

TOWN OF BECKET
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Joint Meeting with
FINANCE COMMITTEE

April 12, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall
557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees:

Board of Selectmen: William Elovirta, *Chairperson*; Nicole Ledoux, *Vice Chairperson*; & Michael Lavery, *Clerk*

Finance Committee: Dan Parnell, Ronald DeFoe, Ann Spadafora, Maria Wallington & Mark Karlberg

Staff: Robert Markel, *Interim Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert, *Recording Secretary & George Robert, Town Clerk*

Others: James Ferrara

These minutes reflect the Board of Selectmen actions. The Finance Committee recorded separate minutes.

The Board of Selectmen Chairperson will call the Board of Selectmen meeting to order. The Finance Committee Chairperson will call the Finance Committee Meeting to order. Bill called the BOS meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. The Board of Selectmen recorded this meeting.

Correspondence & Transfers.

None.

Administrator's Input.

None.

FY19 Budget discussion and possible votes.

Bob Markel discussed several of his line item recommendations appearing on his FY 2019 Operating Budget listing dated 4/12/2018:

General Operating

Bob Markel reported the following:

- Town Meeting Budget increased from \$3,500 to \$6,000 to accommodate a Special Town Meeting for Broadband.
- 2% COLA for town employees
- Maximum \$72,000 salary for the Town Administrator salary (that is the amount listed in

the former TA's contract) and this amount was listed in recruitment postings.

- Election Registration is up due to the number of elections
- Bob Markel suggested reducing advertising expenses by \$5,000.
- Bob Markel reduced staff coverage and increased the Clerk of Committees Account by 2%.
- He reduced Finance Committee account by \$50.00.
- Bob Markel will meet with the Town Accountant to clarify her work schedule before providing a recommendation for her salary.
- In anticipation of the town having a tax title auction, he has reduced tax title expenses. The benefits of a tax title auction: The town may receive significant revenue, and properties may return to the tax rolls.
- The Town Secretary received a 5% increase for being promoted to Administrative Assistant, assuming the Public Records Access Officer responsibilities, and for receiving the COLA.
- Public safety: E911 Communication increased by \$20,159 due to installation and rental fees affiliated with a repeater on Johnson Road. The Town of Otis may contribute. Equipment would be paid by a Homeland Security Grant (June 30, 2018 is the deadline to apply for this grant).
- Animal Control Expenses - Becket will allow Otis to share the kennel located in Becket. Otis will pay ½ of the refurbishing costs.
- Building Demolition funds will be decreased from \$19,800 to \$15,000
- Bob will reduce Street Lights to \$8,000
- Transfer Station: Southern Berkshire Solid Waste fee is now included under this category. The operating budget increased due to increased trucking and hazardous waste disposal costs.
- Veterans Benefits are up due to number of veterans. The town receives 75% reimbursement of these expenses.
- Weed Center Pond has requested a \$1,000 due to the passing of Mercedes Gallagher (loss of volunteer effort).
- General liability insurance: Bob Markel suggested that we rebid this when we have a permanent town administrator.
- The State Aid PILOT decreased from \$259,121 to \$256,879.
- The Town Administrator's proposed General Government budget total for FY2019 is \$883,460 (\$33,207 increase or 3.9% increase from FY 2018)

Bill E: Selectmen's expenses vary depending on the number of Selectmen who attend the Massachusetts Municipal Association Annual Meeting.

George Roberts requested that the Town consider making the Town Clerk position full-time and increasing his rate of compensation. His salary is based on a 24-hour work week and he has additional duties outside of his work schedule plus his rate of pay is lower than other Town Department Heads and Town Clerks in other municipalities. He suggested that the Town may consider creating an Assistant Town Clerk position. The proposed Town Clerk salary budget was

left at a 2% increase for 2019.

Dan Parnell spoke in support of continuing to fund WiredWest which he regards as an invaluable source of information for the Town's Broadband project.

Reserve Fund was set at \$45,000.

Bob Markel reported on Education:

- CBRSD Operating Expense is up 4.6%
- Vocational Tuition – Next week, Bob Markel expects to have the number of vocational students from the CBRSD Superintendent's Office.

Bill moved to accept the line item budget (\$5,744,000) as discussed with the understanding that the Interim Town Administrator may make minor changes as required (once he receives final numbers on line items including vocational education and vocational transportation). Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bob Markel stated that he estimates the tax rate will be in the neighborhood of \$11.04 (1.06 percent increase over last year) and it is possible it may be lower because we do not have the current assessed values.

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee will vote on their recommendations for the Town Meeting Warrant Articles.

Michael moved for the BOS to recommend Article 1: Compensation. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to approve Article 3: Debt Service in the amount of \$294,487. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to modify Article 3: Debt Service with the new amount to include \$1,500 for short-term interest with the new total as \$295,987. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to recommend Article 4: Transfer to the Stabilization Fund in the amount of \$73,000. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to recommend Article 5: Acceptance of Chapter 90 Fund. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to recommend Article 6: Ambulance Budget in the amount of \$405,574 (salaries/expenses): \$300,574 from the General Fund and \$105,000 transfer from FY2018 Ambulance Receipts. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to recommend Article 7: Capital Repairs to the Becket Athenaeum in the amount of \$10,000. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to recommend Article 8: Purchase of a New Police Cruiser – Transfer \$48,866.55 from Free Cash. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to recommend Article 9: Purchase of Mobile Software for the Police Department – Transfer \$26,223 from Free Cash. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to recommend Article 10: Purchase Equipment for the Ambulance Department - Transfer \$21,227 the Ambulance Stabilization Account. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to recommend Article 11: Purchase of Turnout Gear for the Fire Department – Transfer \$27,000 from Free Cash. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to recommend Article 12: Purchase of a New Backhoe for the Highway Department – Transfer \$115,000 from the Overlay Surplus and \$12,500 from Free Cash. Nicole seconded. Motion carried with Nicole voting no.

Due to that the Community Preservation Committee has not yet furnished figures for the reserves, Michael moved to take no action on Article 13: FY 2019 Community Preservation Authorization. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to recommend Article 14: Purchase of exercise equipment for the North Becket Park– transfer \$22,000 from the Undesignated Reserve Account of the Becket Community Preservation Fund. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to recommend Article 15: Purchase of a shed at the Town Beach for the– transfer \$17,000 from the Undesignated Reserve Account of the Becket Community Preservation Fund. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The Finance Committee left the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Michael moved to recommend Article 16: Animal Control By-law. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Article 17: Marijuana Establishments Amendment to the Zoning Code. The Selectmen will vote on their recommendation at their next meeting in order to have an opportunity to review the wording which was forwarded to Bob Markel today.

Michael moved to recommend Article 18: Recreational Marijuana Excise Tax By-law. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to list no recommendation on Article 19: Solar Photovoltaic Amendment to the Zoning By-law. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Nicole moved to list no recommendation on Article 20: Amendment to Zoning By-Law Use Regulations. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to list no recommendation on Article 21: Title Replacement for Solar Installations. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Nicole moved to list no recommendation on Article 22: Driveway Amendment to the Zoning By-Law. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to list no recommendation on Article 23: Amending Zoning By-Law Table of Contents. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to recommend Article 24: Grant of an Easement at 344 Wells Road with the amendment to include a provision that the town will be held harmless for any pollution. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

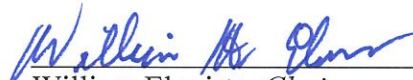
The BOS took no action on Article 25: Petitioned Article relating to the Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District Special Legislation Amendment.

The Selectmen will adjourn their meeting. The Finance Committee members will adjourn their meeting

Michael moved to adjourn. Nicole seconded. Motion carried. At 9:33 p.m. Bill E. adjourned the meeting.

Date Approved: 8-7-19

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary


William Elovirta, Chairperson

Documents discussed:

- Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant
- Revenue/Expenditure Statement
- Tax Rate Statement for FY16, FY17, FY18 & FY19
- Capital Bond listing FY2013 through FY2019
- FY2019 Operating Budget dated 4/12/2018