

Shutesbury Finance Committee
Tuesday, March 22, 2011, 7p.m., Town Hall

Finance Committee Members Present: Patrick Callahan, Weezie Houle, Rus Wilson, Gary Hirshfield, George Arvanitis

Finance Committee Members Absent: Lori Tuominen & Bill Wells

Visitors: Becky Torres, Leslie Bracebridge

1. Meeting called to order at 7:15pm
2. Minutes of February 15 and March 8, 2011 approved.
3. Discussion and review of income and expenses of the Elementary School budget and the \$30,000 difference in our budget and theirs.
4. Review expense reports: Just about everything is on target.
5. **Votes taken:** \$500 transfer from Fin com Reserve to the 250th line item. (Chair recused himself due to his relationship with a 250th member)
6. 2012 budget update
 - a. 250th line item increase by \$500
 - b. The Tree Warden and Dog Officer line items were added back into the budget after an accidental two row deletion.
7. Discussed proposed capital spending plan for regional schools. Thursday, Patrick will join other Finance Committee members for the discussion. He will report back what the plan will be.
8. Update on fire station cleanup: Read TA report of March 18th which has a great description. The White Paper report about the Fire Station is in process and will be ready for Town Meeting.
9. Reports of Committees.
 - a. Personnel – George: They met; had cake; Margaret resigned, discussed the Union 28 retirement issue, and discussed the retiree insurance coverage policy. Contract negotiations are happening with the school, department heads and Town Manager; on hold to see what the outcome of the school negotiations for recommending pay increases for town employees.
 - b. Capital Planning – Rus: Requests for FY12:
 - i. \$5,500 for the Buildings Committee for buildings repair
 - ii. \$30,000 for a new Police Cruiser (already in the budget)
 - iii. \$30,000 per year to stabilization
 - iv. \$60,000 from stabilization for a new 1 ton truck for the highway dept; \$30,000 was transferred last year so only \$30,000 out of this upcoming year.
 - v. Transfer \$100,000 from the current Stabilization account to a new “Capital” Stabilization account
 - c. Library Fundraising Committee – Brainstorming last time. 53 letters have been sent to key leaders in town inviting them to participate in an interview with a member of the professional fundraising company hired to produce a feasibility study.
10. Adjourned at 9:30pm
11. Next meetings April 12 & 19, 2011