

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

Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2021

PRESENT:

Finance Committee (FC): Dan Parnell (DP); Ron DeFoe (RD); Ann Spadafora (AS); Mark Karlberg (MK); Chuck Garman (CG)
Town Administrator: William Caldwell (WC)
By phone: Ray Ferrin (RF – Ambulance Director)
In person guests: Edward Pickert (EP – Highway Superintendent), William Elovirta (WE – Selectboard Chairman)

DP called meeting to order at 5:34 PM

AGENDA:

1. Meeting minutes

- a. Approve minutes January 7, 2021 FC meeting
 - i. Motion to accept minutes with correction for header date to 2021 (shown as 2020) by MK; Seconded by DP; Approved: AS – aye, DP – aye, RD – aye; MK and CG abstained as not present

2. Discuss FY2022 Capital Purchase Plans/Expenses

- a. Department Heads
 - i. Highway
 - 1. Replace Truck #5 small dump truck - GMC 3500 to Ford 550 with SS body (\$132k)
 - a. EP recommends gas instead of diesel due to maintenance concerns
 - b. Marcotte Ford will take old truck in trade if we want but probably better off to auction it
 - 2. WE suggested we consider our future needs for a potential new Highway Garage; possibly on town owned Jacob's Well property
 - a. DP and WC will look at the impact of adding \$4M to the Broadband Bond to see if it looks manageable for the future
 - ii. Ambulance
 - 1. Propose we look at a Paramedic level of care versus EMT and 4 full time employees for an expected annual increase of \$25k on the operating budget
 - 2. Asking to replace current Squad Vehicle – it is in need of mechanical work and leaks
 - a. Feeling is current vehicle has maybe a year of use left in it
 - b. Can we look at another grant supported police cruiser and retire a cruiser for Ambulance Squad use
 - 3. Department is outgrowing current garage/quarters
 - a. Possible combination with new highway garage
 - iii. Parks & Rec
 - 1. Maple Street pavilion - estimated cost is \$15k
 - iv. Historical Commission
 - 1. 1. Ballou Park Retaining wall \$100k
 - v. Fire
 - 1. Chief was unable to attend
 - 2. Requests are: Command Vehicle (\$60k); Fire Hose (\$25k); Radios (\$15k); SCBA (\$40k)
 - vi. Town Hall
 - 1. HVAC/Reno (\$15k); TH Pavilion Expansion (\$20k); DER Culvert Grant (\$14.2k)
 - vii. Operating

1. WC currently is working with 2% COLA
2. Police Salaries may be impacted by injured officer and need of Reserve Officers
3. County Retirement is projected up 6.2%
4. Transfer Station up 3.7%
5. Overall the FY 2022 looks good depending on CBRSD Operating Assessment

3. Administrator's input

- a. None

4. Annual Report

- a. Motion to accept as written by CG; seconded by MK; approved unanimously

5. Broadband Update

- a. FSA02 mostly wired, FSA01 started; lost 9 days due to weather
- b. Sign-ups approaching 50% of households
- c. Beta households being selected and hoping to make connections in mid-March

6. Other business

- a. None

7. Adjourn meeting

- a. MK moved to adjourn meeting at 6:18 PM; Seconded by CG; Approved unanimously

Next meeting: Thursday February 25, 2021 at 6:30 PM to review budget and attend online School Budget Meeting

Respectfully Submitted by Ron DeFoa

Approved by Dan Parnell, Chair

