

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Town of Becket
557 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223

Meeting Minutes for March 28, 2019

PRESENT:

Finance Committee (FC): Dan Parnell (DP) - by phone; Ron DeFoe (RD); Ann Spadafora (AS);
Chuck Garman (CG); Mark Karlberg (MK)
BOS: William Elovirta (WE)
Guests: Ray Ferrin (Ambulance Supt), Maria Wallington, William Rodgers
Town Administrator (William Caldwell) was unable to attend

Meeting was called to order by MK at 6:03 PM

AGENDA:

1. Meeting minutes

- a. Approve minutes March 6, 2019 FC meeting
 - i. Accepted minutes as written
 - ii. Moved by AS and seconded by MK. Roll call vote – MK aye, AS aye, CG aye, DP aye. Minutes approved. RD abstained as not present
- b. Approve minutes March 14, 2019 FC meeting
 - i. Accepted minutes as written
 - ii. Moved by AS and seconded by MK. Roll call MK aye, AS aye, CG aye, DP aye, RD aye for approval unanimously

2. Administrator's input

- a. Current FY2020 tax calculation is \$11.44 – a 3.36% increase from FY2019
 - i. Could be dropped to \$11.40, a 2.99% increase if we drop 2 summer interns (for weed whacking, etc.)
 1. RD suggested we consider hiring only 1
 2. DP suggested we ask William Caldwell to review wages, duties etc.
 3. Suggestion is to considering reducing to \$10,200 from current allocation of \$20,400
 - ii. COLA raises are in at 2%
 - iii. AS questioned the increase in Police Chief Salary (\$5k). WE responded that his current salary is low relative to similar local communities, especially considering his performance and qualifications
 - iv. Ray Ferrin requested we review the alternative vehicle (used Becket police cruiser) for the Ambulance Department
 1. DP questioned if there is support from the BOS for the town to put an additional vehicle on the road. WE responded he was unaware of proposal for repurpose of used vehicle.
 2. Ray Ferrin stated that there can be issues (delays responding to calls) when the Ambulance is predisposed on another call, maintenance, etc. using either Fire Department vehicles or mutual aid
 3. DP recommended that William Caldwell pull all the costs together for the BOS review the request at their next meeting
 - v. DP has been looking into the CBRSD formula for individual town allotments for the operation budget
 1. There is a question if the large value non-profits in Becket (Jacob's Pillow, YMCA) are skewing the formula

3. Public Input

- a. Will Rodgers questioned if the new carbide plow blade inserts are doing damage to the paved roads (gouging out blacktop)
- b. DPW (Chris Bouchard) had previously stated the carbide tipped blades are more cost effective than conventional steel and follow the contour of the roads better
- c. WE indicated this is a point of discussion with the DPW
 - i. It is ultimately an issue with the Town Administrator and DPW chief

4. Adjourn meeting

- a. RD moved to adjourn meeting at 7:26 PM. AS seconded. Roll call vote MK aye, AS aye, CG aye, DP aye, RD aye for approval unanimously

Next meeting: Joint meeting with BOS April 10, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Ron DeFoe

Approved by Dan Parnell, Chair

