

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Town of Becket  
557 Main Street  
Becket, MA 01223

**Meeting Minutes for July 14, 2023**

**PRESENT:**

Finance Committee (FC): Dan Parnell (DP); Ron DeFoe (RD); Chuck Garman (CG); Ellen Manley (EM); Ann Spadafora (AS)  
Town Administrator: Kathe Warden (KW)  
Absent: None  
In Person Guests: None

DP called meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

**AGENDA:**

**1. Departmental Transfers**

- a. KW presented encumbrances for ongoing projects that will have activity and spending carryover into FY2024 as per below:

Encumbrances from FY2023 to FY2024			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	TITLE	AMOUNT	REASON
01-155-5500	Audit Expenses	\$ 26,900.00	Finish FY22 Audit
01-192-2800-5870	Town Hall Pavilion Ext	\$ 24,594.00	To finish project
01-192-5800-5021	Well & Septic	\$ 10,685.00	Continue project
01-192-5801	Town Hall Renovation	\$ 3,964.00	To finish project
01-192-5803	Town Backup Generators	\$ 50,000.00	Continue project.
01-221-5800-5816	FY23 Fire Truck Grant Match	\$ 38,000.00	Continue project
01-221-5800-5860	FY19 Turnout gear	\$ 9,599.64	Outfit new members and replace out dated gear
01-221-5800-5871	Fire Dept Hose & SCBA	\$ 20,000.00	To purchase hose for new apparatus and equipment associated with it.
01-422-5800-56822	DER Grant Match Benton Hill	\$ 21,814.00	Continue project.
01-914-5500-5540	OPEB	\$ 15,000.00	Open account
60-231-5500	Ambulance Expense Acct	\$ 4,000.00	Repair and Maint to Ambulance that was delayed due to scheduling issues and delays in needed parts.

b. KW proposed transfers per below:

FY2023 End of year balance transfers				
From Account		To Account		Amount
01-211-5500-5401	Emer. Mgmt. Training	01-211-5500	Emer. Mgt. Exp.	\$ 148.00
01-210-5500	Police Dept Exp	01-292-5500	ACO Exp	\$ 71.00
01-491-5500-5511	North Becket Cem.	01-300-5500-5503	Vocational Tuition	\$ 10,000.00
01-421-5500-5505	General Maintenance	01-300-5500-5503	Vocational Tuition	\$ 50,000.00
01-931-5500	Demolition Fund	01-300-5500-5503	Vocational Tuition	\$ 25,000.00
01-543-5500	Veterans Expenses	01-300-5500-5503	Vocational Tuition	\$ 5,000.00
01-421-5500-5506	Fuel Acct	01-421-5500-5559	Highway Garage	\$ 410.00
01-421-5100	Highway Salaries	01-423-5100	Winter Salaries	\$ 31,261.00
01-491-5500-5511	North Becket Cem.	01-491-5500-5510	Becket Center Cem	\$ 382.00
01-192-5500	Muni. Building Exp	01-4247-5500	Street Light Exp	\$ 1,202.00
01-914-5175	Health/Life Insurance	01-423-5500-5509	Winter Rd Exp	\$ 62,000.00
01-710-5500-5541	FY22 Hwy plow & truck	01-710-5500-5545	Int. on short term d	\$ 1,050.00
01-129-5100	TA Salary	01-519-5500	Ins of Animal	\$ 364.00
Total				\$ 186,888.00

CG moved for approval as requested; Seconded by EM; passed unanimously

## 2. TA updates

- a. Multiple roads were damaged in recent storm
  - i. We are hopeful for state funding through MEMA, but we will have to see
  - ii. DOT is recommending we consider paving Leonhardt Road hill to avoid future washout issues
- b. We have an interim Ambulance Director
- c. Rock wall on Route 8 between McNerney and Carter Roads is unstable. This is state issue
- d. We need to start considering and looking at repair/replacement of Town Hall parking lot. This is a potential expenditure of \$150-200k
- e. We received a grant to upgrade Town Hall server
- f. A new consolidated Municipal building will need to be considered in the future (perhaps at Jacob's Well)
- g. Currently no request for large ticket capital items/vehicles for FY2025. We need to develop a capital schedule
- h. Town Beach has washed out twice recently
- i. KW reiterated we need to be mindful about not discussing issues outside of meetings (i.e. via Email)

## 3. Assessor's Office DOR Review Status

- a. Office is doing well but the performance of our consultant is still in question

## 4. Finance Committee projects for current year

- a. CG has volunteered to take over maintenance of the town vehicle/equipment schedule. This schedule will help identifying capital needs for the budget process
- b. Consider a need-based residential tax credit/abatement program for low income full-time resident households (assessment/income based?)

## 5. Set/Confirm Finance Committee Monthly Meeting Day/Time

- a. We agreed second Tuesday of the month @ 5 PM

## 6. Meeting minutes

- a. Approve minutes March 30, 2023 FC meeting
  - i. Motion by CG to accept minutes as written, seconded by DP; Passed unanimously (EM abstained as not present)
- b. June 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes are under review and will be approved next meeting

**7. Any other business**

- a. DP and KW are looking into training options for FC members; most likely this fall

**8. Adjourn**

- a. EM moved to adjourn meeting at 4:52 PM; Seconded by AS; Passed unanimously

**Next meeting:** Tuesday August 1, 2023 at 5:00 PM (atypical date due to conflicts)

Respectfully Submitted by Ron DeFoe

Approved by Dan Parnell, Chairperson

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dan Parnell", is written over a horizontal line.