

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

**Meeting Minutes for October 10, 2018**

**PRESENT:**

Finance Committee (FC): Dan Parnell (DP); Ron DeFoe (RD); Ann Spadafora (AS); Mark Karlberg (MK); Chuck Garman (CG)  
Interim Town Administrator: Bob Markel (BM)

Meeting was called to order by DP at 5:12 PM

**AGENDA:**

**1. Meeting minutes**

- a. Approve Minutes January 12, 2018 FinCom meeting as written
  - i. Accepted MK and seconded by AS. Approved by DP, MK, AS & RD. CG abstained; not present
- b. Approve Minutes August 8, 2018 FinCom meeting
  - i. Accepted minutes as written
  - ii. Moved by AS and seconded by MK. Approved by DP, AS, DP and CG. RD abstained; not present
- c. Approve Minutes September 12, 2018 FinCom meeting
  - i. Accepted minutes as amended (Motion on Ambulance transfer was MK, not MW)
  - ii. Moved by AS and seconded by CG. Approved by DP, AS and CG. RD & MK abstained; not present

**2. Correspondence and transfers**

- a. MA Association of Town Finance Committee meeting is upcoming in Devens, MA on November 3, 2018

**3. Administrator's input**

- a. Cleargov update
  - i. Grant funding may be available to update our budget reporting for one year for better transfer of information
- b. Started 2020 budget to help with transition to next administrator
  - i. Preliminary figures look good
  - ii. Spreadsheets prepared for department heads for expenses and salaries/wages
- c. Rt. 20 spring
  - i. Still waiting on Housatonic River Basin for update
    - 1. They are blaming DEP for delay
- d. We need a special ATM to correct bylaws to be in line for Green Communities Initiatives
- e. No update on tax title auction
  - i. Still with BOS
- f. Having issues with Wi-Fi in Town Hall
  - i. Not accessible in all areas of the building
  - ii. May need new router
  - iii. BM has been quoted price of \$1100
- g. Current year financials overall are looking good with no know issues at this time
- h. We may need to consider a salary increase (at special Town Meeting) for the TA position to hire and retain a qualified candidate

**4. Broadband Update**

- a. Finishing design work with Whip City and PVC
- b. Make ready cost is still big issue
  - i. Extremely large number of poles (800+) predicted need to be replaced
  - ii. We need actual numbers from the utilities to go farther
- c. Good news is the state has recognized that their initial make ready estimates were low

**5. Topics for future meetings**

- a. Long range Capital plan is coming together
  - i. Need to add non vehicle items
  - ii. Needs further review (November meeting)

**6. Adjourn meeting**

- a. MK moved to adjourn meeting at 6:21 PM. AS seconded. Approved unanimously

**Next meeting:** November 7, 2018 at 6:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Ron DeFoe

Approved by Dan Parnell, Chair



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