

SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes for April 22, 2008
Shutesbury Town Hall

Members present: Eric Stocker, chairman, Rus Wilson, Al Springer, Lori Tuominen, Mark Pocsik and Patrick J. Callahan. Guests: David Dann, town administrator; Tim Hunting, highway superintendent; Becky Torres, selectwoman and Billy Wells, citizen.

The meeting convened at 7:07 p.m.

Tim told the committee that his machinery maintenance budget was nearly empty. He said he had to repair a spring on the International truck and the 10-wheeler required two new springs.

David Dann said it was possible to use a line-item transfer of up to \$5,000 to pay for the repairs. Lori made a motion to transfer \$3,000 from the Finance Committee reserve with up to \$2,000 more to come from a line-item transfer later. It was approved unanimously.

It was then moved to approve a transfer of \$38,905.48 from the Finance Committee reserve for various items, including: \$7 for the veterans' program; \$165.58 for the FRCOG; \$10,525.49 for snow removal wages; \$24,756.38 for snow removal materials; \$451.38 for ambulance fees and \$3,000 for the highway maintenance account. The motion was approved unanimously.

The minutes of the April 1 meeting were approved as amended.

Rus Wilson agreed to serve on the job evaluation committee for David Dann.

Becky discussed the amendment contained in the House version of the state budget that has money for the Lake Wyola dam repair project. She said Rep. Steve Kulik told her it was likely to be approved.

David Dann reported that the town is now responsible for paying about \$16,000 per year for the next six years for the non-reimbursable costs of the school building project.

Becky asked the committee to consider approving a new revision to the town's salary step plan that adds two grades. The proposed change would introduce some fairness into the step plan, she said. Some employees were passed over for raises when the plan was altered in the past and this change is designed to remedy that situation.

The committee agreed to the plan contingent on the Personnel Board passing it. The committee also agreed to change line item 5 in the town budget for fiscal 2009 to make the new amount \$16,532, up from \$14,532. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was a review of the March 31 revenue report. David Dann also reported that his estimate of free cash to be generated this year was between \$40,000 and \$50,000. He also

said there was about \$30,000 in revenue that could be used to lower the amount of the proposed override, so the committee voted to do that and change the override amount to \$185,000.

The committee then reviewed articles for the Annual Town Meeting warrant. It voted to support articles 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,14 and 15.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan.