

## Shutesbury Board of Selectmen September 13, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Chairwoman Elaine Puleo and members Al Springer and April Stein.

Also Present: Town Administrator Rebecca Torres, Administrative Secretary Leslie Bracebridge recording.

Meeting opened at 6:30 P.M. at the Shutesbury Town Hall with leftover snacks and sandwich fixings from the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Ball.

### Appointments

#### **Police Chief Harding and Sergeant Wall:**

- Part time Officer Mark Shlosser submitted his resignation on Saturday due to scheduling difficulties which Mark did not anticipate at the time of hiring.
  - Summary: 4 police is the bare minimum, 3 people is not enough to cover extended leaves such as the one anticipated in November. Possible solutions:
    - Reciprocal trade –off with Leverett?
    - There is the issue of county line to share with Pelham.
    - Some towns “cross-swear” officers so that they can work in bordering towns.
    - Shutesbury knows officers from Leverett and Leverett officers know Shutesbury procedures.
    - Chief Harding will discuss possibilities for sharing staff with Chief Billings.
    - Hiring the same part time officers as Leverett would be more expensive than just hiring part time officers independently and as expensive as hiring full time.

### Topics

#### 1. **Emergency Status:**

- Selectmen reviewed and agreed that the hurricane emergency had passed. Becky will coordinate the sharing of information between Emergency Management Director and Fire Chief Tibbetts and Select Board Chairman Elaine Puleo to discontinue the state of emergency.

#### 2. **Fire station Gas Leak Update – Report from John Henry – water tests taken week of 9/9/11.**

- John Henry was arranging to have the carbon tanks removed.
  - Becky tried to have its removal slowed until decisions were resolved, as the tank was not completely used.
  - Though Selectmen discussed future possibilities at their previous meeting, they are waiting to have the technical experts and data in front of them before they make a final decision on continuing Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE.)
  - Selectmen would like Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Deputy Regional Director Eva Tor and Ben Fish to review the calculations provided to Becky by O’Reilly, Talbot & Okun’s consultant Jim Okun.
  - Tanks from the pilot test will be reviewed tomorrow as a new design would have to be developed even if the town opts to move forward with further SVE.
  - John Henry indicated that he would not charge for the tank removal and he would not charge to replace it, saying a new tank for new tests would not be the same size if needed anyway.
  - Becky would like to review DEP regulations and then talk with Ben Fish.
  - Once the recent well test reports come in, a meeting will be scheduled.
  - It’s important to verify we have done everything that we can.
  - At the September 27 meeting the Select Board review the available data, put a list of questions together, and then schedule a meeting with Eva and Ben.

- Perhaps others could be asked for second opinions and advice also, but an initial meeting with Jim Okun would be best.

### **3. Flood Insurance Information – Request to inform citizens impacted directly**

- Lake Wyola property owner Bob Thompson called Becky to request more informational sessions regarding the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and she has reassured him that education will continue:
  - A targeted mailing will be sent to property owners in flood plain areas. It will include:
    - Notice that a bylaw is required.
  - State expert Eric Carlson from the Department of Conservation and Recreation has offered to give sample insurance rates for a couple of properties in flood zones.
  - David Green stated at the September 3 meeting at the Lake Wyola Association Building that due to recent flooding, banks are taking flood insurance more seriously.
  - Should Selectmen go to the special town meeting for approval, or wait until the annual town meeting? While waiting for the annual town meeting feels better in some ways, there may be people “caught in between” and be forced to pay the higher rate for the interim.
    - The few it would impact would be able to lower their rates as soon as it passes.
    - We should let people know we are looking into this and wanting their response.
    - The benefit is capped at the first \$250,000 of property value anyway.

### **4. Special Fall Town Meeting date Final Selection**

- Selectmen unanimously voted to schedule a Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, October 25 at 7 PM at the Elementary School and a Special Town Override Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 from 7 AM to 8 PM at Town Hall.
- Because debt is dropping off in other areas in 2013 and 2014, the funding could be met even without the debt excluded override election:
  - \$12,000 will drop off for lot O-32,
  - \$48,000 for the Library access project and dump truck, and
  - \$39,000 for something else not instantly remembered.
- The funding choices need to be talked about in a simple way at the Special Town meeting.
- Discussion on the introduction of the new library building into the town’s facilities included:
  - The library is a community based facility for everybody.
  - It’s a fundamental pillar of the community.
  - What will be done with the old library?
  - There has been a planning, fund-raising and development process for the proposed library.
  - Some questions concern what is ancillary to need:
    - Create a culture of understanding that the library is as important as other needs,
    - The tax dollar amount is not something that will hurt people; it will be conservative,
    - After the library is built, property values will increase.

### **5. Library Funding Request Warrant Article & Election Ballot review**

- Becky distributed a draft copy of the town meeting article concerning new Library construction funding and the Board of Selectmen will provide the Town Clerk with wording for the ballot question at least 35 days in advance of the November 8 Special Election date (October 4.)

### **6. 250<sup>th</sup> Ball – post mortem**

- Selectmen were in full agreement: the band was excellent and they performed at no expense.
  - Selectmen will create a recognition certificate that states “...and the Dads came home.”
  - Becky offered a panoramic photo of all party-goers produced by Steve Rice for the recognition certificate.
  - Band members would like to see their family members in the recognition certificate photo.

- One large collage will be made for the band entity with shrunk photos of the collage made for the individual band members.

- The Select Board joyfully reviewed photos of the event.

#### **7. United Nations**

- Selectmen unanimously voted to proclaim October 24<sup>th</sup> as United Nations Day and Elaine signed the certificate to be sent to the United Nations Association of Greater Boston.

#### Select Board Action Items

1. Selectmen approved the minutes of Tues. August 30, Fri. September 2, and Tues. September 6, 2011 as written.
2. Selectmen unanimously voted to sign an event form to use the town hall large meeting room for the Library for a September 14, 2011 gardening program.
3. Selectmen signed payroll warrants totaling \$80,375.09.
4. Selectmen signed vendor warrants totaling \$128,428.13.

#### Topics the Chairman Could Not Reasonably Have Anticipated

1. Distribution of leftovers from the 250<sup>th</sup> ball.

The Select Board **adjourned at 9:00 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Bracebridge  
Administrative Secretary