

Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes
Tuesday, March 22, 2018 – Town Hall, 7pm

Members Present: Eric Stocker, , Weezie Houle, Elaine Puleo Jim Walton and Jim Hemingway **Members**

Absent: , Bob Groves, George Arvanitis **Non-Members present:** Becky Torres, Bruce Turner, Steve Sullivan, Michael Broad, Dan Hayes, Brad Foster, Mary Ann Antonellis

- 1) Public Comments:
 - a) Steve Sullivan: The ARHS Regional passed the budget: “For Fiscal year 2019 only, the alternative operating budget assessment shall be calculated as 20% of the minimum contribution with the remainder of the assessment allocated to the member towns in accordance with the per pupil method found in Section VI e) of the Amherst Pelham Regional District Agreement
 - b) Shutesbury’s portion of the FY19 Regional budget of \$31,815,351 is \$1,775,964.
- 2) Shutesbury Elementary School Budget discussion
 - a) Still losing the \$11,000 per year in the grant.
 - b) Their budget has not changed since December.
 - c) Dan reported on all the initiatives that are happening.
 - d) Becky reported that there are possibilities at the state level that may offer some relief. We should all advocate for the programs for additional reimbursement.
 - e) Union 28 staff and faculty are doing in-house professional development.
 - f) Bruce submitted the grant to MSBA for the funds for the roof. A feasibility study will have to be funded in FY19.
- 3) Library – Mary Ann request to install a Citizen Security Service panic button.
- 4) Motion passed unanimously to fund a Security Alarm System for \$583.41 financed by a transfer from Finance Committee Reserves.
- 5) Capital Planning –
 - a) Motion passed 4 in favor and 1 opposed to fund \$25,000 for the new Library.
 - b) Motion passed 5 in favor to fund \$75,000 for a new tractor boom mower.
 - c) Motion passed 4 in favor and 1 abstained to fund \$38,000 for a new police suv cruiser.
 - d) Motion passed 5 in favor to fund \$17,000 for flooring at the Shutesbury Elementary School.
 - e) Motion passed 4 in favor and 1 abstained to fund \$73,000 for a new playground at the Shutesbury Elementary School.
 - f) Motion passed 5 in favor to fund \$34,000 for roof replacement at the Town Hall.
 - g) Paving for the school and the highway department costs weren’t resolved in time for the meeting and will not be ready in time for Town Meeting.
- 6) Review the Draft FY19 Budget - Changes
 - a) Removed Broadband debt exclusion line for \$33,000 from both sides of the budget.
 - b) Put in the 2.5% pay increase
 - c) The police union is in. No change to the chief line item
 - d) Medicare line is up due to increase in the salaries
 - e) Gail wants us to reduce the Excise Tax back to \$190,000.
 - f) Recommendation is to put OPEB back to \$50,000.
- 7) Motion passed 5 in favor to transfer \$360 from Fin comm reserves to fund for a Recreation line item.
- 8) Meeting adjourned 9:21pm
- 9) Future Meeting Schedule:
 - a) Thursday, April 5, 2018, Final Budget
 - b) Thursday, April 12, 2018, Broadband
 - c) Thursday, April 26, 2018, Town Meeting Prep
 - d) Saturday, May 5, 2018, Town Meeting