

Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes
December 28, 2017 - Shutesbury Town Hall, 7pm

Members Present: George Arvanitis, Elaine Puleo, Bob Groves, Jim Hemingway, Eric Stocker, **Members Absent:** Weezie Houle, Jim Walton **Non-Members present:** Becky Torres Town Administrator, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil Michael DeChiara Selectboard, Jeff Lacey, Mike Vinskey, Tim Hunting Highway Dept.

- No minutes were available to approve
- Our Town newsletter has a January 10th deadline for an article. George will write about the regional assessment
- Regional Assessment topic: Still no firm commitment from Leverett for the plan all other towns have agreed on. They now are in favor of the statutory method. This would mean making a 6% cut to the proposed budget due to the reluctance of Amherst to pay their assessment. If we use the otherwise agreed upon method (S 10) we'd still have to make a 4.5% reduction in the budget
- Highway Department budget discussion: Agreed to leave things level funded.
 - Snow removal line = \$50K, snow removal wages and all other expenses are ok.
 - Reduce the machinery maintenance to \$30K.
 - Uniform budget can be set at \$4K – changed companies and added on man (3 uniforms)
 - Gravel road upgrades will carry forward the \$5442.83 (or more) to cover cost of Wendell Rd. culvert
 - Road striping remain the same
 - Catch basin cleanup keep at \$5K
- Jeff Lacey and Mike Vinskey brought a document for us to review and discuss concerning “Possible Fiscal Sustainability Strategies for Shutesbury”. Their plan was for the Finance Committee to consider its suggestions. A discussion ensued, no resolutions were forthcoming, more information was suggested and both Jeff and Michael DeChiara offered to collect more data
- Review YTD (FY18) Expense and Revenue Reports – the Fire Department wages are underspent but we will see that retro change in January with the next expense report.
- Review of the Fire Department’s request for an additional \$5K to add to the grant (\$5K) that they received to put smoke and fire detectors in the Fire Department and Highway Department
- Reports from Committees
 - Broadband – the committee is preparing 2 different options and costs. Jim H feels that one system being better than the other. The Broadband committee will be coming to us with a full analysis. Of the 18 towns in line for going “live” we are in the best shape financially to break even on the system.
 - No other committee reports
- Review FY 19 Budget (1st draft) New budget forms are coming soon from Becky – some of the formulas were in error so they are being corrected. Should be ready by next meeting
- Next meeting date January 16, 2018 7PM, meeting with Selectboard at 7:30

Adjourned 9:07PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Elaine Puleo