

Shutesbury Selectboard Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2024 Hybrid Meeting Format

Selectboard members present: Rita Farrell/Co-Chair, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil/Co-Chair and Eric Stocker

Staff present: Rebecca Torres/Town Administrator

Volunteers & Other Staff present: Kristin Burgess, Devin Pelletier, Tom Siefert, Nathaniel Masse

Guests: Jennifer Wallace, Amanda Alix, Frank McGinn, John Lawless

Makepeace-O'Neil calls the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Agenda Review: As posted. Makepeace-O'Neil moves the Police Department Officer Promotion to after Review of the Police Union Contract.

Public Comment: Jennifer Wallace hopes the SB is aware of the awful accident that happened on the lake on Saturday. The young girl is doing ok but is seriously injured and hopes the SB will have a public discussion at some point regarding boat speeds and regulations of them on the Lake.

Review of Minutes: Minutes of April 9, 2024 and May 21, 2024 were approved. Stocker asks that the 4/9/24 minutes be corrected to correct the spelling of fee's to fees in Discussion Topic #1 Selectboard (SB) Review of New ConCom Regulation Fees.

VOTE: Farrell makes a Motion to approve the April 9, 2024 minutes as amended; Stocker moves. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

VOTE: Farrell makes a Motion to approve the May 21, 2024 minutes; Farrell moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Makepeace-O'Neil: aye, Stocker: aye, and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.

Discussion Topics:

1. Review of the Police Union Contract: The SB reviewed the Police Union Contract and voted to accept. Changes were made to Article 6, Paragraph 80, Paragraph 90, Paragraph 96, Paragraph 93 was already stricken, Paragraph 21 and Paragraph 170.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to accept a contract between the Town of Shutesbury and the Teamsters Local 404 with our police department; Farrell moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

2. Review for Vote, Appointments for the new Lake Wyola Storm Water Task Force: A storm water task force has been established and the following were appointed: Jennifer Wallace, Stephen Sullivan, Tracy McNaughton, Joe Salvador, Charlene Galenski, Jim Moore, Chris Cummings, Tom Siefert, Bob Douglas and Eric Stocker as the SB member.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to appoint Jennifer Wallace, Steve Sullivan, Tracy McNaughton, Joe Salvador, Charlene Galenski, Jim Moore, Chris Cummings, Tom Siefert, Eric Stocker and Bob Douglas to the Storm Water Task Force; Farrell moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

3. Police Dept. Officer Promotion – Officer Pelletier: Officer Pelletier is promoted to Sargent as of July 1, 2024.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to promote Officer Devin Pelletier to Sargent Pelletier as of July 1, 2024; Farrell moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

4. Review for Vote, FY25 Annual Appointment List: The SB reviews the Annual Appointment List. Jackie Mendosa should be replaced with Anne Magill for the Emergency Management. Superintendent, Town Administrator, Associate Planning Board and Cultural Council will be addressed at a later meeting.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to approve the Shutesbury's appointed officials list except for Superintendent, Town Administrator and Associate Planning Board Members to be done at a later date; Farrell moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

5. ECAC Committee charge amendment: No discussion.
6. Google Calendar: No discussion.
7. Selectboard Letter to Legislators regarding town's preference for in-person/hybrid/remote modes for meetings: The SB has drafted a letter to Senator Comerford and Representative Saunders to let them know some of Shutesbury's concerns as we are a small rural town identifying some of the issues we feel we have. Issues include tech issues, access issues and financial issues.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to sign and send this letter to Senator Comerford and Representative Saunders; Stocker moves, Farrell seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

8. Open Meeting Law Violation dated 5/8/24 Response Letter Review: The SB is responding to an Open Meeting Law Complaint dated 5/8/24 stating the notice posted for April 23, 2024 SB meeting agenda was insignificant in that it did not include the names of individuals to be appointed to the Conservation Commission or the person to be appointed to the Council on Aging.

VOTE: Makepeace-O'Neil makes a Motion to sign and send this letter to Amanda Alix with a copy to the Attorney General's Office; Farrell moves, Stocker seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

9. FY25 Town Administrator Goals and Objectives: The SB and the TA discussed goals and objectives. The SB will take Torres' comments and the SB's suggestions and come up with one document that makes sense for all and will meet with Torres to discuss further. Makepeace-O'Neil will meet with Torres after putting everything together.
10. Town Administrator Updates – PFAS, Gasoline Cleanup: TA has asked MAS Building will be sending out their landscapers to redo the grass in areas around the culvert as it is filling in inadequately. They will spray compost and then spread seed and our highway department will keep the seeds wet for 7 days after spreading. TA has reached out to ConCom and was advised there was nothing needed from them. Still working on getting new wells in on the Valentine property. Council on Aging is becoming very active and had their first luncheon last week. The TA had assistance in cleaning out the kitchen and cleaning out the Council on Aging room. The Council on Aging also had their first foot clinic back at town hall on Wednesday. Shutesbury still has about 900 face shields if anyone wants any. It is going to be really hot and town hall will be open as a cooling center there is a conflict on Friday and the cooling center will not be open on Friday. Wednesday Makepeace-O'Neil will come to town hall for 1 pm to sit down at the cooling center to help keep it open a little longer.

Makepeace-O'Neil Motions to Adjourn (7:11 pm) and go into Executive Session for Reason #2, To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; in this case the Town Administrator, and to NOT return to open session; Farrell seconds. Roll call vote: Farrell: aye, Stocker: aye, and Makepeace-O'Neil: aye; the motion carries.

Administrative Actions:

- 1.

Documents and Other Items Used at the Meeting:

1. FY25 Master Appointed Officials List;
2. Re-Appointment Letters;
3. 4/9/24 Minutes;
4. 5/21/24 Minutes;
5. Amanda Alix OML Complaint;
6. OML Complaint Response;
7. Police Union Contract;
8. Draft Letter to J. Comerford & A. Saunders.

Respectfully submitted,
Geneva Bickford,
Administrative Secretary

** A full version of the 6/17/24 SB meeting is available to view on the Town of Shutesbury's YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4ajoOcJsNzf5DBgMTZgcJA>