

**Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes,
Tuesday, October 23, 2018, Town Hall 7pm**

Members Present: George Arvanitis, Rita Farrell, Bob Groves, Eric Stocker (minutes), Jim Walton, **Members Absent:** Jim Hemmingway, Weezie Houle **Non-Members Present:** Katy Fiander, Jennifer Haggerty, Lauren Thomas-Paquin, Becky Torres, Bruce Turner

1. Discussed first draft of SES FY20 Budget dated 10/18/2018
 - a. U28 Budget in draft stage. Shutesbury portion (related to school population) is up about 1% to 23.49%. Entire U28 Budget up including 9.02% increase in Administration.
 - b. SES Budget up 2.29%
 - c. Significant loss of grants causes an increase in town funding needed. This will increase the SES line item in the town budget by 6.91%.
 - d. School Committee will get back to us re: Numbers of Choice students in and out of SES.
 - e. SES note eligible for "Rural Aid" due to average income of residents which they say is around \$85,000. We questioned that number.....Will research for future discussion. Note: about 40% of SES students are in free or reduced lunch which seems inconsistent with this income data.
 - f. We expressed our concern that these increases were significant and that they could present a problem. We will need to meet again to discuss.
2. Approved the minutes from 10/9/18.
3. Committee Reports:
 - a. Broadband....There was a lot of discussion about drop fees (connections to the homes). We decided to table this discussion until a future date. Eric reported that there have been significant changes to initial estimates of cost and that it is too early to be looking at this issue in any detail, given that the MLP is still figuring out more basic things like who our ISP and Network Operator will be. Eric will convey our concerns about inclusiveness and the need to have this policy discussed by other groups (like FinCom, Selectboard) before any final decision is made.
 - b. Personnel....Town Clerks position is being evaluated in terms of hours. They are looking at the notion of hiring a P/T assistant. New Treasurer is coming up to speed. Gabe will work P/T to help with bonding issues etc.
 - c. CPA....Rita reported that the CPA Committee would like to reach out to other committees in town to explain what they do and seek input for projects. Bob reported that the Building Committee is working on plans to refurbish the Old Town Hall and will be looking for funding for that from the CPA funds.
4. 4.) Review FY19 Existences YTD:
 - a. We reviewed YTD Expenses. The only line that is way off now is Legal which may need replenishing from Reserves at some point. Becky reported that Loadstar (Solar) have given us \$2,500 which will keep things going for the time being. There are some continuing issues which are pressuring that line. The Health Insurance line is OK for now, but is very close and will bear future examination.
5. FY 20 Budget: a.) Becky is working on some formatting issues. We have received some FY 20 Budget requests from departments. They are due soon. We should have new Budgets to look at in our next meeting.
6. Next meeting is 11/8 with Capital Planning.
7. Meeting adjourned at 8:55.