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

Meeting Minutes for February 6, 2020

PRESENT:
Finance Committee (FC): Dan Parnell (DP); Ron DeFoe (RD); Ann Spadafora (AS);
Chuck Garman (CG)
Absent: Mark Karlberg (MK)
Town Administrator: William Caldwell (WC)
Board of Selectman: William Elovirta (WE)

DP called meeting to order at 5:36 PM

AGENDA:

• Meeting minutes
  • Approve minutes January 2, 2020 FC meeting
    • Accept minutes as written
    • Moved by CG and seconded by AS. Approved unanimously

• Correspondence and Transfers
  • None

• Administrator’s input
  • Budget & Capital Acquisition Update for FY 2021
    • WC presented preliminary FY 2021 Budget
      • General government technology costs have been combined to one account
      • Currently planning on CBRSD Operating Assessment of 4%
      • MRF will charge $93/ton for recyclables
        • BOS are adding 2 compactors (to save on trucking costs) but we need to be more diligent about contaminated materials
        • A presentation to educate residents is suggested for ATM
        • There will be 2 station attendants at all times
        • Overall projecting 20.7%/$28,409 increase in Transfer Station operating budget
        • An increase in transfer station fees is being considered by BOS
      • County Retirement is up 8.6%
      • General Liability Insurance now covers cyber attacks
      • WRHS Debt Service is $110,000
      • WC is pursuing a grant ($37,500) that could cover the majority of a new police cruiser in FY2022
    • Highway department has requested 3 new trucks
FC will review this and other requests with department heads

Updates concerning: Becket Arts Center, OPEB, School Budgets, Debt Funding Schedule

- FC would like an updated proposal from BAC for what they would do with a one-time $10k operating expense contribution
- CBRSD Meeting on FY 2021 budget is February 25

Broadband Project Update
- Budgets are looking good
- State will subsidize $500 per drop; Town anticipates covering up to $2500 (total) per drop
- The MLP fee is set at $9
- Construction will hopefully begin late spring/early summer
  - Delay is due to mid span issues (Eversource)

Annual Report from Finance Committee
- Accept proposed report as written
- Moved by CG and seconded by AS. Approved unanimously

Budget FY 2021 Meeting Schedule Plan
- Meeting Chair while current chair away on winter break will be AS

Other business
- None

Adjourn meeting
- CG moved to adjourn meeting at 7:17 PM. AS seconded. Approved unanimously

Next meeting: Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 5:30 PM followed by a second meeting (due to budget season) on March 19 at 5:30

Respectfully Submitted by Ron DeFoe
Approved by Dan Parnell, Chair