

Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes
Tuesday, February 25, 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, George Arvanitis, From the Board of Health: Catherine Hilton, Noreen Pease, Tim Hunting

- 1) Minutes of February 11, 2020 approved as amended.
- 2) Expense Review:
 - a) Health Insurance is at 66%.
 - b) Fire Dept training is an issue that has to be addressed.
 - c) Fund 30: A review happens with the funds monthly and annually.
- 3) Board of Health
 - a) Request \$5,000 to pay dues to the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District. The purpose is to control diseases that are dangerous to humans. They are looking to get 20 towns. They have about 15 towns in Western Mass at this point.
 - b) We get expert surveillance. Hot shot mosquito guy from Boston. Identifies locations in town where mosquitos will be breeding, analyze them and send results back to us. We get an opportunity to do integrated pest management. This will prevent the governor from forcing aerial spraying on the entire state.
 - c) Being in the district makes us eligible for state aid if you are in the mosquito control district and you have an outbreak. There are other financial incentives.
 - d) We discussed supporting next year's with Free Cash and then we will evaluate to put it in the budget next year.
- 4) Highway Department – Tim Hunting
 - a) Budget Review
 - b) Tim is happy to level fund. He dropped highway maintenance off last year.
 - c) He and Becky talked about snow removal. It has been at \$50,000 for quite a few years. Last year they went over \$1,500.
 - d) 75% of all sand goes on dirt roads. About half of the town is dirt road.
 - e) No trucks are needed this year for Capital Planning. The drive shaft has broken three times.
 - f) Perhaps down the road to get a vibratory roller.
 - g) Tim is open to sharing some equipment with Leverett.
 - h) Since last June we have been searching for a part-time person. He hired one person and he lasted a month. Our wages are \$19/20 per hour. Most towns and construction companies are paying more. We need to increase our wages in order to attract quality personnel.
- 5) Budget Review
 - a) Revenue: Row 2: Becky started with the 2.5. She was quickly over the Levy ceiling. She removed the 2.5 and hard coded the \$50,000.
 - b) Page 4 expenses changes need to be made further.
 - c) There are still further expenses to add in
- 6) Meeting adjourned at 9pm
- 7) Upcoming Meetings
 - a) **Wednesday**, March 4, Select Board, Fin Com, Personnel 7pm
 - b) March 10, 2020, 7pm, Capital Planning - Final/Initial ATM Warrant Review
 - c) March 24, 2020, 7pm, Broadband, Lynn

- d) April 7, 2020, 7pm, Final Budget Prep/final ATM Warrant Vote
- e) April 14, 2020, 7pm, Town Meeting Prep
- f) April 21, 2020, 7pm, More Town Meeting Prep if needed
- g) April 25, 2020, 7pm, Town Meeting