

Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes
Tuesday, February 11, 2020, Town Hall, 7pm

Members Present: Eric Stocker, Rita Farrell, Bob Groves, Jim Hemingway, Ajay Khashu and Weezie Houle **Members Absent:** Jim Walton **Non-Members present:** Becky Torres

- 1) Meeting called to order 9:03am
- 2) Minutes of January 28, 2020 and February 1, 2020 approved as amended.
- 3) Expense Review:
 - a) Fire Salaries: Walter lowered the budget as he didn't use it all last year. He has added firefighters and now he needs the funds back. We need to plan for next year as well.
 - b) Highway Wages: We were unable to replace someone.
 - c) \$1,000 will be used from Insurance and Bonds will for mold remediation.
- 4) Reports from Committees
 - a) Buildings Committee – Bob Groves: School Roof and Town Hall
 - i) We need a Plan B for the school roof in case the grant does not come through. It keeps popping nails and leaking.
 - ii) Becky continues to update the file with all the repairs. It is 26 years old.
 - iii) The reimbursement is a formula based on wealth factor.
 - iv) Town Hall has some chimney issues. It needs a roofer on the roof. It is leaking in Becky's office.
 - v) Water heater has been installed at the school.
 - vi) Becky has to respond to the boiler inspector to let him know it's installed.
 - b) School Assessment – Discussion about the various assessment options. Amherst has approved the 45% method. The Regional School Committee will be voting tonight.
 - c) Broadband – Eric:
 - i) Should the town spend Free Cash to pay off the Broadband debt.
 - ii) Jim reviewed the benefits of using BANs, finishing the project, and then decide the best way forward.
 - d) Citizen's Article is being submitted to Town Meeting discussion.
- 5) Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm
- 6) Upcoming Meetings
 - a) February 18, 2020, COLA – Fin Comm, SB, Personnel Board - 7-7:30pm (at SB mtg)
 - b) February 25, 2020, Highway Dept
 - c) March 10, 2020, Capital Planning - Final/Initial ATM Warrant Review
 - d) March 24, 2020, Broadband
 - e) April 7, 2020, Final Budget Prep/final ATM Warrant Vote
 - f) April 14, 2020, Town Meeting Prep
 - g) April 21, 2020, More Town Meeting Prep if needed
 - h) April 25, 2020, Town Meeting