Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, February 5, 2019 – Town Hall, 7pm

Members Present: Eric Stocker, George Arvanitis, Weezie Houle, and Jim Hemingway  
Members Absent: Rita Farrell, Bob Groves, Jim Walton  
Non-Members present: Gail Weiss, Ryan Mailloux

1) Gail Weiss - Town Accountant –
   a) She needs an additional $233 for next year. $3,320 to $3,553.
   b) Personal Property tax – 38% collected halfway through the year. It’s due to timing of payments, solar agreement, and other items. Becky question.
   c) The valuation of DCR property dropped for PILOT, resulting in a $900 decrease.

2) Ryan Mailloux, Town Treasurer – Budget Review
   a) Treasurer Expense: He is requesting $9,800, a $243 increase over this year
   b) OPEB Actuarial – The request is $1,000
   c) OPEB Trust – Gabe recommends we put $100,000 per year
   d) Short Term Borrowing – The budget request is a $3,000 increase from $3,000 to $5,000 due to Broadband BANs, which are now over $1M.
   e) Tax Title is currently at $12,000 and the request has been reduced to $8,000.
   f) Unemployment has $20,000 in the Trust. We set up the trust but we need a warrant Article to appropriate the funds to the trust.
   g) Veterans Benefit – Requesting $15,000 to fund the budget in the event a veteran moves to town.

3) Motion to approve the minutes from 1/22/19 as amended.

4) FRCOG – Jim – FCECS (Franklyn County Emergency Communication System) The two way radio throughout Franklin County.
   a) First option is to FC upgrade current system – Analog 400MHZ mid 2000s funded by Homeland Security. They didn’t attach any depreciation. There is now no money to replace it. The estimate is between $5-10M. Shutesbury is a 4 unit town. That costs us $6,800 per year will go to $43,000 for a $5M bond. It will increase 5% per year.
   b) Second Option – Join EOPSS – the state system is a 800MHZ system. The state has verbally committed, but not in writing.
   c) There will be another meeting in a month or so, so towns will be able to go to Town Meeting.

5) Broadband - Jim –
   a) Gail is pleased with the number of companies who responded to the bid for the drops. They will be able to open bids in a week or so. We will then have a good idea how much it will cost and what we will need for the Special Town Meeting.
   b) Discussion about how all town offices will be billed for internet.

6) Budget Review FY 20 – After the governor had his meeting:
   a) Chapter 70 went up $2,300
   b) Becky put $5,000 increase in UGGA
   c) George has been working with the Regional Working group and it is estimated that there will be a $0 increase in the Regional budget. There is a total of $34,000 pick up leaving us at a $30,00 deficit before salary increases. Eric’s info indicates we might have more state revenue and less state charges ~$19,000. We need to get Becky to look at the Preliminary Cherry Sheet estimate and plug those numbers into the budget.

7) Regional Assessment – George continues to advocate for the 50/50. There are probably 2 methods they will go with. Feb 23rd is the next meeting. March 2, Four Town meeting.
   a) 30% Statutory Method
   b) Adjuster Method - No town pays a certain amount more than the Statutory with a limit keep towns from paying more than their Statutory.

8) Meeting adjourned 9:05pm

9) Future Meeting Schedule:
   a) Tuesday, February 19, 2019, Broadband/MLP
b) Saturday, March 2, 2019, Four Town Meeting, 9am Middle School

c) Tuesday, March 5, 2019, Select Board, Personnel Committee

d) Tuesday, March 19, 2019, Capital Planning, Police

e) Tuesday, April 2, 2019, Vote on Warrants if ready

f) Tuesday, April 16, 2019, Town Meeting Initial Prep

g) Tuesday, April 30, 2019, Town Meeting Final Prep

h) Saturday, May 5, 2019, Town Meeting