

Shutesbury Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 22, 2009, 6:15pm,
Shutesbury Elementary School Conference Room

Finance Committee Members Present: Patrick Callahan, Bill Wells, Lori Tuominen, Weezie Houle, Gary Hirshfield

Finance Committee Members Absent: George Arvanitis, Rus Wilson

Visitors Present: Becky Torres, Joan Wickman, Charles Paulin

1. **Meeting called to order at:** 6:24pm
2. **Becky Torres** distributed Shutesbury's current financial reports
3. **Joan Wickman** distributed the Union 28 Budget and Shutesbury Elementary School Budget
4. **Discussions:**
 - a. **Patrick Callahan** outlined recent history of Shutesbury's financial crunch including 2.5% override in 2007 and promise by Finance Committee to town not to spend free cash to balance the budget.
 - b. **Becky Torres** mentioned several factors that are hitting Shutesbury hard including UMass deficits, over 40 houses (4.5%) in Shutesbury are on the market, and unemployed Shutesbury residents
 - c. **Bill Wells** stated that his taxes have gone up 10% per year for 19 years
 - d. **Joan Wickman:**
 - i. Description of Budgets she distributed
 - ii. Described the 480 reports she has to do for the state for the 4 schools (120 each) and the 120 meetings she has to attend per year hence the need for her administrative staff.
 - iii. Shutesbury pays ¼ for the administration of Union 28
 - iv. Union 28 budget consists mostly of personnel costs, operational costs and only 2% on discretionary funding.
 - v. The Union 28 budget process and upcoming budget meetings: October 26th, the B & P (Budget & Personnel) meeting to prepare the budget, The School Committees review the budget at their November meetings, B & P get the budget back in December , and U28 meeting in the end of January the Union votes on it.
 - vi. Other discussion regarding Teacher's steps, the SpEd Director's funding
 - e. **Current state of the Commonwealth's financial health**
 - f. **Formula of Union 28's personnel annual increase**
 - g. **Projected Commonwealth**
5. **Adjourned the meeting at:** 7:00pm

Votes Taken: None