

Shutesbury Board of Selectmen January 18, 2012 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

The **Police Chief** was not present. When asked how things are going, Becky reported that there were no updates from Chief Harding except that things are going well. The new officer is very pleasant in and out of the building. Scheduling is going well, and the vehicles are all working well.

Topics

1. **Select Board representative for the Police Union contract negotiations:** April volunteered and it was **unanimously voted that April Stein represent the Select Board for the Police Union Contract negotiations.**
2. **Request for appointment of additional Election Officers:** Because the same people who worked at the election cannot work at the recount Leslie requested consideration of new appointments on the chance that a petition for a recount is submitted. Selectmen reviewed voter lists to find additional names for appointment as election officers if there is a recount. **Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint: Jean Footit, Harry Masterton, Steve Sullivan, Carol Rideout, Michael Ross, Mary Annarella, Joseph Jerry, Tom Boynton, Lorna Broucek, Bruce Davidson, Margie Saporito, Geraldine Strangman, Richard Strangman, Margie Kolchin, Steven Miller, Jackie Katz, Sarah Killion, Homer Perkins, Linda Hicks, Lois Brown, Kevin Magarigal, Evelyn Pless, Susan Steenstrup, and Amber O'Brien as election officers, if any of them are willing to serve, if only for the potential recount. They also appointed Christine Vlach who has previously been on the list of election officers.**
3. **Request for an appointment to the New Shutesbury Library Capital Fundraising Committee:** Jane Urban, who previously represented the Friends of the Library on the Committee resigned. **Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint Julie Stepanek as the Friends of the Library representative to the New Shutesbury Library Capital Fundraising Committee.**
4. **Request for use of Town Hall by the Town Democratic Committee: Selectmen unanimously voted to authorize use of the Town Hall by the Democratic Town Committee on February 18 from 9:00 – 10:30 AM.**
5. **Update of the fire station cleanup:** Becky reported that she spoke with Licensed Site Professional (LSP) James Okun to report on a meeting with UMass officials regarding Fire Station clean-up. The Select Board is waiting for feedback from UMass officials before deciding on moving forward with the technology previously recommended by Jim Okun. Jim is ready to go forward with his recommended treatment if it is requested. Jim is also interested in the treatments which might be available through UMass. If UMass technology is used, Jim would remain as the LSP. Jim feels that the UMass technology needs oxygen. **Elaine:** Steve Goodwin also did work for a big spill for the business of Enron before it became Enron. "Steve knows the industry." Environmental Consultant Alan Weis has been on vacation. Becky will check in with him tomorrow.

Select Board Action Items

- 1 Selectmen signed payroll warrants totaling \$82,726.37.
- 2 Selectmen signed vendor warrants totaling \$458,562.36.

- 3 Previous Select Board meeting minutes are in various stages of completion as the Secretary has been working extra unavoidable hours in her role as Town Clerk, at the sacrifice of meeting minutes completion in her role as Administrative Secretary to the Select Board.

Topics the Chairman Could Not Reasonably Have Anticipated

1. **Elaine and Becky received notice of a cancelled Franklin Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board meeting.** Elaine shared her mailing packet with other members of the Select Board.
2. **585 Wendell Road resident Patricia “Patsy” Carson:** Appeared before the Board at the start of the meeting to report the words of a friend of hers from Wendell who was involved in their new library project. Patricia reported that she was told that Wendell saved for 10 years before they built their library and they have been drawing from that savings ever since. **Patricia** returned at the end of the Select Board meeting to say that there are many, many people who want the library and lost and that she did not mean to affect any Select Board action. **Elaine:** Explained that the tie vote had been amended to 523 - yes and 522- no following the resolution of the Provisional ballot. Elaine further explained that the outcome is “out of the hands of the Board of Selectmen.” **Patsy:** Offered her blessings and praise at the Select Board membership functioning so well together and departed.
3. **New Shutesbury Library Fundraising Committee Chairman Susan “Susie” Mosher:** Is concerned about the community communication process and the process that we have just gone through as a town. Susie wants to identify what worked, and what was ineffective, beyond the library to develop a way that the town communicates around any town project. Susie said that she would like to mail the Select Board a draft of how the town might work on that and how it might be organized. Susie hopes her ideas will be discussed at the next official Select Board meeting. Susie repeated that she wants to get people together to talk about communication; to start thinking about those issues. **Elaine:** Does not want to go through the same kind of process (as the library decisions) and that ends up with people not feeling resolved at the end. Elaine continued to explain that the last time she and others spent many hours bringing forward regionalization and it got only about 11 votes. She felt that wastes people’s time and energy. It makes hard decisions harder. Elaine recognized her need for constructive ideas from the onset. Elaine would like people to start talking right now about regionalization. **Susie:** wants to get people talking about what they experienced. There are many processes that a town has to figure out. Susie would like to submit a draft and described her appearance before the Board tonight as just “planting the seed.” “It has to be short and sweet.” “There might be enough ideas to work on mechanisms.” **April:** We might find people interested in volunteering. **Elaine:** Some people have found a way (through the library debate) to “connect” in ways which they never have before. **April:** It’s a potential way to talk about process without an overlay of emotion. Susie plans to have something mailed out in advance for the Tuesday, January 31 Select Board meeting.
4. **Elaine reported:** that she successfully submitted the Community Innovation Challenge Grant (signed at the Saturday, January 7 Select Board meeting) for funding to research the proposed regionalization process. We will hear in February if we got the grant or not. Elaine sent copies of the grant application to Representative Kulik and Senator Rosenberg. Senator Rosenberg’s Aide, Mary Jane Bacon had a conversation with Tim Dowd, the Community Innovation Challenge Grant Program Manager concerning the request. Mr. Dowd is now positive about it and looking forward to receiving it. Senator Rosenberg gave helpful suggestions before it was submitted for wording and suggested an additional \$20,000 be added to the budget for legal services. This is a regionalization process and the Amherst Regionalization Study Committee is having an open forum on regionalization on Thursday February 23, which people might like to attend. Elaine advises people to watch for future postings about it. According to the Daily Hampshire Gazette, Amherst was applying for the money, but it was actually the full committee.

5. Becky: Presented WiredWest’s Community Innovation Challenge Grant final contract summary and signature sheet for Select Board to sign off. The Community Innovation Challenge Grant in an amount between \$400,000 and \$500,000 would be used to cover the financing costs of the municipal bond offering to capitalize the WiredWest network. There is no financial commitment required from the towns to apply for, or upon being awarded this grant. The long range plan would be to finance the project through a bond and the payments for the bond would be paid by subscribers’ payments. Also, people will be asked if they would consider subscribing in advance. **Selectmen unanimously voted to sign the WiredWest application for a Community Innovation Challenge Grant in the range of \$400,000 to \$500,000** to cover the financing costs of the municipal bond offering to capitalize the WiredWest network.
6. **Becky** summarized her meeting in Boston with other representatives from Leverett including Treasurer DeeAnn Civello who has worked for 20 years trying to sort out the shared Union 28 employees benefits payments. Representative Kulik arranged parking for them right at the State House. Selectman Eugene Klepadlo joined them from Erving. Becky read her testimony (attached.) Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Services Representative John Scibak was well-versed on the topic in advance by Senator Rosenberg and Representative Kulik, so Representative Scibak was supportive of the concept of each town contributing according to the percentage paid by each town’s own contributions to their own employee benefits. Just a few clarifications were requested. Stan Rosenberg’s aide will find out a timeline of when it will go to a vote. Leverett’s Town Administrator Margie McGinnis also made a short statement. Mark will let us know the timeline. Becky is certain a decision will be made before the end of the fiscal year. Selectmen thanked Becky for getting this effort to happen. Selectmen were impressed with this “coming together” of 5 towns’ Select Boards and School Committees.
7. **The elementary school was closed on Monday** due to a broken water pipe in the kitchen area. A door got closed that is normally left open over night. There are other old pipes which could spring leaks at any time. The actual damage was \$200 to \$300. Unrelated work will be done on the furnace also.
8. The next Regionalization Committee meeting date has not been established.
9. **71 Wendell Road resident Joanne Sunshower** delivered a letter to the Select Board on behalf of the “Yes Library Committee” including Aron Goldman, Michael DeChiara, Dan Paquin and Fred Steinberg, requesting that if the Select Board appoints someone as a temporary Registrar, it be someone “with a public record of neutrality.” Leslie and Becky had reviewed with Town Counsel this afternoon, the predicted Registrar absence for the tentative January 25 recount date and learned that MGL Chapter 51 §20 states that the Selectmen may appoint a temporary registrar on the written request of the Board of Registrars. The Select Board has not received a request from the Board of Registrars. Leslie reported that each Registrar had independently checked in with her today to see if a recount petition had been delivered. Leslie had asked each Registrar if there was a desire for the Selectmen to appoint a temporary registrar and not one had indicated a need or interest in having the Selectmen appoint a temporary Registrar. Becky will respond to Joanne Sunshower with reference to MGL Chapter 51 §20.

The Select Board **adjourned at 8:25 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Bracebridge
Administrative Secretary