

SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes for Dec. 18, 2007
Shutesbury Town Hall

Members present: Eric Stocker, chairman, Rus Wilson, Elaine Puleo, Al Springer, Lori Tuominen, Mark Pocsik and Patrick J. Callahan. Guests: David Dann, town administrator, Tim Hunting, highway superintendent and Tom Harding, police chief.

The meeting convened at 7:04 p.m.

Tim Hunting, highway superintendent, presented this budget request for the next fiscal year. This includes the highway uniform line, \$2,500, up from \$2,200 this year; tools and equipment, \$3,000, down \$600; highway expenses \$2,700, level funded; summer help, \$3,500, level funded; highway overtime, \$4,000, level funded; machinery maintenance, \$23,000, level funded; gravel road maintenance, \$2,500, level funded; road markings, \$7,500, level funded; highway material, \$25,000, level funded; snow removal materials, \$45,000, level funded. Tim also says there is a new line item for catch basin cleaning because the new Leverett/Prescott/Cooleyville road project calls for installing a series of 97 new ones on that stretch of roadway.

Eric asked Tim about fuel costs, noting that it's difficult or impossible to know what gasoline and diesel will cost next year. Currently the town gets its fuel from the FRCOG under an annual bid process, says David Dann, and the cost is sure to rise.

Tim says he requested a new power broom attachment for the front of the new backhoe from the capital planning committee. He says it will be useful for road cleaning.

Tom Harding outlined his budget request for the next year. Overall it is level funded, with cruiser maintenance at \$6,000, a decrease of \$1,000 from this year; \$11,500 for operations, level funded; and \$7,000 for cruiser fuel, up \$1,000 taken from cruiser maintenance. Tom says a community policing grant for \$11,299 is used to offset payroll costs for investigations and if more grant money is available, it will pay for more part-time hours.

Tom says work is underway to draft a mutual aid agreement with area towns.

Tom also says new software for the police radio system is working well. He says the department is asking for a new cruiser this year as part of the rotation system for police vehicles.

The minutes of the Dec. 4, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved.

David Dann reminded the committee that Amherst Town Manager Larry Shaffer wants individual meetings with the towns about the proposed new ambulance fees structure and that Shutesbury is still pushing for a joint meeting. He also says Jan. 26 is the proposed four-town meeting about the regional budget held in Amherst.

The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 15.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan.