

Shutesbury Finance Committee
Monday, August 12, 2024 Virtual (Zoom) Meeting

Members Present: Ajay Khashu - chair, Bob Groves, Susie Mosher, Jim Hemingway, Kathy Salvador, and April Stein Absent: George Arvanitis

Attending: Town Administrator Becky Torres Member of the public: Tom Siefert

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m.

- I. Minutes from 7/16/24 approved as amended

- II. Regional School Budget Process
 - A. No updates on FY26 four town meeting schedule yet
 - B. Ajay and Susie will meet with the superintendent on Friday, August 16.
 - a. To develop a positive working relationship
 - b. Find out timeline and urge an early start – September or October. Four town meeting schedule is initiated by school committee with superintendent
 - c. Susie will send copies of memos re: FY25 from Amherst Town Council to Kathy
 - C. Regional Track and Field project
 - a. Total cost of new design with reorientation and grass infield = \$4.4m with a list of alternatives items that may be incorporated if funding is available
 - b. Region will be requesting CPA funds from three towns to be approved
 - c. Amherst has committed CPA funds and will put in additional funding
 - d. We will ask for a detailed funding sheet from Dr. Slaughter

- III. Appoint Fin Com representative for Town Administrator (TA) contract negotiations
 - A. Negotiation process with Select Board (SB) came to a halt; presently TA is on “employee at will”
 - B. SB agreed to have a Fin Com and a Personnel Board representative join them in executive session
 - a. Bob Groves and Kathy Salvador volunteered to serve as the Fin Com representative for the negotiating committee.
 - b. April Stein recommended George Arvanitis, citing his prior experience on the Personnel board and representing the town on various hiring committees.
 - c. Ajay Khashu recommended Kathy Salvador for the role, highlighting her background as a human resources professional. Given her dual appointment on both committees, the committee considered the possibility that the Personnel Board could select Kathy for this role.
 - d. Bob Groves withdrew his name from consideration, stating that he wasn’t interested in the role unless he had the full support of the Fin Com.
 - e. Motion was made and seconded to nominate George Arvanitis be appointed to represent the Finance Committee in the negotiation process. Vote: 1 Abstention, 1 No, and 4 yes

- IV. Expense report FY25
 - A. Start of a new fiscal year – some budget lines show early contracted services paid.

B. Expense in Fire Station Mitigation budget line will be moved to correct line.

Our next meeting will be August 27 at 6:30. We will get an update on the regional budget schedule, draft the FY26 Budget request letter, and possibly find out the results of the SES teacher's contract negotiations. Our meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm