

SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes for May 17, 2005
Shutesbury Town Hall

Members present: Eric Stocker, chairman, Al Beswick, Al Springer, Lori Tuominen and Patrick J. Callahan.

The meeting convened at 7:07 p.m.

The minutes of the May 3 meeting were approved unanimously.

At 7:11 p.m., the committee met with the selectmen and Maryanne Jorgensen, Shutesbury's representative to the regional school committee. Maryanne says health insurance costs for the region have increased sharply since the budget was drafted. But because \$300,000 in anticipated expenses are not occurring, there won't have to be any more cuts to the budget as approved, despite the health costs.

She says the Amherst Finance Committee wants to see the overall increase in the regional budget brought to 7.7 percent, and once that is reached, using possible new state aid and the found money, the overall assessment for the towns will be lowered. At this time it appears that Shutesbury's share will be about 5.17 percent, a decrease of \$10,260 from the budget approved at Annual Town Meeting.

Overall, this was greeted as good news for the town.

The joint meeting adjourned at about 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan.