

Shutesbury Board of Selectmen

February 15, 2011 Meeting Minutes – approved as written on 2/28/2012

Members present: Chairwoman Elaine Puleo and members Al Springer and April Stein.

Also Present: Town Administrator Rebecca Torres, Administrative Secretary Leslie Bracebridge recording.

Meeting opened at 7:10 P.M. at the Shutesbury Town Hall

Appointments

Sergeant Wall: Was not available. Becky reported on his behalf that everything is OK and the Chief will return on Friday.

Topics

1. Becky and Leslie reported on their assigned inquiries to the Massachusetts Elections Division and Town Counsel regarding how to fill the ending term of a Registrar who is not enrolled in a political party: Selectmen should send request letters to each of the two leading parties requesting lists of 3 names of people enrolled in their corresponding political parties from which Selectmen will select a Registrar to replace un-enrolled Registrar Ruth Todrin. Leslie reported having a clearer understanding from the process of why it is important (but not mandated) for the Town Clerk to enroll in a political party. Leslie has printed her voting record since the Voter Registration System was started in 1995 and she has pulled Democratic ballots in all but one primary since then, so Leslie plans to enroll in the Democratic party in order to provide for an evenly balanced Board of Registrars. **Selectmen unanimously voted to sign the request letters in keeping with M.G. L. 51§15, to the Chairmen of the Democratic and Republican Town Committees.**
2. Elaine offered a **recap of the Saturday, February 12 four-town regional Select Boards, School and Finance Committees meeting:**
 - Shutesbury will have a reduction in assessment from what was in the January 7 budget.
 - The budget offered on Saturday will be finalized on February 28.
 - Of the 4 towns, Leverett will have the most difficulty meeting this assessment, made worse by an additional \$90,000 (over FY 2012) for Union 28.
 - Superintendent Geryk has been holding meetings in response to Leverett Selectman Peter D’Erico’s January 7 request for a list of the unfunded mandates the region faces.
 - One specific unfunded mandate is to bus students, whose homeless parents are forced to move out of a school district, back to their original school district for classes. Selectmen feel it’s a good thing to do, but it is both expensive and unfunded. Selectmen unanimously voted for Becky to draft a letter to our legislators on behalf of the Select Board requesting the important but unfunded service be funded, in keeping with an email that Becky sent to Selectmen on this matter.
3. **Wired West Update:**
 - 28 of the 44 charter towns have completed the Municipal Lighting Plant adoption process and have joined the Municipal Lighting Plant Cooperative.
 - This is a huge undertaking to wire 44 communities in 3 different counties.
 - Wired West has applied for a CIC grant for \$490,000 to help finance the bonding process.
 - Wired West is actively fund-raising.
 - Wired West has applied for 2 or 3 small grants for engineering and marketing and have received one grant for \$5,000.
 - Wired West simplified their logo.

- Wired West is still mapping the 15,000 to 16,000 poles in the member communities. Only 2 towns are left to be mapped. Much of the work has been done by volunteers.
- Wired West is working on a timeline of 18 months to 2 years for the bonding process.
- Though it's a huge project, progress is being made.
- Reference was made to a news item, not concerning Wired West, regarding a satellite system in competition with Verizon and other services that has been shut down before it was up and running, because the band is too close to and could interfere with the GPS band. The satellite system could have provided broadband for the entire country; the "ultimate Wi-Fi."
- Wired West is hard-wired. Running fiber throughout the counties is deemed to be much more viable over time.
- Almost all the grants given out last summer were to wireless companies.
- The fiber is holding up stronger against the competition.
- Right now Wired West is developing a funding path: A business plan will be created and the revenue stream will be based on pre-commitment.
- The order of towns to receive Broadband was at first prioritized on a first to become part of the Municipal Plant Cooperative, first to receive Broadband basis. That was eliminated 9 months ago. Now it will happen in a geographically logical and cost effective way.
- The span of the Wired West Cooperative is from Williamstown to the other side of Quabbin.
- The Mass Broadband Institute (MBI) came in about 2 years ago, stringing the major fiber cable from town hall to town hall. Wired West will work off of that main cable to provide service to every door.

Select Board Action Items

1. **Selectmen unanimously voted to sign the EMS Service Zone Plan with the Town of Amherst and other surrounding communities.** Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Tibbetts already reviewed and approved this agreement.
2. **Selectmen signed payroll warrants totaling \$150,929.65.**
3. **Selectmen signed payroll warrants totaling \$83,193.71.**
4. **Minutes of January 31 will be approved on February 28.**

Topics the Chairman Could Not Reasonably Have Anticipated

1. **Elaine received a survey concerning municipal health insurance legislation** which she passed to Becky to complete.
2. **Shutesbury has not yet received any response from Steve Goodwin and Derek Lovely** to email requests for assistance in addressing contaminated soil under the Fire Station. Elaine will put out one last email to Derek and Becky will put in a call to Steve Goodwin before resuming the original plan of Licensed Site Professional Jim Okun, of the geotechnical engineering firm of O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun Associates, to address the contaminated soil under the Fire Station. Goodwin and Lovely responded right away to Shutesbury's original inquiry, but have been slow to follow-up on more recent inquiries.
3. **The town was awarded an annual Emergency Management grant of \$2000.**
4. **Review of up-coming meetings:**
 - **The Finance Committee will meet on the 21st. They are scheduled for March 6 when the Select Board is not meeting. They do want to meet with the Selectmen in March.**
 - **The Amherst Regional Study Committee is next meeting on February 29th.**
 - **The Personnel Board will meet on February 23rd.**
 - **There is a legislative breakfast in Holyoke that April and Elaine will attend.**
 - **The Regionalization Study Committee will meet on March 6.**

5. Brief discussion of school transportation funding and school committee replacements.

The Select Board **adjourned at 7:35 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Bracebridge
Administrative Secretary