

Shutesbury Finance Committee Minutes Tuesday, November 19, 2019, Town Hall, 7pm

Members Present: Eric Stocker, Rita Farrell, Bob Groves, Ajay Khashu, Jim Hemingway and Weezie Houle **Members Absent:** Jim Walton **Non-Members present:** Becky Torres, Select board, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil, Elaine Puleo, Linda Avis Scott, Anna Aaron, Bill Wells, Jeff Lacy, Peg Ross, Walter Tibbets, Mary Anne Antonelis, Brad Foster, Kate Cell, Penny Jaques

- 1) Pastor of the Church report that they have an offer on the parsonage.
- 2) Discussion of the Chief of Police's proposal for restructuring the shifts and wages.
- 3) Motion passes unanimously to approve the proposed changes to the shifts and wages as put forward on the Police Department Retention Plan.
- 4) Approved minutes for 11/5/19 as amended.
- 5) Fire Department Budget Proposal
 - a) Walter is proposing a level funded budget
 - b) He wants to move some of the Take \$500 out of Equipment and move it into Operating.
 - c) This will give him funds to access a training and monitoring system.
 - d) Capital needs might include 2 garage door openers.
 - e) Another capital item will be re-estimating the paving originally passed at \$25,000.
- 6) Library
 - a) Mary Anne presented the library budget proposal
 - b) Board of Library Commissions has requirements for certification. Requirements are:
 1. Budget goes up 2.5% of the average of the total appropriated budget of the past three years.
 2. The library must spend 20% of the appropriated budget on new materials.
 3. Be open a certain number of hours per week.
 4. We get state aid for being certified.
 - b) The 2.5% increase for FY21 is \$16.
 - c) Last year the library offered 256 programs.
 - d) The fitness programs have expanded to five programs per week.
 - e) They have lots of volunteers work in the library.
- 7) Water line to Watkins. The project is going to take about 2 to 3 times as long as estimated. It could be \$25,000 over what we expected. Becky will come to us when she has the details.
- 8) Record Storage Committee is distributing their report.
- 9) Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.
- 10) Upcoming Meetings
 - a) November 26, 2019, Select Board, School Committee
 - b) December 3, 2019, Highway, Prep for 4 Town Meeting
 - c) December 7, 2019, 9am, Middle School, 4 Town Meeting Regional Assessment and Budget
 - d) January 7, 2019, School Committee Round 2 Budget Review with Select board
 - e) January 14, 2019, Capital Planning - Second Review
 - f) January 28, 2019, Police, Town Collector
 - g) February 11, 2019, Broadband
 - h) February 25, 2019, Reschedule date
 - i) March 10, 2019, Reschedule date
 - j) March 24, 2019, Capital Planning – Final

- k) April 7, 2019, Final Budget Prep
- l) April 21, 2019, Town Meeting Warrants
- m) April 28, 2019, Tentative
- n) May 2, 2019, Town Meeting