

## Shutesbury Board of Selectmen Tuesday July 3, 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.

Chairman Puleo opened the meeting at 6:30 P.M. at the Shutesbury Town Hall

### Appointments

**Police Chief Harding:** Was not present.

### Topics

#### 1. **Year end schedule:**

- Finance officials are closing fiscal year 2012 and some bills are coming in for fiscal year 2013.
  - Selectmen signed a combined FY 12 and FY 13 payroll warrant and
  - Selectmen signed separate FY 12 and FY 13 vendor warrants, see amounts below.
- Finance officials are collecting department information and preparing a schedule of transfers for fiscal year 2012 (as allowed by M.G.L. C. 44 § 33B.)
- The Finance Committee will meet on July 10 to review the proposed transfers.
- Members of the Finance Committee will attend the July 17 Select Board meeting for a combined boards review and for the two boards to vote on the schedule of transfers.
- The snow removal and health insurance lines were in good shape, the unemployment line came out even. All in all, there is more money coming back than there were overages.
- The regional school bus transportation contract allows for a gasoline adjustment: As gas goes up, there is an increase to the total payment. Shutesbury must pay an additional \$1800.
  - This was also true with all of the recent rubbish hauling bids including the approved contract with Allied Waste. Calculations will be made on a quarterly basis.
  - Likewise, if fuel prices go down, prices will go down, somewhat.
- It is anticipated that the transfer schedule will run in the range of \$12,000 – \$15,000.
- An unanticipated \$6,000 will be taken off the top of free cash for school choice students.

#### 2. **Update on War Memorial** by Selectman Springer:

- Al worked 3 days on the War Memorial last week:
  - 5 hours on Monday with other community volunteers on the stones at the base.
  - Tuesday Al went to the Franklin County Tech School to coordinate their efforts, and
  - Wednesday he was back working with the Highway Department taking away excess stone.
- More lettered panels will be put on this summer and panels will be placed on the backs of the memorial.
- Final coat painting will be done in the fall and after the painting is done grass will be seeded.
- A couple of small evergreens will be added in the fall.
- Simultaneous to the War Memorial rebuild, repairs were made to the Community Church steeple and the exterior was painted and is looking very nice.

#### 3. **Fire Station Remediation** Update - Oxidation Remediation/time table by Town Administrator Torres:

- Reports show that things are moving in the right direction.
- Becky had consultants review her Friday June 29 Town Administrator's report of the remediation for accuracy before it was put out.
- The \$200,000 payback settlement will be reviewed after the first quarter of oxidation remediation.

#### 4. **Storage/dept. needs/space:**

- Selectmen are grateful to school officials who are clearing a 5 X 20 foot space in one of their storage shed for storage of trash bags, signs and other items for the Recycling Committee.
- Preparation for use of the rear kitchen/bathroom area of the Old Town Hall for storage of trash bags would take more than the 2 weeks, when a new order of trash bags are due to arrive.
- The Recycling committee is ready and willing to help with the clean-up of Old Town Hall and the rebuilding of the back steps if that space is needed for trash bag storage in the future.
- Recycling Committee Chairman Meryl Mandell suggested storing the trash bags at the school as that is the location of the biggest trash bag distribution day.
- The 1929 town hall would require many code compliance updates for any use other than storage, including septic accommodations and there is no exterior space for septic.
- As other departments bring space needs to Becky she is answering that there is no new space, and is also asking departments to clean-up their belongings in the senior lounge room which is being prepared for a new floor to be installed and for uses beyond storage. With the loss of grant money for the new library pressure on space needs will continue. Becky reports that departments are responding.
  - About 10 years ago the senior lounge was divided in half with a wall of filing cabinets for the departments which were moved out of the upstairs room where the Police Department was at that time built.
  - Complaints of mold and mildew in the room continue.
  - The storage space provided in the senior lounge was never used efficiently by the departments as members preferred the upstairs room for meetings, and the locked senior lounge door made access to the file cabinets, stored a floor away, a challenge.
- There is a limit to available space, and it needs to be shared fairly.
- Discussion of space use will not be solved in one evening.
- The school was tighter for space, when it was once nearing student capacity, than it is right now.

#### 5. **Shutesbury Library:**

- No official communication was required to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners as time ran out on MBLC grant funding for the proposed Shutesbury library.
- Another town in Massachusetts may receive the money.
- Elaine predicted that someday in the future there will be a new library and that Shutesbury will again be considered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for a grant.
- April expressed her disappointment of about 5 year's worth of work lost and that it didn't work out.
- Anna Aaron who was present and invited to comment was heartened that the legal system upheld the local town officials' decision on Shutesbury voters. Anna acknowledged that Becky was correct in stating that Judge Rupp had not upheld the Registrar's decision on two Shutesbury voters and that the Appeals Court had not commented on those two voters.
- Discussion on the impact that Internet communications had on this big community vote ranged from surprise, to dismay at the intensity of some comments and at the limits placed on town officials' Internet comments due to the Open Meeting Law. How do town officials engage productively, answer questions, and disseminate information in this Internet context?
- Elaine voiced concern about how the work of the Regionalization Study Committee could be impacted by Internet communications:
  - Would like people to come to meetings to listen and participate now in the planning stages.
  - Input is needed to move forward with a plan and yet it is hard to get input without a plan.
  - Hopes that people have not already made up their minds on an issue that is evolving.
- No one can predict future school enrollments, or how the economy will affect town growth.

- Previous trends of older people moving to Amherst and young families moving in may be changing.
  - How do we engage with modern technology communications?
    - The Internet depersonalizes communication.
    - The Open Meeting Law requires communication to be at open meetings.
    - If you have a meeting for 500 people, where would you have it?
      - Rent a tent with a PA system?
      - Use Amherst high school auditorium?
      - Use a UMass facility?
  - The Regional School District Planning Committee plans to bring a regionalization plan to the 2014 annual potential member town meetings if analysis of changes are supported.
6. **Assessors' Response to Concerns:**
- The Board of Assessors received a citizen's letter regarding their decision to post owners' names with properties on the Internet and re-voted not to include any property owners' names.
7. **FRCOG – lead town request for consultant for Regional Planning Committee:**
- Elaine had a passing interaction with Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Director of Community Services Phoebe Walker who had been approached by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) to provide FRCOG financial support for the Regional School District Planning Committee.
  - Elaine had no specifics and has followed-up with an email inquiry, which has not had a response.
  - Elaine asked, “Would Shutesbury like to take FRCOG money to study regionalization?”:
    - The Committee could move forward more quickly than if they have to wait for possible Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) grant funds.
    - The funds would be used for governance and finance aspects, not the legal aspects.
    - The Committee will ask for DESE funds soon and is starting with studying the educational aspects first.
  - Elaine needs more information from Phoebe. Selectmen informally agreed that there should be no harm in being the requesting community for FRCOG funding.
  - Elaine will let Becky know if Selectmen will need to meet on Friday, July 13 at 7:30 AM to vote to request FRCOG funds to support the research of the Regional School District Planning Committee.
8. **Hosting meters for solar project:**
- Becky has calls out for more input on the assignment of municipal credits as she has been cautioned not to rush into a 20-year commitment.
  - She has a “quick manual” about interconnections, but needs more input.
  - Input is needed from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER).
  - Nothing will be concrete until there is a special town meeting vote.

### Select Board Action Items

#### **1. Recycling & Hauling Contract amendment:**

- The amendment to the Allied Waste Contract clears up small details and itemizes the numbers and placement of Allied Waste Services' waste containers.
- Whether Duseau or Shutesbury own the extra recycling bins at the school is being sorted out.

**Selectmen unanimously voted to sign the First Amendment to the Allied Waste Services Contract.**

#### **2. FCCIP (Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program) agreement:**

- The new FCCIP assessment formula is not based on building permit costs.

**Selectmen unanimously voted to approve and sign an agreement for services for July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 and which will renew automatically for three years.**

#### **3. Big Belly agreement with Amherst Department of Public Works (DPW):**

- For a period of time, Becky has tried to find a Shutesbury location for the “Big Belly” solar trash compactor that was assigned to Shutesbury by the DOER on the designation of Shutesbury as a “Green Community,” but there seems to be no suitable location for the “Big Belly” in Shutesbury.
- Town of Amherst Department of Public Works Superintendent Guilford Mooring would like one at the War Memorial Pool.
- DOER owns the “Big Belly” and gives it to Shutesbury. Shutesbury can assign its use to any entity.
- With the help and agreement of the DOER a contract was created for Amherst to receive and use Shutesbury’s “Big Belly.”

**Selectmen unanimously voted to sign an agreement between the Town of Shutesbury and the Town of Amherst, assigning use and maintenance of Shutesbury’s “Big Belly” to Amherst.**

**4. Sign FY 13 PAF’s (Personnel Action Forms) – 5:**

- Three Fire Department personnel received promotions:
  - Daniel Emerson to Deputy Chief
  - Stuart Richter and Leonard Czerwonka to Lieutenant.
- On June 20 PAF’s were inadvertently missed for Collector McKay and Library Substitute Pearson.

**Selectmen unanimously voted to approve and sign all 5 PAF’s.**

**5. Appointment to Recycling Committee:**

**Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint Elizabethann Lacy to the Recycling Committee.**

**6. Reappointment to FRTA (Franklin Regional Transit Authority):**

**Selectmen affirmed their June 20 appointment of Rebecca Torres and Marilyn Tibbetts as Shutesbury’s representatives to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority for the purpose of completion of FRTA forms.**

- 7. Selectmen signed FY ’12 vendor warrants totaling \$85,378.92 and FY ’13 vendor warrants totaling \$151,749.79.**
- 8. Selectmen signed combined FY ’12 and FY ’13 payroll warrants totaling \$75,446.41.**
- 9. Selectmen unanimously voted to approve the June 20 and June 29, 2012 meeting minutes as written.**

The Select Board **adjourned at 8:10 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Bracebridge  
Administrative Secretary