

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Town of Becket
557 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223

Meeting Minutes for February 2, 2023

PRESENT:

Finance Committee (FC): Dan Parnell (DP); Ann Spadafora (AS); Chuck Garman (CG)
Town Administrator: Kathe Warden
Select Board: Bill Elovirta
Becket Arts Center: Jenn Beatty, Exec. Director and Ray Ellsworth BAC Treasurer
Absent: Ron Defoe; Mark Karlberg

DP called meeting to order at 3:07 PM

AGENDA:

1. New Business

- a. Jen Beatty presented a letter to the TA and FC regarding repairs at the BAC. Her letter referenced a 2021 Berkshire Regional Planning assessment of Seminary Hall for ADA compliance. It also discussed work presently in process on the building at this time and requested assistance in how they should proceed. The FC recommended working with the Town Administrator for guidance on who could review the repair recommendations. In addition, we recommended that the BAC should follow up with the CPA for funding of their repairs and that we would like to see the full 2021 report from Berkshire Regional Planning. Kathe is going to find this report for us to review at our next meeting.

2. Meeting minutes

- a. Approve minutes January 5, 2023 FC meeting Motion made and seconded to accept minutes as written: Approved unanimously

3. Administrator's input

- a. Discussed preliminary budget, FC raised questions and will continue the discussion next month
 - i. There was a discussion of town salaries and comparison with other towns, which will continue.
- b. There was also a discussion of a three-year contract for the Police Chief. Otis would like to have a three-year contract with the Police Chief. Becket's Charter only allows a one-year contract. Kathe will review charter with Town Counsel
- c. The state has certified Free Cash for the town of \$965,197.

4. Room Tax

- a. There is a proposal to include an article on the 2023 ATM warrant to implement a 6% Room Tax throughout the town for Short Term Rentals.
- b. There is also a proposal, which would need to be approved by the SB, that a new fund for highway repair would be created. This fund would equal each year's Chapter 90 State Allocation and that the results of the Room Tax would partially offset the needed funding. The new tax is estimated to generate from \$60k to \$100k per year.
- c. The Select Board has approved putting the Room Tax article on the 2023 ATM warrant.
- d. An informational meeting will be held on Feb. 11 at Town Hall.

5. Annual Report

- a. Motion made and seconded to accept Annual Report and send to Beverly Gilbert; Approved unanimously

6. Transfers

- a. None

7. Adjourn meeting

- a. Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 4:38 PM; Approved unanimously

Next meeting: Thursday March 9, 2023 at 3:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Chuck Garman

Approved by Dan Parnell, Chair

