

SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes for June 17, 2008
Shutesbury Town Hall

Members present: Eric Stocker, chairman, Rus Wilson, Al Springer, Mark Pocsik, Elaine Puleo and Patrick J. Callahan. Guests: David Dann, town administrator; Becky Torres, selectwoman.

The meeting convened at 7:07 p.m.

The minutes of the April 22 and 29 meetings were approved unanimously.

Elaine reported that the cafeteria manager at the elementary school quit 13 days prior to the end of the school year. She says there is a deficit of between \$14,000 and \$18,000 in the lunch program, according to school officials. The School Committee is reviewing the situation, Elaine says.

She also reported there is an ongoing discussion about the 158 hours of overtime that has been reported by the school's head custodian. Much of this overtime was worked for snow removal and for town meeting and events that required room set-ups and cleanup. It was generally agreed that this matter is a management issue between the custodian, the principal and the School Committee.

David Dann also says he will talk with Dan Hayes, chairman of the School Committee, about economic efficiencies the school can implement in view of likely tight budgets in the future.

David also reported that the cleanup of the gasoline spill from the buried tank at the fire station will require a state licensed site profession to oversee the process. He says the selectmen will review the initial report about the spill and that the cost to the town is likely to be significant.

David said a recent forum on plans for the library held at the Sirius Community was well attended and that the library planning committee has a \$60,000 state planning grant.

Rus Wilson agreed to be the Finance Committee representative to the Personnel Board.

The committee approved a motion to support an agreement between the town and Justin Wall, a police officer, to provide funding to allow him to attend the police academy. Under the agreement the town will pay for tuition and associated costs and Wall agrees to remain the town's employ for three years after completing the academy.

The committee also approved unanimously the transfer of \$506.89 from the Finance Committee reserve and \$7,473 from other budget accounts to cover various overdrawn accounts. The total amount is \$7,980.59. The overdrawn accounts were highway fuel, \$5,000; snow removal expenses, \$2,096 and tree warden expenses, \$377.

The committee agreed to write a letter to town departments warning that the next budget cycle is likely to be very difficult and to plan accordingly.

The next meeting was set for Aug. 19.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan.