

TA Report 3.20.10

PART TIME JANITOR SHUTESBURY

The Town of Shutesbury is seeking applicants for the position of part-time Custodian. The Custodian is in charge of day-to-day cleaning and maintenance of the Town Hall and M.N. Spear Memorial Library. Salary is \$9.86/hr. Schedule is flexible for at least 2 blocks of time a week up to 8 hours. Please submit resume to Becky Torres, Town Administrator, P.O. Box 276, Shutesbury, MA 01072. Call for job description or more information 413-259-1214. AA/EOE. DEADLINE for application is March 24, thanks.

WINTER USE OF LAKE WYOLA BY-LAW COMMITTEE MEETING, Monday, March 23, 6:30pm at the town hall. The Winter Use of Lake Wyola By Law Committee zeroed in on the issues at their first meeting and will be ready to bring a By Law to the May 1, 2010 Annual Town Meeting.

FIRE STATION GASOLINE LEAK – On Thursday Environmental Scientist, Joel Harris, came to Shutesbury and took surface water samples of the wetland in 2 areas, the original break out point and further down stream. He is returning this week to redo some indoor air quality tests because the presence of a chain saw might alter the results. Friday the full Selectboard, Fire Chief and Town Administrator went to Springfield to meet again with DEP. The first part of the meeting was spent on the IRA. From there the discussion turned to a proposal for a scope of work. We will proceed with the assessment in the first phase. Review water and air quality tests and take a series of samples of the southwestern section. The water samples of the new breakout will be reviewed and remediation recommendations will be based on lab results. The smoking gun is still missing. DEP continues to support our efforts. Friday the discussion included their staff experts as before as well as the Western Mass DEP Regional Director, Michael Gorski. They said there might be more than \$90,000 available of the remediation calls for it. DEP will begin work on the scope of work and review with us.

DOG OFFICER is looking for a home for 4-year-old male neutered German Sheppard. He was surrendered not a stray, so she has some background. Please call the dog officer if you are interested, 259-1279.

BUDGET AND FINANCE 2010

There will be a meeting in Amherst at the Regional School for the 4 Towns, April 3, 2010, for Selectboard, Finance and School Committees. The Amherst override is March 23. Shutesbury does not need to ask for an override to pass the Regional School budget requested by the school this year. There are 2 reasons. One is we passed a \$200,000 override 2 years ago that aided us in putting operating costs back into the budget that we were paying out of free cash every year. Passage of our override cured our structural deficit. Budgets are still tight. Upon request from the finance committee, all departments have come in with zero % budget requests for FY2011. The second reason is our enrollment numbers at the regional school have been in decline so our assessment compared to other towns is not increasing. Communities acknowledged at an earlier 4 town meeting, that Amherst's inability to support increases over the last few years has kept assessments lower for the rest of us. At that meeting Leverett, Pelham, and Shutesbury representatives told Amherst they would find a way to support whatever increase in funding for the regional school budget that Amherst could support with passage of their override. A \$2 million shortfall will mean many more layoffs at the school on top of the 50 layoffs from last year, and elimination of programs. The Amherst override is a critical event for the future of the

Amherst Pelham regional school system. The regional school is a corner stone of all 4 communities and it will impact us all. First it will impact our kids and then our property values.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE/SELECTBOARD Met 3/18/10, 9:00pm, and together they created an Education Study Committee. Motions were made simultaneously and language agreed to jointly on the charge, composition and the name of the committee. The charge of this special purpose committee is “to engage in the reflection of educational goals and to explore options for the school aged children of our town.” There will be 9 members. 3 members will be drawn from the community, one a parent of preK-12th grade children and 2 nonschool parent Shutesbury residents. Letters of interest for these 3 positions should be sent to the School Committee and Selectboard. The Selectboard and School Committee will agree on these appointments jointly 5/4/10.

SHUTESBURY/FARMERS MARKET MEETING SATURDAY was held 3/20 AT 8:30AM at town hall in Shutesbury. The Market folks set a start date of **May 22, 2010**. The hours will remain the same as last year, **Saturdays, 8:30am until noon**. If you would like to participate in the market as a craft person or farmer/grower, please contact me as well, Becky Torres, 259-1214. The market welcomes musicians and entertainers who would like to get public exposure, without compensation. Please contact me if you are interested. Chicken workshop at Simple Farm is April 3, 2010.

Becky Torres,
Shutesbury Town Administrator
townadmin@shutesbury.org
413-259-1214

Openings on:
Conservation Commission (only 1 spot)
Lake Wyola Advisory Committee
Water Resources Committee
And
Recreation Committee (we need lots of people! Committee is down to 0)

Please come to meetings you are interested in becoming a member of to see what is going on. Meeting notices are on the bulletin board in lobby of town hall. Please call if you have any questions.