

Shutesbury Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 8, 2015, Town Hall, 7pm

Members Present: Gary Hirshfield, Weezie Houle, Eric Stocker, George Arvanitis Jim Walton and Al Hanson
Members Absent: none **Visitors:** Becky Torres, Tim Hunting, Mary Anne Antonellis, Gail Fleischaker, Mike Vinsky, Bill Wells, Bob Groves

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.
2. The minutes of the November 24 meeting will be approved at the next meeting.
3. Committee Reports
 - a. School Committee – Weezie – none.
 - b. CPC Report - Al Hanson – CPA has 3 Determine of eligibility proposals that they are looking at, all about \$5,000.
 - c. Personnel Committee - George Arvanitis – none
 - d. Broadband – Eric and Becky – MBI’s letter. WW met on Sat. with a good turnout for the meeting. Main agenda was to talk about the proposal and the rebuttal, get town’s reaction and concerns. The select board has a draft to send to MBI. Shutesbury Broadband Committee sent a letter to MBI and the Legislature.
4. Tim Hunting, presented the Highway Dept. budget
 - a. Essentially everything is level funded with 2 exceptions where he cut back
 - b. No surprises in the general operating budget
 - c. He wants to ask to replace the 1998 International Dump truck, a 6-wheeler, from Capital Planning. In the past 3 years he has spent \$22,566. FY14 \$7,000, FY15 he spent \$11,000 in repairs, this year has had \$5,000 in repairs. He will be speaking with the rep from Fairfield – truck body and hydraulics – and Patriot Freightliner.
 - d. New mower has saved him some money this year. We did have to hire out early in the summer as the mower didn’t get here until July for \$1,800. It may go 15-20 years.
 - e. Mike asked about any other big projects that we should be aware that might be coming.
 - f. There are a couple of culvert projects, one under Locks Pond – a big deal. That was about \$100,000. There may be a grant for that.
 - g. There is another culvert the Ames Haven culvert on the dirt part of Wendell Rd. It is an old stone culvert.
 - h. The buildings are all set except the roof on the Salt Shed. Metal and the shed that is attached to the main building in back.
 - i. If we replace the Int. Dump Truck, we won’t need as much money in machinery maintenance.
5. Mary Anne Antonellis and Gail Fleischaker, Library
 - a. Mary Ann submitted her budget
 - b. The library is asking for \$69,602 to be appropriated at Town Meeting
 - c. Sally Fairfield retired and her position was reviewed by the Personnel Comm and it was determined that the job needed an upgrade, by\$1,321.
 - d. 2.5% of the budget is \$1,732.
 - e. The wage and the expected salary increases cover the 2.5% of the budget.
 - f. They are asking for the \$25,000 from Capital Planning.
 - g. Mike is opposed to spending the \$25,000.

6. Discussion by Bob Groves regarding his opinion of level funding the budget.
7. Gabe will be back full time soon. She has been working from home on her sick time.
8. Four Town Regional Assessment Discussion
 - a. Regionalization caught us by surprise.
 - b. Healthy discussion about the Saturday meeting.
 - c. Becky will follow up with Sandy.
 - d. Sean has volunteered to run the numbers on just the property values.
9. Set agenda for next meeting:
 - a. Review Fire Dept. Budget
 - b. Regional Assessment Method
 - c. Expense Report
 - d. Committee Reports
10. Meeting adjourned 9:30pm
11. Next Meetings:
 - a. December 22, 2015, 7pm – General Mtg.
 - b. January 5, 2016, 7pm – School Committee & Select board, 7:15pm
 - c. January 19, 2016, 7pm – Financial Dept. Heads, Assessors, 7:15pm
 - d. February 9, 2016, 7pm – Amherst Regional Budget Planning, 7:15pm
 - e. February 23, 2016, 7pm – Capital Planning, 7:15pm; Tax Collector, 7:45pm
 - f. March 8, 2016, 7pm – Personnel Board, 7:15pm
 - g. March 22, 2016, 7pm – No Dept. scheduled
 - h. April 5, 2016, 7pm – Final Budget, Warrant voting
 - i. April 19, 2016, 7pm – Town Meeting prep
 - j. May 7, 2016, 9am (Annual Town Meeting)