

**SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes for April 24, 2007**  
**Shutesbury Town Hall**

Members present: Eric Stocker, chairman, Lori Tuominen, Al Beswick, Al Springer and Patrick J. Callahan. Guests: David Dann, town administrator, Becky Torres, Ralph Armstrong, Debra Pichanick, selectmen, Town Clerk Leslie Bracebridge,; Planning Board members Deacon Bonner, Jeff Lacy, Jim Aaron.

The meeting convened at 7:07 p.m.

The minutes of the March 13 meeting were approved unanimously. The minutes of the April 10 meeting were approved unanimously as amended.

The board reviewed the latest expense report. David Dann says there will be about \$20,000 in unexpended funds available plus another \$15,000 that had been set aside for the unemployment fund. Overall, he says, about \$100,000 in free cash will be generated for the next budget cycle.

The Planning Board members arrived and explained their request for \$3,500 in additional funds to be used for educational materials and to pay expenses related to the drafting of the new zoning bylaw. The proposal was to have been presented to Annual Town Meeting, but the board decided against bringing it to a vote at this time. Deacon Bonner, chairman of the board says the money will be used to pay for consultants, hydrogeology studies and to pay for mounted illustrations to be used in public hearings.

Becky Torres says there is a need for more hydrology testing in the town center area.

Eric Stocker asked if this is the final request for funding from the planners, and Bonner replied that it is.

Al Beswick says he has no confidence in the current leadership of the Planning Board and urged the Finance Committee to reject the request. Patrick says he will support it because additional information should lead to a better decision by the voters.

Al Springer opposed the move because he contends enough money has been spent by the Planning Board on its proposed zoning revision.

The Finance Committee voted 3-2 to approve the request for \$3,500 for the Planning Board. Al Beswick and Al Springer voted against the motion, and Eric, Lori and Patrick voted in favor.

After a discussion with the selectmen on the final town budget proposal for Annual Town Meeting, the two board approved a final budget document that included a funding gap of \$107,007 to be funded with free cash.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting was scheduled for just prior to Annual Town Meeting on May 5 at 8:45 a.m.

Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan