

**Board of Selectmen
January 25, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Chairman Elaine Puleo, Al Springer, and J. April Stein

Also present: Town Administrator Rebecca Torres and Administrative Secretary Leslie Bracebridge

Meeting opened at 6:40 PM

Topics

1. Town Hall insulation project/update:

- Insulation will be blown into the walls of Town Hall tomorrow.
- The generator was serviced this week. The battery should have been replaced after 3 years and has now been replaced assuring service in the event of a power outage.
- Selectmen visited the finished finance offices and admired the painted walls and ceiling, the replaced countertops and the new rug. The town clerk's office and the copy room still need to be painted.

2. There will be a **Union 28 Retiree Health Insurance Policy 5-town meeting** at 7 PM on Thurs, Jan. 27 at the Shutesbury Elementary School pending weather conditions or cancellations from other town participants. Thursday, February 3 was selected as an alternate date in the event of the meeting being cancelled.

3. Update on gas clean-up:

- Selectmen feel confident to have a 12-month reprieve (from repayment of the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) funds) that can be renewed, following their Monday, January 24 meeting with officials from the Department of Environmental Protection and Representative Kulik.
- Selectmen are ready for next Tuesday's meeting with the Finance and School Committees.
- The Tully Fire Station has been suggested as an example of what might work for Shutesbury. It doesn't seem large enough for both fire and police services.
- Becky will follow-up on federal funding possibilities for building a replacement fire station as suggested by Senator Rosenberg and Representative Kulik.
 - Shutesbury's situation is unique from other towns that may be seeking new fire stations, due to the volatile gas that lies underneath Shutesbury's existing station.
 - While it might be possible to couple fundraising and construction of both a Library and a Fire Station at the same time, there is concern that if there were to be a delay in removing the contaminated soil under the current Fire Station, the gas could migrate out and contaminate the fresh replacement soil put down this past summer.
- The timing involved in designing a fire station and going out to bid in time to build a Fire Station this coming summer seems impossible.
- Selectmen discussed the possibility of having volunteers build a fire station but were not hopeful.

4. Snow plowing:

Selectmen received reports of Baker Road not being plowed before 10:30 AM one day and noon on another day.

- Prioritization of roads to be plowed and a truck sliding off the road caused late service.
- Becky will prepare a Select Board response letter to Old Orchard Road resident Jeff Lacy's letter of concern about too much plowing and sanding in Shutesbury.

5. Finance updates – Steve Kulik's optimistic outlook/Governor and Charlie Murphy:

- Though Representative Kulik indicated to Becky that Chapter 70 and local aid would be level funded.
- The Governor announced the highest amount of Chapter 70 than ever before – adding \$45 million, which is good because the state will be losing "Stimulus funds" resulting in a net loss.
- Charlie Baker is frustrated with the optimism of the Governor. He told the Massachusetts Municipal Association annual conference attendees that he was going to "go home, stick a pencil in his eye, and work on the budget."
- Becky will proceed cautiously with Shutesbury's budget leaving the numbers at minus 10%.
 - Becky is working with the Finance Committee and town departments on the budgets.

- The School Committee is the only department asking for an increase.
 - Negotiations are needed for Police Department salaries, which is hard to do until school salary negotiations are unsettled. The first meeting is tomorrow; negotiations start on Feb. 9.
 - Shutesbury school salaries are about 20% less than Pelham and Leverett.
6. **250th Ball – planning:**
- Selectmen will talk to the Chief Harding concerning a triathlon fundraiser for their ball.
 - The ball could be a potluck and a “bring your own beverage.”
 - Selectmen will invite Governor Patrick, state Senator Rosenberg and Representative Kulik, and federal Representatives Kerry and Brown.
 - “BZ” Reilly will be asked to create an invitation.
 - Al will borrow a penguin’s feather coat for a tux.

Select Board Actions

1. Selectmen unanimously voted to approve the minutes of December 21, 2010 as written.
2. There were no vendor warrants to be signed.
3. There were no payroll warrants to be signed.
4. Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint William “Bill” Elliott to the Water Resources Committee retroactive to January 15.
5. Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint Rich Ferro to the Recreation Committee.

New Topics

1. There’s something wrong with the Highway Department loader, which is needed to remove snow from Carver and Stowell Roads. If it can’t be fixed by tomorrow’s storm, the town may have to hire a private contractor to cover the storm.
2. Selectmen reviewed a January 19 email from Police Chief Harding with instructions regarding a possible bid posting for a surplus UMass Police Department cruiser.
3. The January 24 Capital Plan Committee authorized Highway Superintendent Hunting to go forward with preparations to present a request to the May 7 Annual Town Meeting for a replacement one-ton truck.
4. Selectmen received a disapproved Form 43 from the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) for the Shutesbury Athletic Club for their 2011 Club license renewal, due to “failure to comply with Mass. Tax laws.” Because the Club Treasurer did sign a statement that all taxes were current before the license was issued by the Select Board in December, it was thought that a payment from the Club to the Department of Revenue (DOR) may not have been properly posted before the ABCC made its follow-up inquiry to DOR.
 - The Department of Revenue will not give local officials tax information regarding the Club.
 - Becky will call the ABCC to see if they will give her any information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM to go home to watch President Obama’s State of the Union message.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Bracebridge
Administrative Secretary