2017, 7pm