

**Shutesbury Finance Committee**  
**Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011, 7 p.m., Town Hall**

**Finance Committee Members Present:** Patrick Callahan, Bill Wells, Lori Tuominen, George Arvanitis, Weezie Houle, Rus Wilson, Gary Hirshfield, **Visitors:** Becky Torres, Elaine Puleo, Al Springer, April Stein, Michael DeChiara, Bob Mahler

1. Call to Order: 7:05pm
2. Approve minutes of December 7 & 14, 2010
3. Review Bill Wells' report on the 12-16-10 school committee meeting.
4. Update on fire station cleanup, discussion of any necessary budget adjustments. Any other transfers or reserve fund actions.
5. Committees Reports
  - a. CPA – Bill Wells: They have not met since our last meeting. They will be meeting on Thursday.
  - b. Personnel – George Arvanitis: We have hired two new fire fighters. One is highly qualified and the other one is a newbie. Contract negotiations are coming up this spring with school, police, and police chief. The Goals Form is being implemented. The reviews will be done in spring and will be based on the goals. Discussion about flex time. Employees do time cards. The Personnel Board recommendations to eliminate time cards.
  - c. LFNAC – Lori Tuominen: Working on grant which is due on Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>. It went to outside reviewers over the holiday. Plan to drive it to Boston on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. New Shutesbury Library Capital Fundraising Campaign – We hired a consultant from FDA for \$7,000. He puts in lots of extra hours and comes highly recommended.
  - e. School Committee: Bill Wells:
    - i. The school will no longer have chocolate milk.
    - ii. The School Committee wanted to meet with us to discuss the budget.
    - iii. The School Committee has hired a legal firm @ \$400 per month to assist with salary negotiations.
    - iv. They have \$30,000 of Fed Stimulus \$ left over from last year.
    - v. ARS Capital Planning Committee wants some \$ from Shutesbury for improvements to the Middle and High School buildings.
    - vi. School lunch program was \$8,000 in the hole by December and expect to a \$15,000 to \$18,000 loss by June. Bob is going to find the \$ in his budget.
  - f. Regional School update – :
6. Meet with Selectmen and the School Committee for a budget discussion.
  - a. Elaine asks Bob what the justification of Smart Boards. Disservice to kids to not prepare them for technology. If well trained and used all the time.
  - b. State aid cuts are being projected at -10% by Becky.
  - c. State revenue numbers are creeping up.
  - d. The school will have a stronger enrollment number next year than this year, but the state aid will be based on the enrollment as of October 2010.

- e. Michael DeChiara presented the budget:
  - i. Basically the budget is a 0% increase if you remove the funds needed for an out of school placement for a SPED child and its transportation.
  - ii. Hiring of Business Manager. The first candidate offered the job did not accept the job.
  - iii. In the interim, Joan has a consultant who can help her with school finance.
  - iv. Deb Gere stated that they are not going to hire above Charlie's salary.
  - v. U28 budget went down a little.
  - vi. Instruction budget went down.
  - vii. Federal Jobs \$ rolled over. They pulled \$32,000 out of the budget knowing they could backfill it with the FED \$.
  - viii. There are some grants and PTO that are helping with Artist in residence.
  - ix. Instrumental music is intact but a 5% cut will drastically affect programs.
  - x. Elaine would like to see the preschool and after school budgets broken out separately.
  - xi. Elaine and George also suggested that we need to identify the income sources.
  - xii. A good presentation at TM was highly encouraged.
  - xiii. They need to serve 80 meals per day to break even. They usually serve between 50 and 60. They are looking to cut costs and increase participation.
  - xiv. Select board and Finance Committee would like the teachers and their salary listed in the School's Budget.
  - xv. Select board and Finance Committee would like a monthly expense report.
7. Finance Committee motions to support the Select Board's demand for the information from U28.
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9. Select Board is planning a U28 Meeting of Select Boards, possibly Finance Committee and School Committee's. January 19<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> 7pm at the School.
10. Fire Station update: Becky and Walter Tibbets are planning to tour the Tully Fire Station in Orange as it has lots of energy efficient elements. On Feb. 1 Select Board and Finance Committee will meet on Feb. 1 for a follow up discussion.
11. LUST fund pay back schedule is going round and round. LUST deferred.
12. Becky let DEP know that we were thinking of replacing the Fire Station.
13. Adjournment: 9pm
14. Meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup> is at the school
15. Meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> 4 town regional meeting for Fin. Comm., School and Select Board.