

SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes for Jan. 13, 2009
Shutesbury Town Hall

Members present: Eric Stocker, chairman, Bill Wells, Rus Wilson and Patrick J. Callahan. Guests: David Dann, town administrator.

The meeting convened at 7:09 p.m.

The minutes of the Dec. 2, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

The committee reviewed a summary of costs associated with the severe mid-December ice storm that struck the town. While the details weren't clear from the presentation, it appeared that the cost to the town was \$26,275, with \$7,700 for tree work; \$3,361 for fire payroll; \$4,000 for highway department payroll and \$400 for police wages (the last three items are approximations) and another \$10,813 for various tree work. The committee decided to ask David Dann, the town administrator, for a more detailed explanation.

The board then reviewed the latest expense and revenue reports.

There was also a general discussion of what level of state aid cuts are likely for the current year and for the next fiscal year. Details won't be clear until later in the month when the governor announces the next round of reductions and files his proposed budget for next year. It was agreed, however, that the town should brace for very grim and severe budgets for the next few years.

Gabriele Voelker, town treasurer, requested a Finance Committee transfer of \$5,000 to the tax title account. This was approved unanimously.

Eric reported that there needs to be a Finance Committee representative appointed to the committee that is looking into possible regionalization of elementary schools. It was decided to hold off on this until more members of the committee were present.

David Dann told the panel that the work on the Lake Wyola dam is nearing completion and that the contractor needs to pour one more section of concrete wall. He says once this is done, the lake can be allowed to begin filling again. He reviewed a sheet of expenses that shows the town will received \$131,447 back thanks to the state appropriation that was secured from our legislators and the governor. He says \$213,004 has already been spent on the project and the \$150,000 appropriated by a special Town Meeting on Oct. 8 will be mostly offset by the \$131,447 coming back to the town.

David also reported that an energy audit of the town buildings was underway and the results should be known in the form of a report in two-to-three weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan