

Shutesbury Board of Selectmen Tuesday January 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Chairwoman Elaine Puleo and members Al Springer and April Stein.

Also Present: Town Administrator Rebecca Torres, Administrative Secretary Leslie Bracebridge recording.

Chairman Puleo opened the meeting at 6:30 P.M. at the Shutesbury Town Hall

Appointments

Police Chief Harding:

- Jesse Ritter did not get into the Academy because it filled to capacity with full time officers who get first priority. Jesse will watch for other options.
- Officer Jeffrey Soto starts the Academy on February 4th.
- Chief Harding is ready to hire Auxiliary Officer Thomas Herzig as a part time officer:
 - Auxiliary Officer Herzig already has reserve academy training.
 - As a new part time officer Mr. Herzig will still ride with other officers for another month to ease him into a regular schedule of working on his own.
 - Officer Herzig will be taken through the court experience by Chief Harding.
 - Chief Harding remarked that as an auxiliary officer, Officer Herzig has done well.
 - The only expense in hiring him will be his required firearms qualification.

Selectmen agreed with Chief Harding that it is time to hire Auxiliary Officer Thomas Herzig as a part time officer. A Personnel Action Form (PAF) will be developed.

- There is now room for a new auxiliary officer in the Police Department.
- Review of February schedule.
- At the recent Western Mass Chief's meeting Chief Harding learned that State Police are getting more involved in school safety. Shutesbury is associated with the State Police in Belchertown.
- There may be a Franklin/Hampshire police and fire tabletop exercise for an active shooter event.
- The Monday, January 14 public forum at the Shutesbury School was not heavily attended. Most questions concerned how Shutesbury's system works.
 - State Police are willing to come out and review methods.
 - For physical alterations, money is a factor.
 - Parents don't want to "alter the landscape" in ways that children would take notice.
 - The front door will be locked for the most part of everyday.
 - Lockdown drills are becoming routine for the children, without making them nervous.
 - The school's a good system and it should always continue to be progressing.
 - There is no 100%.
- Chief Harding was invited to attend a Regional Franklin County Emergency Planning Meeting with Chief Tibbetts. There is an effort to get law enforcement more involved in Emergency Planning:
 - The goal is to get Police and Fire doing regular training together.
 - Chief Harding will draw local law enforcement officials into emergency planning.
 - Chief Tibbetts received praise in front of everyone at the meeting for having his town so well prepared and organized in the realm of emergency management.

Topics

1. Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB):

- The February 2 region meeting needs broad publicity.
- Shutesbury's local forum will be February 27 at 6:30 PM in the elementary school.
 - Elaine hopes to provide pizza and childcare: Perhaps donations will be made and volunteers will offer childcare. Childcare providers would have to be "CORI checked."

- A 1 or 2 page summary of the consultants' report will be mailed to every house. Complete reports (expected to be 50 pages long) should be at the Town Hall, Library, and School.
2. Amherst-Pelham Region **4-Town Meeting** (of Selectmen, Finance and School Committees) **Update:**
 - The Finance Committee was represented.
 - Becky summarized the budget summary: "It's a good thing we're looking at changes because we can't sustain what we are currently doing."
 - Leverett needs an override to fund the proposed regional budget. If it fails all towns get knocked down.
 - So far Shutesbury is OK.
 - Shutesbury's "OPEB" (Other Post Employment Benefits) is being rolled into this year's budget.
 - What's saving us is level health care expenses for the last 3 years.
 3. **Selectmen review of Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) proposed resolutions:**
 - Becky asked for Select Board input for her MMA votes in Boston on January 26th for Shutesbury:
 1. **Resolution Calling for Solutions to the Transportation Finance Crisis:** Support.
 2. **Resolution Calling for a Full Local-Federal Partnership to protect the United States Economy, Preserve Essential Services for Citizens, and Ensure the Fiscal Health of the Cities and Towns of the Commonwealth:** Basically protects against forced local property taxes. Support.
 3. **Resolution on the Urgent Need to Ensure Sustainability for OPEB:** Allows flexibility of how each town achieves OPEB liability funding solutions that fit, without the state forcing a one size fits all method or schedule upon the towns. Support.
 4. **Resolution Supporting a Local-State-Federal Partnership to Protect the Environment:** Protects towns from unfunded mandates. Support.
 4. **Solar update:**
 - Today National Grid authorized Shutesbury to turn on the solar panels at the Fire Station.
 - The panels were previously turned on early, on the advice of the contractor. This caused the town to be billed for the additional electricity made until the town received the first invoice and saw the problem. The contractor agreed to cover the additional expense.
 - Becky hopes for a 400 kilowatt municipal system to next be installed in Shutesbury.
 5. **Shutesbury Athletic Club (AC):**
 - As the "Local Licensing Authority" Selectmen received notice of an April hearing of the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission regarding the Shutesbury Athletic Club. Becky reported that the Club will continue to get these letters until the AC pays off back unemployment taxes.
 6. **Select Board Reports:**
 - Lake Wyola Advisory Committee (LWAC) meets on Saturday, January 19. (Secretary's note: The meeting was cancelled after the Select Board met.)
 - Town Buildings Committee meets Wednesday, January 16 at 6 PM.

Select Board Action Items

1. **Selectmen signed payroll warrants totaling \$82,108.67.**
2. **Selectmen signed vendor warrants totaling \$517,542.15.**
3. **Minutes of the January 2, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved as written.**
4. **Minutes of the January 8, 2013 joint meeting with the Finance and School Committees were unanimously approved as written.**

Topics the Chairman Could Not Reasonably Have Anticipated

1. All 5 towns have signed the 5-town agreement for health insurance coverage for Union 28 employees. There was some ending discussion about what the January 1, 2013 effective date

meant. The resolution is that withholdings will be taken in January and February will be the first effective date of the new coverage agreement.

2. Selectmen signed a PAF for Angus Rogers as a Fire Fighter.

The Select Board **adjourned at 8:00 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Bracebridge, Administrative Secretary