

TA Report 1.13.12

This Tuesday, January 10, 2012, the town held a debt exclusion election. **522 yes to 522 no** are the results of the debt exclusion override for a proposed new library, with one provisional ballot whose status is not yet determined. There are also 8 challenged ballots included in the count. The new library project was supported with a 2/3 votes, 268 yes to 134 no at the October 26, 2011 Special Town Meeting. At the November 8, 2011 debt exclusion election the count was 382 yes to 423 no, which lead us to where we are today. The vote that just took place is for the funding of the project. Fundraising for the library project now stands at \$170,000.

CURRENT STATUS OF DEBT EXCLUSION ELECTION to FUND PROPOSED NEW LIBRARY

As many people are aware there are complications with the results of Tuesday night's election. Our Town Clerk is working with Town Counsel and state election officials to resolve the open issues surround the ballots.

We appreciate everyone's concern in this matter.

Saturday, January 14, 2012, 10am there will be a meeting of the Board of Registrars at the Shutesbury Elementary School.

The agenda is:

1. Set a tentative recount date
2. Town Clerk will give an update on status of January 10 tied election

Folks have asked if there will be an opportunity for public input at this meeting. The answer is this meeting of the Board of Registrars is not intended to be a public forum and the only people voting will be Registrars. The Registrars role is limited to a fair and accurate count of the vote.

U28 Survey. U28 (our local elementary school union) is looking for community feed back on how they communicate with residents, parents, town officials and staff. Surveys are available in town hall with an envelope to deposit them in. The survey is also available at the post office, elementary school, library and online. The survey closes January 23, 2012.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Union28Survey>

SHUTESBURY TAX RATE SET

The new tax rate has been set at \$19.56/1000 valuation for FY12. This is an increase of .98% (less than 1%) from last year's (FY11) tax rate of \$19.37/1000 valuation. Below is the new Average Home Value, Annual Property Tax Bill on Average Home and Tax Rate/Thousand:

2012	\$247,104.00	\$4,833.00	\$19.56
------	--------------	------------	---------

The increase for the average home valued at \$247,104.00 is \$46.93 a year over last year's tax bill.

Volunteers Needed:

On the Personnel Board, Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee

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