

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

Meeting Minutes for November 4, 2021

PRESENT:

Finance Committee (FC): Dan Parnell (DP); Ron DeFoe (RD); Ann Spadafora (AS); Mark Karlberg (MK)
Absent: Chuck Garman (CG); William Caldwell (WC)
By phone: None

DP called meeting to order at 5:46 PM

AGENDA:

1. Meeting minutes

- a. Approve minutes October 7, 2021 FC meeting
 - i. Motion by MK to accept minutes as written, seconded by AS; DP- aye, AS – aye, MK – aye; RD abstained as not present at October 7 meeting

2. Administrator's input

- a. \$1M MassWorks grant received for McNerney Road for 2022; Brooker Hill and Carter Roads will be resurfaced with Chapter 90 funds in 2022 since they will be used as detours
- b. We will need a special town meeting in early 2022 to replace monies spent on dirt road repairs taken from Winter Roads Fund. Unfortunately, this work is not covered by MEMA as the total storm damage in the state did not meet their threshold
- c. Budget requests are going out next week. We will need to decide on a COLA. Large capital requests currently are Ambulance Squad Car, Police Cruiser and Fire Engine
- d. Meeting was held with Arts Center concerning ongoing town contribution to operating funds. FC does not support ongoing town contribution to the BAC operating budget
- e. Athenaeum has requested a significant increase for FY 2023 due to mandated minimum wage increases. This will need to be evaluated

3. Broadband Update

- a. Undergrounds are coming back on schedule after the subcontractor bankruptcy issue
- b. FSA 09 will be lit up this month
- c. Undergrounds are starting in FSA 08
- d. We are still running into some Make Ready issues due to pole problems (Eversource)
- e. We are pushing to get undergrounds in before ground freezes
- f. We are over a 60% signup rate and increasing. Breakeven is 50%
- g. Although police details are over budget, budget overall is very good

4. Other business

- a. Broadband and Energy Committee Update Meetings (via Zoom) will be held November 6

5. Adjourn meeting

- a. MK moved to adjourn meeting at 6:34 PM; Seconded by AS; Approved unanimously

Next meeting: Thursday December 2, 2021 at 5:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Ron DeFoe

Approved by Dan Parnell, Chair


