

SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes for July 23, 2008
Shutesbury Town Hall

Members present: Eric Stocker, chairman, Lori Tuominen, Bill Wells and Patrick J. Callahan. Guests: David Dann, town administrator; Al Springer, selectman.

The meeting convened at 7:10 p.m.

The minutes of the June 17 meeting were approved unanimously.

Several transfers from the Finance Committee reserve fund were approved.

The board reviewed and approved unanimously a transfer of \$1,452 to pay for the salary adjustment for the secretary to the selectmen. The change reflects the new employment grade schedule that was passed by Annual Town Meeting but was not included in the town budget.

The board approved unanimously the transfer of \$10,000 to pay for hazardous waste cleanup at the fire station. David Dann reported that the construction crew working on the Leverett Road section of the road project detected contamination in the soil in front of and west of the fire station. This prompted the removal of an old gasoline tank that apparently had leaked in the past and some contaminated soil. He says this is the first installment of costs associated with the cleanup. The town has hired a consultant, Cold Spring Environmental of Belchertown, to oversee the project. On July 17, Cold Spring was awarded the bid for \$7,140 by the selectmen to do the work. David also says the initial report on the project will be made to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection on Aug. 1. Bill Wells asked if Allan Weiss of Cold Spring had contacted the town's insurance company about getting some funding for the cleanup. David Dann told him that he would ask Weiss to make that contact.

The board also approved the transfer of \$3,556 to the police operating budget to pay for Justin Wall, a part-time police officer, to attend the police academy full-time to pay for his tuition and expenses. David explained that Wall has signed an agreement with the town agreeing to stay on the police force for three years after he completes his training and if not he will be responsible to reimburse the town for the costs of attending the academy. While the board agreed to this arrangement, the members expressed some reluctance because they thought the matter should have been included in the police department annual budget or taken from existing funds. That reluctance was overcome by the recognition that having another fully trained, full-time officer will benefit the town.

The board approved unanimously the transfer of \$922 for the Franklin Council of Governments to pay for an assessment that was \$487 higher than estimated and \$435 for increased fuel costs.

The board reviewed the June 30 expense report.

The next meeting was set for Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. where the board will meet with the selectmen, energy committee and building committee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan.