

**SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes for Feb. 13, 2007**  
**Shutesbury Town Hall**

Members present: Eric Stocker, chairman, Lori Tuominen, Rus Wilson, Al Springer, Al Beswick and Patrick J. Callahan. Guests: David Dann, town administrator, Becky Torres, selectwoman, Jeff Quackenbush and Ellen McKay of the Capital Planning Committee.

The meeting was preceded by a meeting of the capital planning committee. That panel approved spending \$60,000 for the coming year. It was decided to use borrowing to pay for repairs and upgrades at the Highway Department garage and to purchase a new backhoe.

The Finance Committee meeting convened at 7:15 p.m.

The minutes of the Jan. 30, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved as amended.

Rus Wilson says he is carefully watching the ongoing process used by the Planning Board to redraft the town's zoning bylaw and is concerned that the board may be suggesting changes that aren't designed to benefit landowners but fit an anti-development agenda of some town residents. Becky says she also is carefully watching the development of the zoning bylaw.

Maryanne Jorgensen from the elementary and regional school committees came to discuss the budget situation. She says if Amherst and regional schools are required to hold spending increases to 1 percent, as suggested by the Amherst Finance Committee, it would require significant cuts, including teaching positions. She also says a 1 percent increase in school budgets in Amherst would mean a 3.3 percent decrease for Shutesbury in the regional budget.

She noted that a meeting of the four regional towns was set for March 10.

The committee approved a request for a transfer from Finance Committee reserves of \$800 to pay for the Connect CTY program to be used to contact town residents in the case of emergency.

The committee decided not to approve \$3,000 for software upgrades for the assessor's. David Dann says he will get more information about this item.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

The next meeting is set for Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan.

