

Shutesbury Board of Selectmen May 21, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Chairwoman Elaine Puleo and members Al Springer and April Stein.

Also Present: Town Administrator Rebecca Torres, Administrative Secretary Leslie Bracebridge recording.

Meeting opened at 6:30 P.M. at the Shutesbury Town Hall

Appointments

Police Chief Harding:

- Reviewed Preschool visit to Town Hall.
- Would like to move Sean Sawicki to a part time position with an attending officer.
 - Sean has had a range of police interactions and is progressing well, likely attributable to his years of experience in the Fire Department.
 - Sean will be speaking with other officers as he works through new experiences until he gets a broader range of experiences.

Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint Sean Sawicki as a part time police officer.

- 3 more people would like to interview for auxiliary positions at the June 18 Select Board meeting.
- The Police Department budget is down to \$400 due to expenses associated with Officer Soto's attendance at the Police Academy. Chief Harding has completed a request form for a reserve funds transfer and is seeking advice as to the next steps.
- Officer Soto has
 - Passed his firearms training, which will cover him through the end of December.
 - Will be taking another comprehensive exam tomorrow.
 - Graduates June 28.
- Officer Masiuk has spoken to Lake Wyola Association President David Green about attending the Annual Association meeting regarding the July 4th festivities. Extra officers will be available on the weekend, but as in recent past years, it is anticipated to be a "non-event."
- Tim Batchelder is still available to work on the weekends in Shutesbury.
- Police Officer staffing for Bulky Waste Day is covered.
- Speed bumps at the Lake:
 - Neighbors in the recent summers' speed bump area on Lakeview Road do not like the speed bumps due to the noise from vehicles bouncing over the bumps and then speeding up.
 - Some drivers put one wheel onto the bump and the other wheel in the neighborhood yards.
 - Chief Harding is contemplating whether the town should put the speed bumps in this year.
 - Police are doing more patrols in that area; direct enforcement will not solve all the problems.
 - The speed bumps have been placed in different locations over the years; no location seems to please everyone. People from many Lake locations have offered speed bump displeasure:
 - Even people who live high up on Farrar Road hear the noise and have complained.
 - It's a blind corner for pedestrians to walk around and the sun can also blind the drivers.

It was agreed to hold off putting the speed bumps down on Lakeview Road until after understanding how increased police patrols affect traffic speed. Once school is out, traffic will pick-up. If complaints about speed increase, then installation of the speed bumps will be reconsidered.

Library Director Mary Anne Antonellis met with the Select Board to discuss a sand box installation

- It will be built like the one at Groff Park in Amherst, with a ledge to sit on, so that parents can also sit around it.
- The Library will see what can be donated and the Friends of the Library will fund the remainder.

- This summer’s reading program theme is entitled “Dig Into Reading.”
- The sandbox will be covered when not in use to keep the cats away.

Selectmen agreed that the sandbox would be a good idea.

Al is looking for a vote of the Library Trustees to release the fishing poles no longer in use at the Library for an on-going Veteran’s fishing program. Mary Anne had previously understood the request to be a one-time loan. Understanding the request to be permanent, she will add it to the next Trustees meeting agenda.

Topics

1. **Sandbox at the Library** - See above.
2. **Discuss the House and Senate Budget:**
 - Becky reported that the House and Senate budgets have zero increases.
 - Shutesbury’s budget is fine regardless because we didn’t have the final vote of the Regional School assessment before town meeting. The final Regional vote turned out to be \$6,000 less than the budget voted at town meeting. Even with zero House and Senate increases, Shutesbury will be fine.
3. **ALTRU solar farm tax computation:**
 - Clarification of differences between Becky’s and Administrative Assessor Holmberg’s understandings of solar farm assessment information are not back because Sustainable Strategies 2050 President Rayomand Bhungara has been away and has not yet answered their questions.
 - The final decision will not impact Cinda Jones’ revenue stream. That has already been settled.
 - If we assess too high, it could damage the project and nobody wins. A little is better than nothing.
 - This is a new area of assessing.
 - Selectmen talked about multiple locations of solar farms in other towns.
 - Selectmen requested updates as things progress.
4. **Loader Trade-In under the state contract:**
 - The authority to approve the trade-in of the current loader is with the Highway Superintendent.
 - The contractor for the state contract, who evaluated Shutesbury’s loader, valued it at \$18,000 total.
 - The town meeting estimate for the new loader was \$140,000, with the understanding that there would be value in the trade-in. The final price of the new loader came in at \$142,636. In the end the difference of approximately \$16,000 will go back into free cash.

Select Board Action Items

1. **Selectmen unanimously voted to approve the April 19 and May 14 meeting minutes as written.**
2. **Conservation Commission and Highway Department Memorandum of Understanding:**
 - Highway Superintendent Tim Hunting is looking over a draft version of the MOU. It is very streamlined from the original 36 page version, down to 3 pages on this one.
 - It is hoped to be to the Select Board in a couple of weeks.
3. **Selectmen signed vendor warrants totaling \$111,977.14.**
4. **Selectmen signed vendor warrants totaling \$86,657.03.**

Topics the Chairman Could Not Reasonably Have Anticipated

1. **Selectmen reviewed Open bids for gasoline, diesel and fuel oil through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) bidding services for the coming year, with any Select Board choices for fixed rates due back by Friday. Rack rate choices could wait:**
 - The RACK rate is defined once a week with mark-up added.
 - We didn’t put in for #2 fuel oil last year due to so much left-over oil from the previous mild year, and due to the potential to change over to propane.
 - Though we might want to try not bidding on fuel oil this year, because it still isn’t resolved whether we are going use oil or propane both here and at the fire station in the coming year, it

was settled that if we did lock in and then changed heating fuel methods, we could sell the unused town fuel oil to the school.

- Different towns are offered different prices due to quantities needed and delivery distances.

Selectmen unanimously voted to select fixed rate bids as follows:

- **Whiting Oil Corporation’s low bid of \$3.32 for fuel oil,**
 - **R. Sandri’s low bid of \$3.65 for diesel, and**
 - **The only bid for gasoline, from Dennis K. Burke, of \$3.62.**
- 2. Al reported that the siding for the hearse house was sawn out on Saturday.**
 - 3. O’Reilly, Talbot and Okun will be coming out to the Fire Station on Wednesday or Thursday to take the water tests needed for the services contracted on May 14 for groundwater sampling, sub-slab soil gas monitoring, and an IRA monitoring report related to follow-up monitoring of the Fire Station soil contamination in-situ chemical oxidation treatment of June 14, 2012.**

The Select Board **adjourned at 7:30 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Bracebridge
Administrative Secretary