

Shutesbury Board of Selectmen Tuesday June 4, 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. Chairman Puleo opened the meeting at 6:30 P.M. at the Shutesbury Town Hall

Appointments

Police Chief Harding: Was not present.

Topics

1. **Discuss House/Senate Budget/Bond Bills:** The Governor/House and Senate continue to report budget differences from one notice to the next.
2. **Review lab results from OTO (O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun)/fire station:** No lab results are available.
3. **AT&T cell tower interest:**
 - Becky walked the town-owned land behind Town Hall with AT&T representative Paul Dagarstino for a possible cell tower placement back at least 500 feet into the woods.
 - Becky has given Paul the Zoning Bylaws and advised him to go to the Planning Board.
 - The town could lease the land by going out for an RFP.
 - Many people have said they want better cell reception in town. People in town center, Pelham Hill and West Pelham Roads area would likely benefit from the tower; the target area is Route 202.
 - AT&T is also looking at a location in New Salem that probably will not help the Lake Wyola area.
 - The tower would be 150 feet or higher.
 - A 20 year lease could bring the town \$12,000 to \$15,000 per year.
 - AT&T would be the main contractor; other companies might attach other equipment to the tower, which would bring additional revenues to Shutesbury.
 - The next step is for AT&T to deal with the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission.
4. **Solar Farm Tax Calculation:**
 - The Assessors are pushing for confirmation of the estimated \$100/SREC portion of the contract. Due to an NDO (New Development Opportunity?) with the investor, the total contract document cannot be shared with a 3rd party. Part of it may be allowed
 - Assessors are looking at a valuation in the range of \$60,000/megawatt range.
 - Becky received more details from Sustainable Strategies 2050 President Rayomand "Rayo" Bhungara: Rayo confirmed \$20,000 was for personal property only, not real property and personal, and \$50,000 was the overall valuation.
 - Does Select Board want to strive for the highest amount of taxes or agree to something in the \$53,000 range?
 - At the end of the day the project is a project that benefits the environment,
 - There is a chance they could back-off the project or make it a lower priority if we push too hard for the highest taxes.
 - It's important to strike a balance.
 - Even at \$52,000 or \$53,000 it is worthwhile.
 - A 5-year review could be built in, so that if the price of electricity were to double in price, the taxes would be raised. A floor would be established and then if there is a huge increase in income, adjustments could be made at 5-year intervals.
 - Selectmen like the \$52-53,000 range because it was based on an income formula that in 5 years can be recalculated.
 - Nothing about the project is concrete at this point.
 - There could be a "sister" project in Amherst.
 - In addition to their landfill project, Amherst could use another 3 megawatts to power their schools.

Selectmen instructed Becky to “move forward with the spirit of the Select Board behind her.”

Select Board Action Items

1. Select men unanimously voted to approve the 5/21/13 Select Board Meeting Minutes as written.
2. Selectmen signed vendor warrants totaling \$52,722.79.
3. Select men signed payroll warrants totaling \$89,890.51.
4. **Review Draft List of Appointments for FY 14:**

- **Selectmen agreed that the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen should serve as the Select Board delegate to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board.**
- Jody Brush is retiring from the School Council and therefore resigned from her position representing the Council on the Shutesbury Education Study Committee. Clif Read and Emily Bloch swapped their *School Committee* and *Parent with a School-aged child* representations to reflect Clif’s departure from, and Emily’s membership onto the School Committee.

Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint the list of appointed officials for FY 14 as drafted.

5. **Sign Treasurer’s Health Insurance Report:**

The Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission (GIC) requires an annual comparison report showing there would be no savings to either employees or employer with a GIC benchmark plan over the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust benefits, to be signed by the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen unanimously voted to sign the report as provided by Treasurer Gabriele Voelker.

6. **Assigning the FRTA advisory Board member:** See item 4 above.

Topics the Chairman Could Not Reasonably Have Anticipated

1. Described her special guided tour of the Federal State Department.
2. Bids have come in for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Cooperative Highway Products and Services Bids and Contracts for FY 14. Highway Superintendent Tim Hunting provided a form requiring Select Board authorization before Tim can participate.
Selectmen unanimously voted to sign authorization for participation in the FRCOG Cooperative Highway Products and Service Bids and Contracts for FY14.
3. Becky got an extension on the 2012 Green Communities annual report which is now completed and ready for Select Board signatures:
 - a. The report shows the town government’s energy consumption reduced 27% between 2009 and 2012. It is hoped that can be held into the 5th year.
 - b. The Energy Committee has been reviewing the Mass Energy Insight Reports for any errors.
 - c. It is hoped that the FY 13 reports will reflect positively due to the insulation done at the school.
 - d. The Energy Reduction Plan section of the annual report was met by giving them access to our reports; there is not a single stretch code project to be provided for anecdotal information.

Selectmen unanimously voted to sign the Green Communities Annual Report.

4. Selectmen received a thank-you note from resident Susie Mosher following Town Meeting.
5. A new flag pole and flag were placed on the Town Common near the Honor Roll on Friday May 24.
6. Selectmen agreed to meet on July 9 instead of July 2 at the request of the Finance Committee for the purpose of a joint meeting to review and sign end of year transfers. April will not be able to attend.
7. Becky reported that the Bulky Waste Day went smoothly this year with the new trash & recycle hauling company, Allied/Republic. The site was clean by 5 PM.

The Select Board **adjourned at 7:32 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Bracebridge, Administrative Secretary

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