

SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes for Sept. 14, 2004
Shutesbury Town Hall

Members present: Chairman Eric Stocker, Al Beswick, Russ Greco, Patrick J. Callahan and Russ Wilson. Guests: Lori Tuominen, David Ames, town administrator, Al Springer, Joe Jacobs and Becky Torres, selectmen.

The meeting convened at 7:07 p.m.

The minutes of the Aug. 9 meeting were approved unanimously.

Eric read a letter from Sen. Stan Rosenberg saying the town is likely to receive an extra \$20,243 in state aid contained in the supplemental budget. David Ames says no decision has been made on how to use the new funds.

Al reported on the most recent meeting of the School Committee. He says there are now 139 pupils at the elementary school, not counting the pre-school.

Patrick reported on the deliberations of the Police Study Committee.

David Ames says resumes for the new town administrator are due by Oct. 12.

Eric says the Capital Planning Committee supports buying the O-32 property, also known as the Taylor property.

David Ames reported that the fire station roof needs replacement and the highway barn has problems as well. Work will also be needed on the Old Town Hall roof, he says. Currently there is \$26,000 in the building repair fund, not enough to pay for the fire department roof. Russ Wilson suggested that some money for the job can be saved by using volunteers. Eric says money can be earmarked for that purposed from the stabilization fund.

A motion was made by Patrick to elect Eric as chairman for the next year. Also, Patrick will be recording secretary; Al will be representative to the School Committee; Eric and Lori will serve on the Capital Planning Committee; Patrick will serve on the Police Study and town administrator search committees; Russ Greco will serve on the police chief search committee and Russ Wilson will continue on the LCP road committee. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion of David Ames' proposal to use free cash to pay for the roofs and a library study proposal.

Regarding the O-32 proposed land purchase, David Ames outlines several options for financing the plan to be presented at special Town Meeting. The price tag for the land is \$212,500. Al proposed using all borrowed funds, saying he is "allergic to using free

cash.” Joe Jacobs suggested a combination of borrowed money and free cash, an idea supported by Becky and Eric. Patrick made a motion to use \$125,000 from borrowing and the rest from free cash, and if that fails to use all free cash. The motion passed with Patrick, Eric, Russ W., Russ G. voting yes, Al voting no.

Eric asked David to issue requests for budgets to the town department.

There was also a motion to use some free cash to adjust the tax rate downward once the specific amount is certified. It was approved unanimously.

The next meeting was set for Sept. 30. at 7 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan.