

Shutesbury Board of Selectmen
Wednesday January 2, 2013 Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: Town Administrator Rebecca Torres, Administrative Secretary Leslie Bracebridge recording.
 Chairman Puleo opened the meeting at 8:21 A.M. at the Shutesbury Town Hall

Appointments

Police Chief Harding:

- It has been a quiet week in Shutesbury.

Fire Chief Tibbetts:

- Calls have been frequent recently.

Topics

1. Fire Station memo from Sunderland (in the presence of Chief Harding) – Chief Tibbetts:

- Is not familiar with the details of the letter from Sunderland. *but he read the letter? - ?*
- Knows Sunderland is looking at mutual ambulance service with their local towns.
- Becky: ~~Feels~~ *XI* it's just exploratory. Sunderland is talking with other towns to see what can be done to get better coverage and more services.
- Shutesbury currently does very little with Sunderland. Other towns with easy access to Rte. 91 can get to Sunderland quicker than Shutesbury can get to Sunderland.
- We have a "run-card" list - a pre-set plan for calls for mutual aid. (Shutesbury is set up into 3 different districts for that list as mutual aid for an event at Lake Wyola would be different than mutual aid to the January Hills Road area.)
- Al: ~~The~~ *A* thought was for shared fire chiefs and equipment so that each town wouldn't have to buy its own truck. *Spoke with a Sunderland Selectman who said*
- Elaine: How would that actually work for equipment purchase if one town buys a truck and then the next town's meeting doesn't vote to buy a truck?
- Chief Tibbetts: Previous research (a number of years ago) by Amherst's Fire Department Captain John Ingram studied potential regionalizing of Leverett and Shutesbury:
 - One finding was to make sure that all equipment in the 2 departments was compatible.

- Previously Shutesbury has done some joint purchases with Leverett and some equipment upgrades have been standardized making mutual aid easier between the two towns.
- Mutual aid is easier than regionalizing. With mutual aid, each town remains its own separate entity – regionalizing is complex.
- The decision at the time was for Shutesbury and Leverett to continue with mutual aid and not try to regionalize.
- Sunderland has a full-time officer that does a lot of the inspection and other paperwork details.
- Leverett is looking into the future for their fire department for when their Chief retires.
- Chief Tibbetts could not do for 2 towns what he can do for Shutesbury:
 - For Shutesbury and Leverett to share a Chief, there would become a need for others to do things such as inspections, and there would become a need to out-source things as truck and building maintenance. Sending a truck out for repairs could be a state away and require back and forth transportation for truck and driver. As a single town Chief, Chief Tibbetts can accomplish many of these tasks for Shutesbury in-house.
- Becky: Shutesbury’s Fire Chief also does the Emergency Management component for our town.
- In Franklin County, there are 3 “career departments:” Greenfield, Turners Falls and Orange, all very similar to Amherst, due to the volume of calls.
- Shutesbury is the only local small town with a full time Chief.
- *Some* Other small towns have more “resident professionals” in their departments - people who work in their community and who can leave their jobs in an instant for in-town emergency calls. Shutesbury has many more people who work at the University and other out of town places.
- Chief Tibbetts doesn’t know what Leverett is looking toward; he noted they’re closer to Sunderland.
- Shutesbury is not considering a FRCOG coordinated ambulance service.

- Many towns are looking to the future as Chiefs retire and/or are finding that the workload is becoming too much for a part time person to do.
 - ~~Different~~ small towns divide workloads in different ways.
 - Last year in the state of Massachusetts there were 70 new Fire Chiefs.
- ~~Pelham is looking at a full-time Chief.~~ *The Pelham fire chief advocated the chief position be made full time. The idea was rejected.*
 - Some people on the Pelham department are Amherst students.
 - Pelham calls Amherst, Belchertown, Granby and sometimes Shutesbury for mutual aide.
- Chief Tibbetts: Shutesbury's Fire Department is going in the right direction for Shutesbury:
 - Dan Emerson, who came to Shutesbury with much experience, after a year and a half has *been* promoted to Deputy Fire Chief. Others in the Department support this promotion.
 - Deputy Chief Emerson is qualified and doing training and is being trained to do inspections.
 - The department has a total of 12 members. This number of members is good for Shutesbury.
 - Members must attend 75% of trainings. It is more complicated to put a minimum attendance rate on call responses.

Chairman Puleo: Let's tell Sunderland that we're willing to listen, but Shutesbury does not have much enthusiasm at this time.

Chief Tibbetts: Supports coordinating services and augmenting equipment, things that take little more than talking.

2. Athletic Club (AC) update:

Becky: The MA Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) hearing for later this month is the same as the one that was scheduled for December. The Club is looking into having the hearing cancelled.

3. Update on Regional School District Planning Committee (RSDPC) - Elaine:

- The next RSDPC meeting is Jan. 16 at the Middle School Professional Development meeting-room.

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- There will be a 4-town meeting on Saturday February 4, at 9 AM, at the Middle School auditorium, to present the results of the consultants. *Shutesbury RSDPC's goal is* It is ~~hoped~~ that the information of the results will be mailed *town residents* out to the 4 towns in advance. *The meeting is scheduled for the MS auditorium because the* ~~It is hoped that this meeting will be televised for the public.~~ *room is equipped for televising to the public.*
- The decision regarding moving forward will be made in March. *of 2013.*
 - There are some good questions about this vote: *Will the 12 member RSD PB vote* ~~By~~ majority vote, by town, by paper ballot?
 - Elaine prefers a secret ballot. *Regional School District (7-12)*
- There will be a regular (not for the RSDPC) 4-town meeting on Saturday January 12 at 9 AM at the Middle School. Becky has notified the Finance Committee of the meeting and it is expected that many, if not all of the Finance Committee members will be there.

Select Board Action Items

1. Selectmen unanimously approved the minutes of December 18, 2012 as written.
2. Selectmen signed payroll warrants totaling \$86,310.22.
3. Selectmen signed vendor warrants totaling \$52,653.17.

The Select Board **adjourned at 9:15 A.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Bracebridge
Administrative Secretary