

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

Meeting Minutes for March 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), Paul Mikaniewicz (PM Fire Chief)
In person guests: William Elovirta (WE – Selectboard Chairman)

DP called meeting to order at 5:39 PM

AGENDA:

1. Meeting minutes

- a. Approve minutes February 27, 2021 FC meeting
 - i. Motion to accept minutes as written by CG, seconded by MK; Approved: AS – aye, DP – aye, CG – aye; MK – aye; RD abstained as not present at the meeting

2. Discuss FY2022 Capital Purchase Plans/Expenses

- a. Operating
 - i. WC recommends reducing use of Stabilization for Debt Service for FY2022 to perhaps \$50k; DP suggests trying to eliminate altogether
 - ii. CBRSD increase may be slightly less than previously indicated; predicting to be about \$74k (3.19% increase versus previous projection of 4.62%); if we use funds from ESSER II increase will be \$21k or 0.91% increase – to be determined by BOS
 - iii. Transfer Station will continue through summer months with 2 days per week operation (Tuesday/Saturday) to control costs
 - 1. Transfer Station costs continue to rise due to increased trucking costs and waste disposal fees
 - 2. CG moved that BOS consider raising bag sticker fees to \$1.50 (currently \$1.00), seconded by RD; DP – aye; AS - nay; MK - aye; CG aye; RD aye – motion carried (information provided by WC subsequent to FC meeting indicates approximately 12,000 bag stickers are purchased per year; therefore, the proposed bag sticker fee change will result in about \$6k of additional revenue that will largely offset expected increased costs for FY2022)
 - iv. We will have to eliminate part time police officers due to recent changes in state regulations
 - 1. We will need to add one additional full time officer (in proposed FY2022 budget); potentially another in the future
 - v. We will proceed with the Paramedic model for the Ambulance department but should investigate future cost reduction options – possible coordination with neighboring towns
 - vi. Arts Center contribution is recommended to be a non-recurring \$5k with no contribution in FY2023 or subsequent years (was \$10k in FY2021)
- b. Departments
 - i. Discussion with Fire Chief (PM)
 - 1. Command Vehicle (\$60k) – recommend a repurposed Police Cruiser but PM is requesting a pickup truck as it has more practical uses; FinCom recommends Fire Department use the Army surplus pickup at Station 2 when needed and we repurpose a recycled Police or purchase a used SUV for Command Vehicle
 - 2. Fire Hose (\$25k) – some if existing hose is old; also require some larger diameter hose for mutual aid
 - 3. Radios (\$15k) – Possibly at least partially covered by a grant

4. SCBA (\$40k) – Existing units are approaching end of useful life; can we do a phased replacement
5. Requested PM investigate if any funds are available from the Association to help with above; recommend we provide a total of \$20k in FY2022 to start 3 year phased replacement of hose and SCBA
- ii. Town Hall
 1. Still recommending: IIVAC/Reno (\$15k); TH Pavilion Expansion (\$20k), DER Culvert Grant (\$14.2k)
- iii. Highway
 1. Recommend we proceed with Truck #5 replacement @ \$132k (debt funded)
- iv. Parks and Rec
 1. Pavilion (\$15k) – we have already paid \$5k; can we cover \$10k from operating so reduce to \$5k
- v. Historical Commission
 1. Ballou Park Retaining Wall (\$100k); we do not recommend at this time
- vi. Ambulance
 1. Squad vehicle Replacement (\$47k); we do not recommend at this time
3. **Administrator's input**
 - a. Overall FY2021 operating budget is in good shape
4. **Other business**
 - a. None
5. **Adjourn meeting**
 - a. CG moved to adjourn meeting at 7:18 PM; Seconded by RD; Approved unanimously

Next meeting: Thursday April 1, 2021 at 5:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Ron DeFoe

Approved by Dan Parnell, Chair

