

Shutesbury Finance Committee Meeting Minutes **Tuesday, September 1, 2009, 7pm, Town Hall**

Finance Committee Members Present: Bill Wells, Lori Tuominen, George Arvanitis, Weezie Houle, Rus Wilson

Members absent: Gary Hirshfield, Patrick Callahan

- 1. Meeting called to order at:** 7:10pm
- 2.** George Arvanitis will take over from Rus being the Rep to the Personnel Committee; Lori Tuominen volunteers to be the rep to the Regionalization Committee.
- 3. Approve the minutes** of July 7, 2009, passed unanimously.
- 4. Reports of Fin Comm. Reps to other town Committees:**
 - a. Capital Planning Committee Report:** Rus Wilson & Lori Tuominen: No report
 - b. Community Preservation Act Report:** Bill Wells: No report
 - c. LFNAC Report:** Lori Tuominen: LFNAC met on August 26, 2009 to finalize the criteria for rating the 14 submitted RFQs they will be reviewing. They will convene on September 2, 2009 to determine the top 3 design candidates to interview.
 - d. Personnel Committee Report:** Rus Wilson: No report.
 - e. Police Contract Report:** Becky Torres: The Police contract has been signed by both parties. 1.5% like everyone else, good for one year on salaries and the rest of the items on the contract are for 3 years.
 - f. School Committee Report:** Weezie: Summarized reports from the school Committee Meeting. Regionalizing: Pro & Cons of coming withdrawing from Union 28, joining Amherst, and possibly sending 6th graders down the hill.
 - i. Fill in my written report
 - ii. September 12 or Oct 3 for joint Fin Comm, Select Boards and School Committees.
 - iii. Alberto Gonzales, Amherst Superintendent of Schools wants to meet with the Fin Comm, the Select Board & Town Administrator on September 14th, at 5 pm, to discuss 6th graders moving down the hill next year.
 - g. Town Collector Action:** Becky Torres: Ellen McKay was rehired on the 18th of August after she retired on the 15th.
- 5. Free Cash estimate from Gail:** is almost done for the certification in October, with the estimate at \$565,000. School numbers need to be reconciled.
- 6. CPA Surcharge Report:** Looks good! It is more than we estimated it would be this year. The FY10 state match is 29% which brings the total fund to \$44,385! The nine members of the CPC will review proposals and bring them to Town Meeting for approval.
- 7. 1.5 % Salary Increase for STM this fall:** We are going to have to revote the FY10 budget with the corrected line items at the Special Town Meeting in October.
- 8. Solar Array:** Becky Torres reported that the Highway Dept is not a good site for the solar array. The array will be placed behind the Town Hall on the lawn. The financial implications are that we have a \$20,136.54 National Grid/CET (in Green Up Funds) from about 99 out of 875 households and a rebate grant from the MTC RET of approximately \$18,000 to cover the costs of \$32 - 40,000 for the solar array project. If there are any overruns we can use the money in the budget line item of Alternative Energy items.
- 9. Budget Planning for 2011:** We received a handout on the process and will review it at the next meeting.

10. Report on Encumbrances: Some expenses and some funds were carried forward into the same line items. Expenses totaled \$1,511.20 and the amount carried forward was \$40,826.72

11. Expense Reports:

- a. **All expense Reports:** The committee reviewed the expense report and all seems to be in order.
- b. **Sick Bank:** Needs to be re-funded each year. We will deal with that during the budgeting process.

12. Old business: None

13. New Business:

- a. Becky is working to reduce overall electrical costs.
 - 1) She is looking into changing electrical fixtures
 - 2) Purchasing 3 new refrigerators
 - 3) Still have to look into the Highway Dept. electrical expenses,
 - 4) She is exploring costs from 3 electrical companies to see if we can reduce costs

14. Next Meeting Schedule:

- a. Special meeting with Alberto Gonzales on September 14, at 5pm
- b. Tentatively set for October 6, at 7pm

15. Adjourned the meeting at: 9:05pm

Votes Taken: None