

**SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes for Jan. 16, 2007**  
**Shutesbury Town Hall**

Members present: Eric Stocker, chairman, Lori Tuominen, Rus Wilson, Al Springer and Patrick J. Callahan. Guest, David Dann, town administrator, library trustees David Cormier, Karen Traub and Cliff Read. Energy Committee members Mark Tuominen and Clark Sylvester. Town Collector Ellen McKay.

The meeting convened at 7:06 p.m.

The minutes of the Jan. 9, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

The committee reviewed the expense report with David Dann.

At 7:35 p.m., members of the library trustees arrived. David Cormier said Jane Buchanan was away and would and would not be attending. He reported that the library budget called for an increase in the budget line for aides to pay for extended hours at the library. He also asked advice about the trustees plan to join the local “mini-net” network that links libraries connected through the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System for finding books. He said participation in the system might increase library usage and requests for books, another reason to expand hours. Overall, the trustees are seeking grants to help pay for some of Jane’s hours (currently at 24 hours weekly, with 19 of those with the public).

The library is seeking \$10,000 from the capital budget and hopes to have \$20,000 available to be used to leverage a \$60,000 state planning grant.

Eric suggested that the trustees draft an article for Annual Town Meeting for the various funding projects. He also suggested they contact the personnel committee to discuss expansion of hours for the librarian and aides.

The Energy Committee arrived. Mark Tuominen and Clark Sylvester said they are asking for \$1,000 for their budget. Of that, \$600 would pay for dues to the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) which makes the town eligible for grants. So far, they said, the town has received \$3,000 in grants for the solar array project at the elementary school. The committee is seeking a \$15,000 grant for the proposed windmill project to be located behind Town Hall.

Mark said the windmill project is currently stalled because the town bylaw on towers is ambiguous and needs to be changes at a Town Meeting.

Ellen McKay reported that online tax payments are increasingly popular. She is asking for a budget of \$12,395 plus \$1,500 for an electronic lockbox for tax payments. She also noted the need for a postage machine for Town Hall use that could save on mailing costs. She will ask for that in the capital budget.

The next meeting was set for Jan. 30 at 7 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan.