

Shutesbury Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 31, 2015, Town Hall, 7pm

Members Present: Weezie Houle, Rus Wilson, Gary Hirshfield, Eric Stocker **Members Absent:** George Arvanitis, Susie Mosher, and Al Hanson **Visitors:** Becky Torres, Jeff Lacey, Ralph Armstrong, Penny Jaques, Deacon Bonner, Steve Bressler, Jim Aaron, Bob Raymond, Larry Hunter,.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.
2. Planning Board Presentation: Jeff Lacey
 - a. They presented changes to the Shutesbury Master Plan Update. The addition is to “Conduct a comprehensive review, assessment and update of the current Master Plan, particularly its demographic forecasts, goals, objectives, and implementation outcomes.”
 - b. They are going to extend the time frame by six months.
 - c. The first six months will be focused on reviewing the Master Plan.
 - d. The current request is \$10,000, but the visioning process anticipated total cost could be as much as \$30,000.
 - e. [email from Becky]
3. Energy Committee Representative – Larry Hunter – Responding to our questions re: how would we go about building a 250 KW solar farm in Shutesbury?
 - a. One aspect of solar is getting a 30% tax credit from the Fed gov., which has no impact on the town, as we don’t pay federal taxes.
 - b. Larger agreements, leasing the land and selling us electricity at a reduced rate.
 - c. At this time, SREC is not funded. It was suggested that we start planning but we need the new state regulations.
 - d. The town would need a 200-250 KW system, unless we are restricted to 67%.
 - e. There are many issues tied to future legislation. We need to wait until that is passed.
 - f. How much area would it take for a 100KW system? About .7 -1 acres per 100KW, or less than 3 acres for a 250 KW system.
 - g. Larry will share his spreadsheet with Becky.
4. A vote passed unanimously to transfer \$850 from Finance Committee Reserves to the Broadband Committee for mailings.
5. Review Expense Report – none
6. Budget Review – Next year’s budget is balanced!
 - a. We had 2 instances where salaries were negotiated higher than 2% (3% Highway and 4% Fire Chief). \$1,500 in changes
 - b. Elementary Transportation Expense increased by only \$4,029.
 - c. Board of Health Agent - 1% increase on that line (\$300) (County Hlth District line)
7. Committee Reports: - none tonight
 - a. Capital Planning - Rus Wilson and Gary Hirshfield — none
 - b. Eric - Broadband Report – See # 4 above.
8. Becky distributed the Warrant Articles for review. She would like us to consider a Warrant Article transferring \$300K into Capital Stabilization.
9. Next Meeting: April 14, 2015
10. Meeting adjourned 9:10pm.