

SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes for Oct. 24, 2006
Shutesbury Town Hall

Members present: Eric Stocker, chairman, Al Springer, Al Beswick, Lori Tuominen and Patrick J. Callahan. Guest Becky Torres, selectwoman.

The meeting convened at 7:10 p.m.

The minutes of the Sept. 19 meeting were approved unanimously.

Lori asked about the committee's action on article 5 on the recent Special Town Meeting warrant. The Finance Committee failed to get a second for a motion to support the article and it was characterized as having failed to get support from the panel. Lori asked whether that was correct and wondered if failing to get a second – a technicality – really is the same as refusing to support the article. The board agreed that the action was somewhat ambiguous although it was procedurally correct. In the future the board will try to be more direct in its actions the panel agreed.

Al Beswick reported on the recent meeting of the School Committee. He says he has been impressed by the new principal Robert Mahler.

Al also says there is likely to be an effort by the School Committee and parents seeking funding for a new intercom system for the elementary school. Proponents of the new system see it as a safety measure to protect the children, especially in light of recent school shootings nationally and local incidents at Amherst Regional High School and other area schools. It is likely the backers of the system will seek funding at the next Special Town Meeting, Al says. So far, however, the school officials have not brought the issue to the Finance Committee.

Eric asked for volunteers to serve on the search committee to find a replacement for David Kielson who is stepping down as town accountant. Al Beswick and Al Springer agreed to serve on the search committee with Al Springer serving as backup.

The next meeting was set for Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan.