

Shutesbury Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes March 11, 2014

Members present: Members Al Springer and April Stein.

Members Absent: Chairman Elaine Puleo.

Remote participation: None.

Staff present: Town Administrator Rebecca Torres, Administrative Secretary Leslie Bracebridge.

Press present: None.

Guests: Conservation Commission member Gail Fleischaker.

Chairman Puleo opened the meeting at 6:30 P.M. at the Shutesbury Town Hall.

Appointments

Police Chief Harding:

1. Mike Thomas has submitted his resignation.
 - Because there are only 2 part time officers and one without a lot of availability, Chief Harding is searching for a replacement.
 - Search has led to 2 viable responses for part time, and for a number of Auxiliary Officers.
 - The Department will start interviewing part timers and then interview for Auxiliary officers.
 - Vests are taking time to make and are attached to a federal grant. They are expected to stay with the officer and are expected to have five-year serviceability.
 - Chief Harding is happy to get inquiries from people who appear to be qualified.
2. The 2008 cruiser is costing the town money in repairs.
 - Chief Harding has talked to the Finance Committee about the possibility of a new cruiser.
 - Money is tight.
 - Another Police Department might be willing to buy the 2008 if Shutesbury could get a new cruiser.
 - The Fire Chief has not voiced any complaints with his cruiser.
 - Chief Harding's recommendations are based on the repair service – ESP's recommendations.
 - The state bid is used to buy replacement tires.
 - Brakes were \$1100 including pads and rotors.
 - A recall has been processed.
 - The old firearms are worth \$2200.
 - The cost of a new cruiser is less than \$33,000.
3. Meeting at UMass today:
 - MEMA is discussing a Public Safety dedicated network:
 - It would be totally separate from private use and the government is going to run it.
 - Each state submits a plan.
 - 3-5 years before construction.
 - No cost estimates are available.
 - Probably won't come to fruition while we are in our present positions.
 - They don't know what each county has.
 - Just at information gathering stage right now.
 - Present funding is only to see how they would do it.
4. Shutesbury was not impacted by the UMass Blarney Blowout.
5. Elementary School:
 - Sgt. Masiuk and Chief Harding will participate in the Learning Partners program.
 - Will try to come up with money from operating to donate bikes and helmets to the silent auction.

6. Talk at Lake for a legal fireworks display this year.
 - They wish to ask the town for a contribution.
 - It never developed last year.
 - \$10,000 is the minimum price for a legal show.
7. No new complaints on the Lake dog.

At 7:12 PM a motion was made and seconded to go into executive session for reason #3, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation regarding a complaint of salt in water, and resume open session following executive session: Springer - Aye, Stein – Aye.

At 7:35 PM the Select Board resumed open meeting:

Topics

1. Knotweed Event Planning:

- No knotweed planning has been done.
- A University of Massachusetts student who grew up in Shutesbury is doing a knotweed project and may have an interest in including Shutesbury in her work.
- Including the student in addressing Shutesbury's knotweed might lead to interest by a number of Shutesbury residents.
- There is a need for public meetings.
- Right now officials are focused on town meeting. Knotweed will be pursued after town meeting, but before the fall treatment time.

2. Broadband Committee Update:

- Becky is collecting email addresses of those who are interested in being appointed to the committee.
- Becky will hold meetings on the March 27th and 29th for all interested people to attend.

3. Request for legal fees:

- **A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to hire McGregor Associates for the sum of \$2500 to research and write an appeal to the DEP (Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection)'s superseding order of conditions, file #286-0249 issued March 5, 2014 concerning Lot F 105.**

Select Board Action Items

1. Selectmen unanimously voted to approve the February 25, 2014 meeting minutes as written.

2. Selectmen signed vendor warrants totaling \$118,810.70.

3. Selectmen signed payroll warrants totaling \$88,715.76.

4. Sign legal services agreement: See vote in Topics #3 above.

5. Republican Registrar letter:

- In January the Select Board sent out a notification letter to the Republican Town Committee in keeping with MGL Ch. 51 S. 15, requesting the names of 3 Shutesbury Republicans wishing to serve on the Board of Registrars, from which the Selectmen could select to appoint to a 3-year term on the Board of Registrars before April 1.
- Becky reviewed Select Board appointment procedures of the previous year which included 3 names of Democrats, and corresponding interviews.
- In response to the Republicans submitting only 1 name, the name of the current Republican Registrar, Marilyn Tibbetts, **Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint Marilyn Tibbetts to the Board of Registrars for a 3 year term beginning April 1, 2014.**

6. Vote snow emergency as of 3/1/14:

- **Selectmen unanimously voted to declare a snow emergency as of March 1, 2014, which will allow the Highway Department to overspend their snow removal budget if necessary.**

Topics the Chairman Could Not Reasonably Have Anticipated

1. Regional Municipal Solid Waste Agreement

- We have been working on a regional solid waste agreement with Springfield Municipal Recycling Facility Recycling Coordinator Arlene Miller helping us to negotiate with Covanta, LLC of Springfield. The proposal is for \$61/ton for receipt of the town's trash for the first year, and with \$62/ton in the second year and \$63/ton in the third year.
- Our current waste recipient and hauler, Allied Republic subsequently made a proposal of \$61/ton (down from the current \$85/ton) for the first year, increasing at 2.5% per year for 3 ensuing years. The Allied Republic proposal is slightly higher than Covanta, LLC.
- Springfield Municipal Recycling Facility Recycling Coordinator Arlene Miller's personal opinion, shared with Becky is that it is better to have the hauler and disposal place split.
- This 3-year contract will end right at the same time as Allied's hauling contract ends so we can start fresh at that time.
- Shutesbury produces about 300 tons of trash per year, so there will be a \$7,500/yr. savings.

Selectmen unanimously approved a contract with Covanta, LLC of Springfield, for 3 years as negotiated by the Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Agreement.

2. In response to conversations at the March 1st 4-town meeting and the March 4 Shutesbury Finance Committee meeting regarding "Regional Agreement" (apportionment) versus "statutory" regional assessment methods, a Shutesbury Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for Sat., March 8.

- The March 8 meeting was cancelled, as there was nothing new to report.
- Town Administrator Torres, Shutesbury's Regional School Committee Representative Michael DeChiara, and Finance Committee Co-Chairman Rus Wilson did meet this morning (March 11) with Regional Superintendent Maria Geryk and Business Office Accountant Sean Mangano.
- At the meeting Accountant Sean Mangano reported finding a way to cut \$100,000 from the total budget which translates into an \$8,000 decrease for Shutesbury:
 - i. By lowering the health insurance line which is pretty solid due to the rates.
 - ii. E&D funds were also reduced.
- By delaying a year on going out on the bond, about \$14,000 of debt is pushed to FY 16.
 - i. Added to the \$8,000 it creates a total savings of \$22,000 for Shutesbury.
- Officials are now waiting for the Regional School Committee to consider the proposed changes.
- Al: \$22,000 is nowhere near the \$60,000.
- Becky: Superintendent Geryk suggests meeting with the other towns about the agreement. Superintendent Geryk will put together a meeting where officials can talk about what to do.
- 5-Year enrollment projections were handed out at the meeting, through 2019.
 - i. Al informed Becky that on Saturday, March 1 enrollment numbers going back 5 years were also promised.
 - ii. It would also be useful to see all the towns on the same chart.
 - iii. Becky: When apportionment started Amherst was penalized the worst and Shutesbury made out. The factors keep changing. They anticipate that Amherst will change next year to benefit from the statutory method. It's the town's enrollment compared to every other town's enrollment.
- The next step is talking to the other towns.

3. Leverett expects to have live high speed Internet by the end of the year.

- ### 4. Becky reported that Wired West Executive Committee member Reva Reck has received some serious health news and has turned her password over to Becky to coordinate the meetings. A number of people are taking over specific functions that Reva performed. Wired West wants to transition to building infrastructure.

5. There is very little building taking place in Shutesbury because there are very few building lots available and subdivisions will be difficult.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting:

1. March 11, 2014, 30-page Municipal Solid Waste Agreement.

The Select Board **adjourned at 8:19 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Bracebridge
Administrative Secretary