

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Town of Becket

557 Main Street

Becket, MA 01223

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Call to Order: 6.07 PM

Present: Finance Committee (FC): Dan Parnell (DP); Ann Spadafora (AS); Chuck Garman (CG)

Board of Selectmen: William Elovirta (WE); Michael Lavery (ML); Ray Ferrin (RF),
Ambulance Director

ClearGov: Lewie Alfano (LA)

Absent: Ron DeFoe; Mark Karlberg;

AGENDA

- Presentation of the ClearGov data system :LA presented the benefits of ClearGov's system. They have loaded all public data on Massachusetts town that is readily available. The system gives participating towns the ability to data sort for comparison to other towns (referred to as "Insight"). There is also the ability to load additional, non-publicized data into the data base and compare against towns that have loaded similar data. The basis for most of the data is the MA DOR database but it should be much easier to data mine the information. ClearGov also offers a Budgeting tool which can be used by those involved in the town budgeting process to accumulate the budgets and compare to actual results. The company is 3 years old and in their 1st year of public data development. They were awarded a Community Compact Grant to allow towns to join for free for the first year. A town can sign up now to secure the grant and activate the 1 year time period for a later date. Yearly cost after grant period: Insight \$3,500; Budget \$5,500; Bundle of both \$6,500. It was agreed we should try the free period but activate the period after we have hired a new Administrator. WE asked if we can get references of other towns using the system (post note: references were requested from LA).. Concern is whether we will actually use the system and if it offers more than can presently be obtained through the MA DOR website.

- Approve prior minutes: Minutes from July 11, 2018 were reviewed. AS made a motion, seconded by CG to approve. All approved. We also noted that the January 12, 2018 and August 8, 2018 minutes still needed to be approved.
- Meet with Ray Ferrin, Ambulance Director, to discuss the year to date expenses relating to the Ambulance Department and Automated External Defibrillators ("AED"): RF presented information on the new ambulance and the state of the town owned AED's. The new ambulance is still not in, expected in December, and will need an additional unbudgeted \$620 to place the vehicle in service. The AED's are placed in the Town Hall, 2 with the Fire Department and 1 with the police department along with 1 for the ambulance. RF would like to outfit all departments, with the exception of Town hall, with new ones that are the same make/model as the ambulance. Reasoning is the others are quite old, unsupported and if all models are the same the spare/backup components, i.e. pads, batteries, etc., will not be duplicated across all the departments. Also from a public safety standpoint the data collected on patients is easily transferrable and transparent when all the models are the same. It was agreed to have RF put this into the FY 2020 budget for capital.

- Correspondence & Transfers: None
- Town Administrator input: None, TA not able to attend meeting

- Discuss priorities of items for future meetings and set schedule with TA.

(Date for Special Town Meeting?): STM Planned agenda items: Rte 20 Spring and Solar By-Laws to conform with Green Communities requirements. STM will most likely be in November. Priorities for future meetings will be discussed next meeting.

- Broadband update : Project in hold pattern awaiting "Make Ready" cost estimates from utility companies.
- Any other business: None

Next meeting, 2nd Wednesday of October @ 6PM

Motion by AS, seconded by CG to Adjourn @ 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted

Dan Parnell (Chair)