

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

Meeting Minutes for April 12, 2018 – Joint Meeting with Becket Board of Selectman

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)
Selectman: Michael Lavery (ML); William Elovirta (WE); Nicole Ledoux (NL);
Town Secretary: Beverly Gilbert (BG)
Other: George Roberts (Town Clerk), James Ferrara

Minutes reflect only the Finance Committee Meeting actions. Board of Selectmen recorded their own minutes of their portion of the Joint Meeting.

Meeting was called to order by DP at 7:25 PM.

AGENDA:

1. No previous meeting minutes to approve
2. Correspondence and transfers
 - i. None
3. Administrator's input
 - a. None
4. Budget Discussion
 - a. General Operating
 - i. Town Meeting increased to \$6,000 to accommodate special Town Meeting for Broadband
 - ii. Salary increases at 2.0%
 - iii. Election Registration is up due to number of elections
 - iv. George Roberts requested the town consider making the Town Clerk position full time and/or also review the salary rate
 1. Also suggested town consider an Assistant Town Clerk
 2. The proposed budget was left at 2% increase for 2019
 3. The issue requires study
 - v. Reserve Fund was set at \$45,000
 - vi. E911 Communication is up \$20,159 due to repeater on Johnson Road (installation and rental)
 - vii. Animal Control Expenses – we are on track to share with Otis
 - viii. CBRSD Operating Expense is up 4.6%
 - ix. Vocational Tuition – waiting for number from CBRSD Business Office
 - x. Transfer Station – South Berkshire Solid Waste fee is now included under Transfer Station total; Operating budget is up due to increased Trucking and Hazardous Waste Disposal costs
 - xi. Veterans Benefits are up due to number of veterans
 - xii. Weed Center Pond is up \$1000 due to death of main volunteer
 - xiii. General Liability Insurance – BM recommends we rebid this when we have a permanent Town Administrator
 - xiv. DP moves that line item budget be accepted pending changes by Interim Town Administrator. MW seconded. Approved unanimously
 - b. 2019 Capital Projects
 - i. Athenaeum Repairs (Free Cash) \$ 10,000
 - ii. New Police Cruiser (Free Cash) \$ 48,867

- iii. Police Dept. Mobile Software (Free Cash) \$ 26,223
- iv. Ambulance Dept. Equipment (Ambulance Stabilization) \$ 21,227
- v. Fire Dept. Turnout Gear (Free Cash) \$ 27,000
- vi. Highway Dept Backhoe \$127,500

1. (\$115,000 Overlay Surplus/\$12,500 Free Cash)

c. Articles for Annual Town Meeting Warrant

- i. Warrant Articles 1 through 5 were individually approved for recommendation with motion by MW, second by DP. Approved unanimously
- ii. Warrant Article 6 dealing with Ambulance Budget was approved as amended (\$405,574 salaries/expenses; \$300,574 from the General Fund) for recommendation with motion by MW, second by DP. Approved unanimously
- iii. Warrant Articles 7 through 12 were individually approved for recommendation with motion by MW, second by DP. Approved unanimously
- iv. No action was taken on Article 13 (Community Preservation Authorization) due to lack of figures from the CPC
- v. Warrant Articles 14 and 15 were individually approved for recommendation with motion by MW, second by DP. Approved unanimously
- vi. FC declined to vote on Warrant Articles 16 through 25 due to no comment and/or lack of expertise.

5. Broadband Update

- a. None

6. Any other business

- a. None

7. Adjourn meeting

- a. MK moved to adjourn meeting at 9:13 P.M. DP seconded. Approved unanimously

Next meeting: May 3, 2017 at 6 P.M. (prior to Baby Town Meeting)

Respectfully Submitted by Ron DeFoe

Approved by Dan Parnell Chairman

