

**Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 7 p.m., Town Hall**

**Finance Committee Members Present:** George Arvanitis, Patrick Callahan, Weezie Houle, Lori Tuominen, Gary Hirshfield

**Members Absent:** Bill Wells, Rus Wilson

**Guests:** Becky Torres, Sergeant Wall & Chief Harding

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm
2. Approved the minutes of February 2, 2010 & March 2, 2010 as amended.
3. Reports of Committees
  - a. CPA – Bill Wells - none
  - b. Personnel – George Arvanitis – Salary negotiation meetings for the Police Union and the Police Chief are still pending. They are creating new performance evaluation process, the contract and independent employees will use a self-evaluation. The hourly, non-contracted, supervised employees will use a grading system with less text and not a self review. Comp and sick policies are being reviewed.
  - c. LFNAC – Lori Tuominen – We met and reviewed the latest design. The next step is to determine the cost analysis. Russ and Dale raised concerns that the project was over budget. The MBLC grant process will be very competitive. Meeting tomorrow night with and next week without the architects.
  - d. School Committee – Weezie Houle –
    - i. Budget was passed with 0% increase
    - ii. A committee was formed: The Shutesbury Education Study Committee to study the educational future of Shutesbury.
  - e. Regional School update – Waiting for override results. @ 8:55pm Override passed!
4. Town Administrator
  - a. FY11 Budget:
    - i. Becky has made adjustments to both the spending and the revenue side of the budget to make the figures more conservatives.
    - ii. State budget update – FY11 draft budget has been distributed.
    - iii. On Revenue: Adjustment on Chapter 70 aid, only showing a 4% decrease from FY10 budget amount (this came from Stan Rosenberg's office). They haven't approved it yet.
    - iv. Lottery is still at -10% there is some flexibility.
    - v. On Expenditures side, there is an adjustment of a transfer of \$32,000 to stabilization.
  - b. Police vehicle – see 8. a.
  - c. Contract negotiations – see 3.b.
5. Revenue reports – none this month
6. Expense reports – We reviewed the reports.
7. New business
  - a. Police SUV has been determined to be unsafe. The brake lines fell out and nearly caused an accident. They are requesting the use Fin Comm. reserve funds to purchase a new loaded 4x4 Ford Explorer for \$30,000. Our Highway overage is estimated to be only about \$10,000 where as last year it was at \$80,000 at the end of winter. It is unforeseen and extraordinary and it is qualified to be purchased with Fin Comm. reserves.

- b. **A motion** is made for the Finance Committee to expend the sum up to \$30,000 from its Reserve Funds to purchase a Police SUV contingent upon the Capital Planning Committee and Select board approval. The Finance committee views this as an unforeseen and extraordinary circumstance. The existing SUV has been determined to be unsafe by a reliable mechanic and ordered out of service by the Select Board. Second. Discussion. Unanimously approved.
- c. **A motion** has been made to ask the Town Administrator and Financial officials to look into and consider other possible financing options, including a Special Town Meeting to approve alternate financing prior to the Annual Town Meeting on May 1, 2010. Second. Discussion. Unanimously approved.

**Votes Taken:**

- 1. The Finance Committee agrees to expend the sum up to \$30,000 from its Reserve Funds to purchase a Police SUV contingent upon the Capital Planning Committee and Select board approval. The vote passed unanimously.
- 2. To ask the Town Administrator and Financial officials to look into and consider other possible financing options, including a Special Town Meeting to approve alternate financing prior to the Annual Town Meeting on May 1, 2010. . The vote passed unanimously.

- 8. Next meetings – April 6, 2010, April 20, 2010
- 9. Meeting Adjourned at 9:15pm
- 10. Sen. Rosenberg’s municipal meeting is 3-27-10.