

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Town of Shutesbury**  
**Annual Town Meeting Minutes**  
**May 4, 2013**

At a legal meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Shutesbury qualified to vote in elections and town affairs held at the Shutesbury Elementary School at 23 West Pelham Road on the fourth day of May 2013 in the presence of a quorum, the following business was conducted. Moderator Penelope Kim opened the meeting at 9:00 AM, identified emergency exits, introduced public officials, read a passage, based on a Civic Invocation, and used in Vermont Town Meetings, identified Town Meeting Time as the authority for this meeting and announced that all 2/3rds vote requirements would be counted.

**Article 1.** A motion was made and seconded for the Town of Shutesbury to approve the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee on the fiscal year 2014 budget to transfer the following sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues: \$5,000.00 to Open Space (excluding recreational purposes); \$5,000.00 to Historic Resources; \$5,000.00 to Community Housing; and \$29,750.00 to the FY14 Community Preservation Fund budgeted reserve.

*Motion approved unanimously.*

**Article 2.** A motion was made and seconded to appropriate \$ 2,350.00 from fiscal year 2014 Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues for necessary and proper administrative and operation expenses of the Shutesbury Community Preservation Committee.

*Motion approved unanimously.*

**Article 3.** A motion was made and seconded to appropriate the sum of **\$21,650.00, \$4,500.00 from the CPA Historic Resources Fund and \$17,150.00 from the CPA Fund Balance** to rehabilitate the West Cemetery Hearse House as detailed in the Shutesbury Building Committee's Cemetery Hearse House Project proposal, with all the work to comply with the Standards for Rehabilitation stated in the United States Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Shutesbury Building Committee.

*Motion approved.*

**Article 4.** A motion was made and seconded to hear, and act, on reports of town officers, committees, and boards: **Elaine Puleo, on Shutesbury's Regional School District Planning Committee:**

On March 9 the Shutesbury Regional School District Planning Committee voted not to continue to move forward with the towns of Amherst, Pelham, and Leverett to regionalize the pre-K to 6<sup>th</sup> grades. The March 9 decision was based on the Regional School District Planning Committee members' sense of feedback they had heard and listened to, and also based on Shutesbury's 1993 4-town elementary school regionalization experience where Shutesbury's sole "no" vote ended the effort for the other 3 towns which had voted to go forward with regionalization. Shutesbury "backed away" from the 2013 effort so as not to again stop the efforts of the other 3 towns, in which interest to move forward again appears to be "very high."

Shutesbury voted to step back, but not far; members will continue to remain involved in the Amherst, Pelham and Leverett Regional School District Planning Board's meetings to develop a regional agreement, so that if Shutesbury votes to join the region at a later date, the agreement will more likely contain elements favorable for Shutesbury. Any decision for Shutesbury to join the Region will be by Town Meeting vote.

Shutesbury will remain a part of the Amherst Region for grades 7 through 12. In November the other 3 towns will vote on a 3-town region. If the 3 towns agree to regionalize at the pre-K to 6<sup>th</sup> grade level, Leverett will leave Union 28. The remaining 3 Union 28 towns will still be responsible for Union 28 which could potentially be more expensive. If the 3 towns agree to regionalize, there will be an option for Shutesbury to vote to join the 3-town Amherst region before

December 31<sup>st</sup> and still be a part of the new region which will be constituted by July 1, 2014. Stay tuned. Stay abreast of the information. We have meetings posted. There will be forums. Let us know whichever way you are feeling so that we will know how to move forward.

**Town Administrator Rebecca “Becky” Torres spoke of the Regional School District Planning Board comprised of representation of the 4 towns.** Becky, Michael DeChiara and Elaine Puleo are Shutesbury’s representatives to the regional planning group. Becky outlined the **Subcommittees of the Regional School District Planning Board** and Shutesbury’s representatives to those committees: Becky serves on the **Financial & Legal Subcommittee**, Becky and Michael DeChiara serve on the **Governance Subcommittee** and Elaine Puleo serves on the **Education Subcommittee**. Meetings of the Regional School District Planning Board and subcommittees are held in Amherst, Pelham, Leverett, and Shutesbury. All meetings are posted in 6 locations; the meetings are open to the public.

**Library Director Mary Anne Antonellis on behalf of the Board of Library Trustees:**

The Library is open 28 hours per week. The 57 hours/week of paid staff time is broken down into 40 hours for the Library Director and 17 hours for substitute staff. There are 12 volunteers who have contributed 912 hours of time in the past year.

**Recycling and Solid Waste Committee Chairman Meryl Mandell:** Recognized and thanked the efforts of previous Committee Chairman Paul Vlach, the previous youngest Committee member (Benjamin) “Mino” Caulton, Recycling Coordinator Gary Bernhard, and Town Administrator Becky Torres. The new location for the distribution of trash bags is the Shutesbury Elementary School shed. Meryl recruited volunteers to help at the June 1 Bulky Waste Day and reviewed the selection process for the town’s new trash hauler, Allied.

**Al Springer member of the Memorial Day Committee:** Reviewed the work of the Franklin County Technical School students in rebuilding the Honor Roll on the memorial corner of the Town Common; a final coat of paint, and landscaping remains to be done. Until they are officially over, names cannot be added for the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

**WiredWest Representative Rebecca “Becky” Torres:** WiredWest is a 42-town cooperative in Western Massachusetts which is attempting to bring fiber to every doorstep. WiredWest has nothing to do with MBI (Massachusetts Broadband Institute) a state initiative of the Governor which failed to get funding for the last mile. Presently there is a state technology bond bill before the legislature to bring Fiber to the last mile. WiredWest met with representatives from MBI at Senator Rosenberg’s annual April regional gathering, in a very positive discussion concerning use of the \$40 million bond. MBI is working on plans for individual Massachusetts towns to bring in high speed Internet in ways similar to the way that Leverett has voted to move forward. Becky feels that most towns do not have the finances that Leverett has to move forward in the same way. She invited residents to bring questions to her.  
*No actions taken on Article 4.*

**Article 5.** A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide a sum of money to meet town expenses including operations, capital, salaries and school **expenses of \$5,661,798.00 by raising the sum of \$5,645,158.00 and transferring \$16,640.00 from the Septic Betterment Fund**, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013.

A motion was made and seconded to reduce line 164 of the budget by \$25,000:

Yes – 18, No – 73. Amendment failed.

*Main motion approved.*

**Article 6.** A motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate **\$116,306.00** to move into the Capital Stabilization Fund.

*Motion approved: Yes – 57, No -11*

**Article 7.** A motion was made and seconded to accept and expend funds available from the State for Highway reimbursement programs, such as the Chapter 90 program, without further appropriation.

*Motion approved unanimously.*

**Article 8.** A motion was made and seconded to set the salary compensation for all elected officials of the town (Select Board, Town Clerk, Moderator and Constable) as provided by MGL Chapter 41, Section 108, to be made effective from July 1, 2013, as contained in the budget.

***Motion approved unanimously.***

**Article 9.** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenues for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013 in accordance with the MGL Chapter 44, Section 4 and to issue a note or notes therefore, payable within one year, to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with the provisions of the MGL Chapter 44, Section 17.

***Motion approved unanimously.***

**Article 10.** A motion was made and seconded to allow the Select Board to apply for, accept and expend state, federal and other grants, which do not require a town appropriation.

***Motion approved unanimously.***

**Article 11.** A motion was made and seconded to approve the appointment pursuant to MGL Chapter 268A, Section 21A of Catherine Hilton as a Board of Health Administrative Consultant while also serving as an elected official on the Board of Health.

***Motion approved unanimously.***

**Article 12.** A motion was made and seconded to approve the existing Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Agreement for allocating the total amount to be contributed by each member town of the District for Fiscal Year 2013 as required by Section VI of the Regional Agreement.

“The School Committee has voted to continue using the formula put forth in the Regional Agreement to determine the apportionment of the FY14 budget to each member town. Approval to use this apportionment method must be granted each year.”

***Motion approved unanimously.***

**Article 13.** A motion was made and seconded to transfer the sum of **\$30,000** from the Free Cash, to fund OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits).

***Motion approved unanimously.***

**Article 14.** A motion was made and seconded to transfer from free cash the sum of **\$140,000** to fund a front end loader for the Highway Department.

A motion was made and seconded to pass over Article 14. ***Yes – 16, No 53***

***Motion approved.***

**Article 15.** A motion was made and seconded to transfer from free cash the sum of **\$20,000.00** to fund the Building Renovations account.

***Motion approved unanimously.***

**Article 16.** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the following revolving funds for certain town departments under MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, and to further authorize that any surplus in said accounts exceeding the amounts reflected below in the surplus column will be directed to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year.

***Motion approved unanimously.***

<b>Revolving fund</b>	<b>Authorized to spend</b>	<b>Revenue source</b>	<b>Use of fund</b>	<b>FY2013 spending limit</b>	<b>Surplus column cap</b>
Dog license and control	Town Clerk and Dog Officer	Licenses, fines and donations	Supplies and animal care	\$1,000	\$1,000
Recycling	Recycling Coordinator and Town Administrator	MIRF, grants, bulky waste, garbage bags, recycling containers	Expenses, outreach, educ. stipend and equipment	\$25,000	\$5,000
Fire Inspections	Select Board	Fire inspection fees	Pay Fire Inspector or assistant	\$3,000	\$1,000
Electrical Inspections	Select Board	Electrical Inspection fees	Pay Electrical Inspector or assistant	\$4,000	\$1,000
Plumbing Inspection	Select Board	Plumbing Inspection fees	Pay Plumbing Inspector	\$5,000	\$1,000
Swimming Exercise	Select Board	Swimming Exercise fees	Pay instructor	\$3,000	\$1,000
Library & Dog	Library Board of Trustees	Grants, fines, sales, dog licenses, bequests	Library expenses	\$10,000	\$7,500
Conservation	Commissioners	Local Wetland Protection Permit Fees	Education, outreach, and maintenance of property	\$1,000	\$1,000
Flu Vaccine	Board of Health	Reimbursements for Flu shots & grants	Flu Clinic Expenses	\$1,500	\$1,500
SRECs Solar Renewable EnergyCredits	Selectboard	Contract payments for Solar PV Production	Renewable & Conservation Energy Projects	\$30,000	\$40,000
Total Spending				\$83,500	

**A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to dissolve the meeting at 1:44 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Town Seal

Leslie Bracebridge, Shutesbury Town Clerk

A true copy. Attest: \_\_\_\_\_