

SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes for July 20, 2004
Shutesbury Town Hall

Members present: Chairman Eric Stocker, Al Beswick, Russ Greco, Patrick J. Callahan and Lori Tuominen, who is considering joining the board.

The meeting convened at 7:06 p.m.

The minutes of the May 25 meeting were approved unanimously.

It was moved and approved to give notice to Rita Farrell to resign from the committee or be voted off at the next meeting. The move was designed to make room for a new member and isn't a negative reflection on Rita's service.

There was a discussion about whether Police Chief Charles Bray is considering retirement in the near future and what financial implications that may have for the town.

The board reviewed the most recent revenue report, although it didn't contain the final figures for the end of the fiscal year.

Fire Chief Walter Tibbetts met with the committee and talked about the need for a vehicle for the chief in place of his use of his personal vehicle. One option is to use the oldest of the town police cruisers. The old cruiser has been retired from service and replaced with the police chief's car that has been painted with the town's insignia. Walter says for the cost of insurance, the old cruiser could serve as a car for the fire chief. He says he has discussed the idea with the selectmen. The board took the matter under advisement and says it will discuss it with the selectmen later in the evening when the two boards are scheduled to meet.

The committee reviewed the expense report of July 20, noting that it is not the final report of the year. David Kielson is expected to issue the fiscal year final reports later this summer.

A request for a transfer of \$290.61 from the Finance Committee reserve was approved unanimously. The money is: \$9.03 for the treasurer; \$55.97 for printing and advertising; and \$225.61 for police cruiser maintenance.

The next meeting was set for Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

A motion to adjourn to go meet with the selectmen was unanimously approved at 8 p.m.

In a joint meeting with selectmen, the board approved an article calling for the transfer of money to the septic system revolving fund to be acted on at a special Town Meeting on Aug. 27 at Town Hall.

The two boards then voted to go into executive session for reason #6, to discuss acquiring real estate. The vote was Eric Stocker, yes, Al Beswick, yes, Patrick J. Callahan, yes, Russ Greco, yes. Lori Tuominen was invited to attend by the selectmen. The property in question is the former Taylor land on Leverett Road. The Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve spending \$1,000 for an appraisal of the parcel. Funds would come from the Finance Committee reserve to the town's legal expense account. There was general agreement that the town should seek to buy the Taylor property if it is proven affordable and feasible.

The Finance Committee voted to come out of executive session at 9:50 p.m. The vote was Eric Stocker, yes, Al Beswick, yes, Patrick J. Callahan, yes, Russ Greco, yes.

Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan.