

Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes
Tuesday, January 22, 2019 – Town Hall, 7pm

Members Present: Eric Stocker, George Arvanitis, Weezie Houle, and Jim Hemingway **Members Absent:** Rita Farrell, Bob Groves, Jim Walton **Non-Members present:** Gail Weiss, Ryan Mailloux

- 1) Gail Weiss- Town Accountant –
 - a) She needs an additional \$233 for next year. \$3,320 to \$3,553.
 - b) Personal Property tax – 38% collected halfway through the year. It's due to timing of payments, solar agreement, and other items. Becky question.
 - c) Valuation of DCR property for PILOT.
- 2) Ryan Mailloux, Town Treasurer – Budget Review
 - a) Treasurer Expense: He is requesting \$9,800, a \$243 increase over this year
 - b) OPEB Actuarial – The request is \$1,000
 - c) OPEB Trust – Gabe recommends we put \$100,000 per year
 - d) Short Term Borrowing – The budget request is a \$3,000 increase from \$3,000 to \$5,000 due to Broadband BANs, which are now over \$1M.
 - e) Tax Title is currently at \$12,000 and the request has been reduced to \$8,000.
 - f) Unemployment has \$20,000 in the Trust. We set up the trust but we need a warrant Article to appropriate the funds to the trust.
 - g) Veterans Benefit – Requesting \$15,000 to fund the budget in the event a veteran moves to town.
- 3) Motion to approve the minutes from 1/22/19 as amended.
- 4) FRCOG– Jim – FCECS (Franklyn County Emergency Communication System) The two way radio throughout Franklin County.
 - a) First option is to FC upgrade current system – Analog 400MHZ mid 2000s funded by Homeland Security. They didn't attach any depreciation. There is now no money to replace it. The estimate is between \$5-10M. Shutesbury is a 4 unit town. That costs us \$6,800 per year will go to \$43,000 for a \$5M bond. It will increase 5% per year.
 - b) Second Option – Join EOPSS – the state system is a 800MHZ system. The state has verbally committed, but not in writing.
 - c) There will be another meeting in a month or so, so towns will be able to go to Town Meeting.
- 5) Broadband - Jim –
 - a) Gail is pleased with the number of companies who responded to the bid for the drops. They will be able to open bids in a week or so. We will then have a good idea how much it will cost and what we will need for the Special Town Meeting.
 - b) The recommendation will be that Shutesbury is going to adopt the same that all town offices will be billed at the same rate as a residence.
- 6) Budget Review FY 20 – After the governor had his meeting:
 - a) Chapter 70 went up \$2,300
 - b) Becky put \$5,000 increase in UGGA
 - c) George has been working with the Regional Working group and it is estimated that there will be a \$0 increase in the Regional budget. There is a total of \$34,000 pick up leaving us at a \$30,00 deficit before salary increases. Eric's info indicates we might have more state revenue and less state charges ~\$19,000. We need to get Becky to look at the Preliminary Cherry Sheet estimate and plug those numbers into the budget.
- 7) Regional Assessment – George continues to advocate for the 50/50. There are probably 2 methods they will go with. Feb 23rd is the next meeting. Match 2, Four Town meeting.
 - a) 30% Statutory Method
 - b) Adjuster Method - No town pays a certain amount more than the Statutory with a limit keep towns from paying more than their Statutory.
- 8) Meeting adjourned 9:05pm
- 9) Future Meeting Schedule:

- a) Tuesday, February 19, 2019, Broadband/MLP
- b) Saturday, March 2, 2019, Four Town Meeting, 9am Middle School
- c) Tuesday, March 5, 2019, Select Board, Personnel Committee
- d) Tuesday, March 19, 2019, Capital Planning, Police
- e) Tuesday, April 2, 2019, Vote on Warrants if ready
- f) Tuesday, April 16, 2019, Town Meeting Initial Prep
- g) Tuesday, April 30, 2019, Town Meeting Final Prep
- h) Saturday, May 5, 2019, Town Meeting