

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

Meeting Minutes for April 12, 2018

**PRESENT:**

Finance Committee (FC): Dan Parnell (DP); Ron DeFoe (RD); Ann Spadafora (AS); Maria Wallington (MW); Mark Karlberg (MK)  
Interim Town Administrator: Bob Markel (BM)  
Other: Kris McDonough (Police Chief), Chris Bouchard (Highway Supt), Roy Ferrin (Ambulance Supt), James Ferrera, George Roberts (Town Clerk)  
Selectman: None  
Absent: None

Meeting was called to order by DP at 6:07PM

**AGENDA:**

1. **Meeting minutes**
  - a. None
2. **Correspondence and transfers**
  - a. None
3. **Administrator's input**
  - a. None
4. **2019 Budget Review**
  - a. Police Department
    - i. Cruiser
      1. We are currently on 5 year rotation
      2. 845 Cruiser (2013 Interceptor SUV) has 132k miles
      3. Has cutout switch to avoid battery drainage
      4. \$13,872 total maintenance costs with last 2 years highest
      5. We had to add a new radio to the project
      6. We do a total of 80k total patrol mileage per year with our fleet
    - ii. IMC Mobile Software Database
      1. Records management system to get us current with balance of county law enforcement
      2. Sets us up for future needs
  - b. Highway
    - i. Backhoe (FY2019)
      1. 1999 with 8500+ hours
      2. Has had \$18k maintenance since 2016 and needs minimum of \$8k more
      3. Floor of cab is rotted out
      4. Replacing with same sized machine
      5. We should be storing all our equipment in a covered area for longevity
    - ii. Truck #2 is up next
      1. 2009 model
      2. Maintenance cost to date about \$40k
      3. \$244k replacement cost
      4. Body swap is not worth the savings
    - iii. One ton dump and pickup
      1. Truck 1
        - a. 2013 model
        - b. \$7k maintenance to date
      2. Truck 5
        - a. 2011 1 ton
        - b. \$9700 maintenance to date
    - iv. Tractor possible in 2022/2023
  - c. Ambulance
    - i. New ambulance due August/September

- ii. Chest compression to meet new standard practices
  - 1. More effective and results in higher quality of life in after care
- iii. New evacuation chair
  - 1. Current was built in 2003 and is worn out/due for replacement
- iv. Operating we will drop the requested increase to \$30,000 (requested increase was \$42,927) but increase Reserve Fund \$10,000
- d. Fire
  - i. Turnout gear
    - 1. Useful life is 10 years and we need to replace old gear plus outfit new members
- e. Town Clerk
  - i. George Roberts requested we revisit the Town Clerk salary budget request for FY2019
  - ii. Salary is based on 24 hours/week and there are additional responsibilities outside of this time plus the hourly rate may not compare favorably to other town positions or other Town Clerks
  - iii. Also feels the town should consider making the Town Clerk job a 40 hour/week position and also creating an Assistant Town Clerk position
- f. Annual Town Meeting
  - i. BM has increases Town Meeting Expenses to \$6,000 to handle additional Special Town Meeting for Broadband
- g. Weed Center Pond
  - i. Volunteer group has asked for additional \$1,000 due to passing of Mercedes Gallagher (loss of volunteer effort)

**5. General**

- a. None

**6. Adjourn meeting**

- a. MW moved to adjourn meeting at 7:25 PM. AS seconded. Approved unanimously

**Next FinComm meeting: May 3, 2018 at 6:00 PM**

Respectfully Submitted by Ron DeFoe

Approved by Dan Parnell, Chair



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