

SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes for May 23, 2006
Shutesbury Town Hall

Members present: Eric Stocker, chairman, Al Beswick, Al Springer, Russ Greco and Patrick J. Callahan.

The meeting convened at 7:25 p.m.

Al Beswick reported on the recent meeting of the Shutesbury School Committee. He noted the controversy surrounding Michael DeChiara's questioning of one of the candidates for principal about wearing a prominent Christian cross. Although the incident didn't involve illegality, Al opined that it showed poor judgment.

He also says the school board was not clear about what the Finance Committee wanted in terms of its budget proposal.

Patrick then made a motion to have Al report back to the School Committee that the finance panel wants the budget reduced by \$13,000 from what the school had requested. Al Springer seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Eric asked about the procedure for determining what budget lines are overdrawn as the year comes to an end. He wanted to know how the Finance Committee is informed so that adjustments can be made.

Russ Greco asked about how the Zoning Board of Appeals can get some clerical help. He says the chairman has moved out of town and now he is trying to keep up with various notification and filing requirements.

The committee told him to go to David Dann, the town administrator, and request a transfer from the Finance Committee to cover the unexpected clerical costs and for the long-term to request money in the ZBA budget line. It was noted that other town committees, including the Conservation Commission, have recently sought help with clerical duties.

The next meeting was set for June 20 to adjust the budget.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan.