

Shutesbury Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
April 21, 2015

Members present: Elaine Puleo/Chair and April Stein

Remote participation: Michael Vinskey>Selectman on vacation

Staff present: Linda Avis Scott/Admin. Secretary

Meeting opened at the Shutesbury Town Hall by Puleo/Chair at 6:37 pm

Guest: Pat Dempsey

Appointments:

6:35pm Chief Harding

Topics:

**1. Police Chief Harding:** Chief Harding reports that Pat Dempsey filed a report on 12.15.14 about the Footit's dog; she had been in touch with Nancy Long/Dog Officer about a prior incident with this dog. Harding asks the Board what next step will be. Puleo: the Dog Officer is to follow-up with owner. Dempsey states that she is frustrated; incident on 12.13.14 was reported on 12.15.14 and notes that she is not the only one who has had problems with this particular dog. Puleo: the procedure is that when a report comes in, Long investigates and files a report then the need for a hearing is determined; for dog-to-dog issues, the situation is usually mediated. Dempsey states that she called Long when the incident happened; on 2.5.15, Torres and Long were to go and talk with the owner of the problem dog; in March, they had yet to meet due to problems with contacting the owner. Dempsey: in April, she followed up with Long, however, did not receive a return call; she then met with the Police Chief. Dempsey explains that on 7.10.13 she was walking her dog when three of Footit's dogs went through the electric fence and attacked her dog; neighbors assisted and the police were notified. Dempsey explains that as a result of the attack, her dog developed a stress illness; the dog owners were unwilling to assist with the bill. In December, one dog broke through the fence, attacked her dog then followed her home; her dog was scratched; it is very hard to run away from a dog in the winter; these dogs charge at bikers, run after children and you never know when they may break through. Per Dempsey, the owners are aware of problem yet have not acknowledged that an incident happened; in 2011, the dog knocked over her elderly dog. Puleo: the next action step is for the Select Board to contact Long and Torres to obtain an update on the status of situation then follow up with Dempsey. At 6:48pm, Dempsey leaves the meeting.

Chief Harding reports that he has two working officers, himself and Officer Sean Sawicki; on Monday, Harding received a resignation, effective immediately, from Officer Batchelder. Harding: five to six weeks ago, Batchelder mentioned that because he works fulltime elsewhere, Monday through Friday, and has been covering Sundays regularly in Shutesbury, he no longer wants to work fulltime shifts for Shutesbury; in Leverett, he can work a three-hour shift. Harding states he is willing to accommodate part time officers, however, three-hour shifts do not meet the needs of the town. Harding reports that Sawicki has had a physical exam and is scheduled for the physical fitness test prior to

starting the Academy, located in Springfield, in July. Harding expects an update from Sergeant Masiuk tomorrow; she may be out until July 1. Harding states that he is looking for part-time people; has an auxiliary officer who is coming in on her own time for training without pay, however, he needs trained officers. Harding states that he is working with Sawicki to consider how to meet coverage needs. Puleo asks if a Leverett office would work part time here. Chief: Leverett officers work only part-time; they are not looking to work additional hours; will contact Officer Soto to see if he is interested in additional work. Harding knows of another officer who may be interested in some part-time work; Sawicki will be at the Academy beginning in July and is interested in weekend work, however, because he will be getting paid for his time at Academy, weekend work would be above 40 hours and eligible for overtime. Harding continues: the Academy does not recommend Sunday work; Sawicki plans to stay here, in Shutesbury; has run his own cases and investigations. Puleo recommends Chief Harding report, near the end of August, on how Sawicki is doing regarding weekend work. Vinskey asks how shifts will be covered with just two staff. Chief states that he has yet to do the May schedule. Harding: the idea of being on call is okay for the Chief as he is on salary; alternate and Sawicki get paid for two hours whether they go out on a call or not, therefore, are already paid for first two hours they are out on a call. Per Harding, payroll is available for this coverage. Vinskey notes that the Chief will be on patrol and managing the Chief's duties. Puleo: there is no double coverage; Chief is the day person with overlap by the other officers. Chief: Leverett and Shutesbury have the most day-to-day cooperation; their Chief would provide back up due to automatic mutual aide. Because a large crowd is expected, Puleo asks Harding for guidance on Town Meeting parking plans noting that, in the past, to manage parking the Police set up "no parking" signs. Puleo: an early turnout is expected for the Broadband vote; people will be encouraged to carpool, bike, etc. as there may be issues with parking; the Select Board will judge when to start the meeting based upon parking and arrival of residents. Puleo: Paul Vlach and Walter Tibbetts may be available to assist with parking. Chief: most of the work is putting up signs; may be able to use the larger playfield for parking; will contact volunteers for assistance. Vinskey asks about the school's capacity. Puleo: 275 in cafeteria, 150 in the library and, if needed, another satellite could be set up in the pre-school or music room; trash bag distribution will be held in another building. Stein asks what will be done if building is overcapacity. Puleo: post pone meeting and hold it in a tent outside; head count will be available via sign in; Walter Tibbetts/Fire Chief will be aware of attendance. Puleo will verify capacity for building beyond the per room capacity. Vinskey asks if there could be 500-600 people. Puleo: alternatives may be needed. Chief asks if there have been any road complaints noting that work was done on Sand Hill earlier today and the bog-like area near Brown's pond on Montague Road was also taken care of today. Hunting was short one staff this week. At 7:20pm, Chief Harding leaves the meeting.

**2. Wired West/MBI Update:** Torres/Town Administrator is absent as is attending a WiredWest meeting. Puleo: there was an article in today's *Daily Hampshire Gazette* concerning the Town Meeting votes in either New Salem or Wendell; Torres will attend their meetings. Per Puleo, Crocker Communications, held an open meeting with Wendell. Puleo continues: towns will need to individually apply for MBI grant dollars; there was

an understanding that Wired West would write the grant proposal for towns as a group; apparently, Crocker is encouraging towns to sign up with them individually; Crocker has not said what their cost will be and the Broadband Committee and Torres did not get certain questions answered during the meeting with Crocker. Puleo notes the need for towns to be able to move forward. Vinskey asks if Crocker is suggesting towns go it alone without Wired West. Puleo: yes, this is what Crocker is advocating; WiredWest could contract with Crocker for infrastructure. Stein: in the WiredWest business model, after 5-6 years, subscription income will assist towns in paying off their bonds. Puleo will get more information from Torres and Huntress/Broadband Committee tomorrow. Vinskey notes that the Select Board made the decision to commit to WiredWest.

**3. Committee Updates:** Stein will be meeting in the morning with the Police Department and the Personnel Board regarding contract negotiations.

**4. Regional Assessment Workshop:** Puleo: the materials provided by Roger Hatch, the presenter, are difficult to read; requests that Hatch be asked to send slides in an easy to read electronic format. Puleo: without reviewing numbers, Hatch is insistent that it is the entire town's wealth affecting assessment; notes need for a committee to generate a creative solution. Vinskey: some variables need to be considered; presenter busted some myths about income.

**5. Franklin County Regional Emergency Planning Committee:** Motion made and seconded; all members agree to consider the REPC application. Vinskey requests clarifying information. Puleo explains recertification application; it is Walter Tibbetts/Emergency Management Director's responsibility to complete the "Training Levels of Response Personnel" (attachment F) portion of the application. Puleo recommends the Select Board vote in favor of signing the application pending completion of attachment F and naming Tibbetts as Shutesbury's emergency response coordinator; Puleo will sign once form is completed. All Select Board members agree.

**6. Lake Wyola Association Special Event Application:** A motion is made and seconded to approve the Lake Wyola Special Event Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission special license application for 7.18.15. All Select Board members agree to sign the document.

**7. Select Board Information Session Planning for 4/22 and 4/29:** Details for the information sessions are confirmed. Announcements have been placed on the Town "announce" list, the ecricket, and Next Door Shutesbury; the online Town calendar will be updated to include the information sessions. Vinskey will be available to Skype for the 4.22 session. The Broadband Committee will have representatives at each session.

**8. Shutesbury Republican Committee 3.19.15 letter:** Per the letter, Peter Nyzio has expressed interest in staying on the Board of Registrars; the Committee is unable to provide a list of two additional names. The Board notes that the Statute requires the submission of three names, however, only one has been submitted. A motion is made and

seconded to appoint Peter Nyzio to serve on the Board of Registrars; all members of the Select Board agree.

**9. Emergency Management Team:** Puleo: the Select Board and Town have been approved to go forward with the FEMA Flood Insurance Program without a probationary period; an announcement will go out with Town Meeting mailing to ensure residents are informed. Stein will let the Lake Wyola Advisory Committee know.

**Select Board Action Items:**

1. Carry over approval of the 3.24.15 meeting minutes until the next meeting.
2. Payroll Warrants totaling \$87,859.60 are signed.
3. Vendor Warrants totaling \$451,614.39 are signed.
4. The Recertification Franklin County Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC) document is signed.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits used at the meeting

1. Franklin County Regional Emergency Planning Committee application
2. Lake Wyola Association ABCC Special License application
3. Shutesbury Republican Committee 3.19.15 letter

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at Town Hall.

At 7:55pm, they all agree to adjourn the Open Session.

Motion made and seconded to go into Executive Session for reason #3.

Stein: aye, Vinskey: aye, and Puleo: aye.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Avis Scott  
Administrative Secretary