

SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes for April 1, 2008
Shutesbury Town Hall

Members present: Eric Stocker, chairman, Rus Wilson, Al Springer, Lori Tuominen, Elaine Puleo, Mark Pocsik and Patrick J. Callahan.

The meeting convened at 7:04 p.m.

The minutes of the March 11 meeting were approved unanimously, as amended.

Rus Wilson reported on the discussions with David Dann, the town administrator, about renewal of his contract. Rus says David agreed to accept a 3 percent raise, or whatever percentage other town employees ultimately receive.

Eric then explained the handout he construct each year to show the free cash availability for the current year, its history over several years and projections for the future.

There was then a discussion about the Community Preservation Act and how funds generated by the state match, used together with the local contribution would have had an impact on the town budget. For example, if the town had opted into the program several years ago, funding to pay for the work in the Lake Wyola dam would have been available. The committee noted that while the CPA is an extra tax on property transfers in town, it does generate a stream of state money that could have an impact on town finances.

The committee then discussed and then approved the budget proposal for the coming year. This budget is predicated on approval of an override of Proposition 2 1/2, the state's property-tax limiting law.

At 7:37 p.m. the committee adjourned to meet with the selectmen. At that meeting there was a discussion with Tom Scanlon about the recent audit; a discussion with Gabe Voelker about how much money the state is likely to certify as reimbursable for the school construction project, and a general discussion about how to present the CPA to the voters at Annual Town Meeting. The selectmen vote to support the CPA plan at the Annual Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee left the meeting and reconvened it meeting at 9:15 p.m. Al Springer was not present for this portion of the meeting. The committee discussed the CPA with George Arvanitis and Paul Lyons, members of the committee that created the CPA plan. The Finance Committee then voted unanimously to support the CPA proposal that is being presented to voters.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.
The next meeting is set for April 22.
Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan.