

SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes for Jan. 31, 2006
Shutesbury Town Hall

Members present: Eric Stocker, chairman, Al Beswick, Al Springer, Russ Greco; Lori Tuominen and Patrick J. Callahan. Guests: David Dann, town administrator.

The meeting convened at 7:08 p.m.

The minutes of the Jan. 10, 2005 and Dec. 21, 2005 meetings were approved unanimously.

David Dann reported that new accidental death benefits for part-time firefighters and police is now part of the town budget and will cost about \$5,000. David also says bids for the Leverett/Coooleyville/Prescott road project may not go out until May because of delays in getting some permits. This could delay work into the next construction season.

Al Beswick says Tari Thomas, principal of the elementary school is very happy with Tim Hunting's services at the schools.

Al also reports that advertisements for a new superintendent for Union 28 have been placed in the Globe and Republican only.

Tim Hunting, highway superintendent, outlined his budget proposal for the next year. After discussion, the committee agreed to increase the fuel line by \$2,000 to \$17,000. He had originally asked for a \$1,000 boost, but with uncertainty about fuel prices, the higher figure was agreed to. It was also agreed to increase the highway material account by \$2,000 to \$25,000. Snow removal materials will also be boosted by \$6,000 to \$50,000.

While most other budget lines were level funded, Tim asked for an increase of \$500 for part-time summer help to \$3,500 and a \$150 increase for uniforms. Tim says the snow removal material account is likely to run over. He also says he is considering using a new ice removal product on the roads next year.

In terms of capital items, Tim says he is looking for a new trailer for about \$6,000.

At this point, Jane Buchanan, town librarian, and members of the library board of trustees, Cliff Read, Karen Traub, Amy Becker, and David Cormier, met with the Finance Committee. David Cormier says \$10,000 in capital is needed for planning for a new library. He says if the town puts up this amount annually in a few years there will be a fund that can be used to leverage state grants. There is currently \$6,000 left from the last planning grant of \$20,000. The planning money can be paid back once the town has secured a state grant for a new library.

Karen Traub says a new round of state library grants won't likely be made available for three to four years.

Jane reported that the library is now scanning its holdings into a computer database.

The Finance Committee then considered the 12 articles on the warrant for the special Town Meeting set for Feb. 7. It approved spending \$433 in article 12 for dental insurance for Union 28 and school employees to bring the town into line with other members of the union.

The committee also approved spending \$5,606 in articles 1-9 for land takings and easements for the LCP road project. The committee didn't approve spending \$12,000 for engineering borings at the Lake Wyola dam because of unanswered questions about the process and the cost.

Eric reminded the committee there was a meeting of the four regional school district towns on Feb. 11 at the Amherst Middle school.

The next meeting is set for Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. with the elementary school and Linda Driscoll, the Union 28 superintendent.

Meetings were also scheduled for Feb. 28 and March 14, both at 7 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan.