

Joint Shutesbury Board of Selectmen
School Committee and Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 22, 2005

Select Board Members Present: Chairman Rebecca Torres and Debra Pichanick.
Absent: Joseph Jacobs. Finance Committee Members Present: Chairman Eric Stocker, and members Lori Tuominen, Al Springer, Patrick Callahan and Al Beswick.
School Committee Member Present: Daniel Hayes
Also Present: Town Administrator David Dann and Leslie Bracebridge, recording.
Meeting called to order at 7:10 P.M.

Appointments

In a continuation of the Tax Classification Hearing called for November 15, 2005, Administrative Assessor Kenneth Holmberg reported the new values have been certified. **A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to maintain a single tax rate for all property classifications for fiscal year 2006.** The FY 06 tax rate is \$17.30 down a dollar from FY 05, as a result of the increase in valuations.

Kenneth reported he has an attorney's **request for a waiver of the town's right of first refusal of a property removed from Chapter 61** in 1994. Currently the property is identified as Assessor's lot T-165. In 1994, T-165 was sold and converted to residential use. There is a record in the 1994 Select Board meeting minutes waiving the town's right of first refusal of a property on Pratt Corner Road but not clearly identifying what property. Kenneth said that T-165 has two parts and it appears that the 1994 Board of Selectmen only voted on one part. The attorney has requested that the current Board of Selectmen waive the town's right of first refusal on the second part. Selectmen agreed to vote after the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission have reviewed the request, the process followed in Shutesbury before the Select Board votes on a right of first refusal.

Finance Committee Chairman Eric Stocker distributed "FY 06 Regional Budget Allocation per Various Methods" (Addendum #1.) Eric summarized the work of a committee that studied various Amherst-Pelham Regional member town contribution formulas, to find one to be used in FY 07, in the absence of a renewed Education Reform formula, which expired in 2000. Eric feels that without unanimity, the formula review committee would most likely favor the original regional agreement formula when they vote on their recommendation at their December 5 meeting, because of its simplicity and because every town pays the same amount per child.

Becky said that the options before Shutesbury are to either support the original regional agreement (option 2 on addendum #1) or fight for the Aggregate Wealth Approach 50% EQV, 50% Income (option 4 of addendum #1).

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted by members present of the Finance Committee, the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee, to

recommend that the formula review committee adopt the original regional agreement formula (a per pupil basis, on a rolling 5-year average.)

A second motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted by members present of the Finance Committee, the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee, that if the formula review committee should reject the original formula (option 2 on the addendum) then they promote the Aggregate Wealth Approach 50%EQV, 50% Income (option 4 on the addendum) as option 4 is a fair representation of what the financial situations of the towns are and is likely to be the kind of formula that the Department of Education would develop to replace the Education Reform formula that expired in 2000.

Select Board Action Items

1. **Unanimously voted to sign vendor warrants totaling \$92,393.49.**
2. **Unanimously voted to sign an Executive Office of Public Safety FY2006 SAFE (fire safety education) grant in the amount of \$3,017.29** for educational activities at the elementary school to be presented by the Amherst Fire Department.

Selectmen unanimously **voted to adjourn at 8:25 P.M.** leaving the Finance Committee to complete their business.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Bracebridge
Administrative Secretary