

**SHUTESBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes for Jan. 6, 2004**  
**Shutesbury Town Hall**

Members present: Chairman Eric Stocker, Al Beswick, Patrick J. Callahan. Guests present: David Ames, Tim Hunting, Julie Taylor.  
The meeting convened at 7:04 p.m.

Highway Superintendent Tim Hunting reviewed his capital needs. They include:

- 1.) A landscape trailer for the town lawnmower. Approximately \$3,000.
- 2.) A 16-20 ton trailer for moving the backhoe and other equipment.  
Approximately \$5-6,000.
- 3.) A rear flail mower for clearing the roadside. Approximately \$10,800.

Tim then outlined his basic budget request for the coming year. It was agreed to boost his fuel line item from \$11,000 to \$11,500 based on rising gas prices. It was also agreed to keep the snow removal budget level, in part because it's impossible to know how busy the season will be, and because this is the one item that can legally be overspent by state law. Tim said \$3,600 for tools and equipment seems adequate and doesn't need to be changed. He said the town should prepare to purchase a new backhoe within the next 3-5 years at a cost of \$75,000. Tim said the highway expense line is up to \$2,700, largely because he added \$450 for beaver control measures. Tim said beavers are an increasing problem for his department. He asked for \$20,000 for highway materials. Tim said the gravel road account is currently at \$99,410 and he will continue to spend it down. For machinery maintenance, he requested \$20,000, and for road marking and striping, he asked for \$8,400.

Tim also told the committee to consider hiring a part-time summer employee to free up the other members of his crew. Leverett has such a set up and he said he would check with their department on cost and how well it works. The committee thanked Tim for his time and presentation.

The minutes of Nov. 25 were unanimously approved.

There was a discussion of who on the Finance Committee should serve on the Leverett/Cooleyville/Prescott road committee. Perhaps Russ Wilson or Rita Farrell has an interest. Eric said he would talk to them.

The committee reviewed the 12/31/03 revenue report.

The committee reviewed the preliminary budget for fiscal 2005 prepared by Town Administrator David Ames.

Members will attend the All Boards Meeting on Jan. 27 prior to the meeting of the Board of Selectmen,

Other meetings will be set for Jan. 28, 2004 with the Shutesbury School Committee, principal, and Union 28 superintendent.

On Feb. 3, the committee will meet with Walter Tibbets, fire chief, and Charlie Bray, police chief, each for 45 minutes.

On March 2, the committee will meet with the assessor, and the town collector, for 30 minutes each.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Submitted by Patrick J. Callahan.