

Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes
Tuesday, February 05, 2013, 7pm, Town Hall

Members Present: Weezie Houle, Rus Wilson, Eric Stocker, Al Hanson, Lori Tuominen and George Arvanitis, Gary Hirshfield; **Visitors Present:** Becky Torres, Tim Hunting, Walter Tibbetts, Mike Vinsky

- 1) Approved the minutes of 1/22/13 as amended and to be amended.
- 2) Highway Dept.
 - a) Not many changes – level funded
 - b) Tim is asking for an increase in the uniform budget for the new staff member. It will be an additional \$1,450.
 - c) Capital Item request: Bucket loader: \$141,500 – It has almost 6,700 hours. It has been repainted 5 years ago. The cab is tender. It is a 1995, Case. The tires need replaced if we keep it. The inside of the rims are getting rusty. Tim doesn't know what it is worth on a trade in. He has 3 figures from dealers. Cat – (the quick disconnect is 2.5) Model 924, 3 yard bucket, \$187,000. Case – 621F, 2.5 or 3 yard bucket, \$160,000, and John Deere – 544K, 3 yard bucket, \$140,000. John Deere has the state bid for this year.
 - d) The salt shed roof repair – part of the roof blew off last week. Tim had someone come and repair the damage plus some 2 x 4 which were discovered to be rotten.
 - e) Projects – they got most of the projects done this year, except for a catch basin near Lake Wyola.
- 3) Fire Department
 - a) Walter submitted a level funded budget from last year's end of year budget, which contained an increase.
 - b) Equipment: They have had to replace their air compressor (1966 military surplus)
 - c) Equipment: A valve was replaced on Engine 1 for \$1,700-1,800.
 - d) Personnel levels: The personnel numbers have been varying between 10 and 14. Ideal is 16.
 - e) Maintenance: They have a planned maintenance on the exhaust evacuation system.
 - f) Number of call from July 1: 76. It is a bit up from average. Medical calls are about 65%.
 - g) Capital Items:
 - i) Engine 1 is 27 years old. It is still basically a good truck. How bad do you let it get before you replace it. It takes over a year to get a new one. They have started to narrow what kind of a truck they might want. They are leaning toward a pumper/tanker. Engine 1 would still have a trade-in value. It passed the NFPA pump test this year. \$400,000 is about what we can expect.
 - ii) Six new tires for Engine 2: \$3,900
- 4) FY14 Budget prep update
 - a) Becky had to adjust the School Construction line item. We had to reduce this line item to the amount of the debt service on the school, reducing the revenue by \$61,000 to \$121,940. \$14,000 of the \$61,000 will be set aside for FY15 payment. The \$48,000 balance will be reflected in the recap and will not affect the budget.
 - b) Chapter 70 and Local Aid \$ have been moved back to level funded.
 - c) A new line item has been added: Town Hall Admin Support. The funds from Asst Town Clerk was zeroed out and added to Town Hall Admin Support.
 - d) Electricity: line item has been reduced by 1/3 to \$10,000
 - e) Heating has been reduced by \$2,000
 - f) Ambulance Service is up by \$900.
 - g) The three fuel lines were merged into a new line item 59.

- h) Elementary Transportation is up \$3,172.
- i) Veteran's Benefits is up \$1,423.
- j) County Retirement is up \$3,840.
- k) Insurance and Bonds is down \$949.
- l) Gasoline Leak/Fire Station is up \$2,371.

5) Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

- a) February 19, Capital Planning discussion,
 - b) March 5, School Committee @ 7:30pm
 - c) March 19
 - d) April 9
 - e) April 23
 - f) May 4, Town Meeting
 - g) April 9
 - h) April 23
 - i) May 4, Town Meeting
- 6) Meeting adjourned 10:00pm.**