

Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes
Tuesday, January 08, 2013, 7pm, Town Hall

Members Present: Weezie Houle, Rus Wilson, Eric Stocker, Al Hanson, Lori Tuominen and George Arvanitis;

Members Absent: Gary Hirshfield; **Visitors Present:** Becky Torres, Mike Vinskey, Al Springer, Elaine Puleo, Joan Wickman, Mike Kociela, Leslie Bracebridge, April Stein, Clif Read, Bob Mahler, Mare Fox, Emily Bloch

- 1) Approve the minutes of 12/11/12 as amended.
- 2) Four Town Meeting at the Middle School on Saturday, January , 2013
- 3) The Police line item we thought was ticket collection was actually administrative fees. The ticket line item is quite healthy.
- 4) The school lunch is showing -\$13,000, several deposits have not been made yet. The actual position is actually about \$6,000 in the red. Several circumstances contribute toward this. Due to the changeover in staff, they had to double up on staff. The breakfast program has started and that is impacting the budget as well. They are considering an increase in the cost for lunch from \$2.5 to \$3 for children and \$3 to \$4 for adults. The new chef has been working very hard to balance the budget.
- 5) **School Committee**
 - a) **Union 28 Budget**
 - i) For FY14 there is a 1.88% increase, due primarily to COLA increases and costs for a U28 school committee legal retainer. Contract negotiations were the main reason for the need of a retainer.
 - ii) Shutesbury's percentage has gone down. In FY13 Shutesbury's percentage was 24.9%, in FY14 it is 24.28%.
 - iii) Shutesbury's portion of the U28 budget is \$1,018 less than last year due to the enrollment.
 - b) **Drivers to the Shutesbury Elementary School Budget**
 - i) Every line item that has changed up or down is on the driver page
 - ii) They are proposing a 3.5% increase for \$61,326, 40% due to increased special needs costs.
 - iii) The DESE requires an audit every year. The school usually coordinates with the town audit so they can piggy back but the town isn't doing an audit every year.
 - iv) Level service budget. One new staff. This position was necessary due to students who don't qualify for special needs but still need help. They combined the tutor budget into the new staff person's line item.
 - v) The Early Childhood Rev Fund is now supporting an additional staff member.
 - vi) The Safety and School Committee met to discuss security. They are making a plan so there are light and sound alarms. The quote was between \$12,000 and \$15,000 for upgrading the equipment. They got a \$5,000 grant for equipment but they need an additional \$10,000. The alarm will alert the 911 dispatcher.
 - vii) Lunch program needs \$10,000. **Insert Leslie's minutes here.**
 - viii) Breakfast charge is \$1.50. Right now they are serving about 5 meals.
 - ix) Special Ed tuition has gone up \$20,000 and SPED Transportation has gone up \$4,500.
- 6) **Vote passed unanimously to create a new line item, School Safety and Security, in the town budget and fund it by a Finance Committee Reserve transfer of \$10,000, to fund the completion of the security system at the school.**

7) Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

- a) [February 2, 1-3pm, Middle School Auditorium, Regional School District Planning Board]**
- b) February 5, Highway Dept. @ 7:15pm; Fire Chief @ 8pm, and Capital Planning @8:30pm**
- c) February 19, Select Board**
- d) March 5, School Committee @ 7:30pm**
- e) March 19**
- f) April 9**
- g) April 23**
- h) May 4, Town Meeting**

8) Meeting adjourned 9:20pm.