

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

Meeting for August 5, 2010

Present: Ann S., Steve L., Dan P., Chuck A., Richard Furlong

Absent: Jeremy D.

Public: None

Meeting called to order: 7:07 P.M.

Approval of meeting minutes of July 8th and 29th; Motion by Dan P., Second by Ann S.: approved

AGENDA

1. Discuss the Energy Efficiency Grant awarded in the amount of about \$150,000.
Bids came in about ~~\$190,000~~ - leaving approx. ~~\$40,000~~ short.

\$ 199,000 *219,000*
Options: a) Cut down scope of work
 b) Return money
 c) Take balance out of Stabilization Fund (requires a 2/3 vote at
 a Special Town Meeting).

Discussion: Bids came in at about \$199,000 without contingency & deviation included of the cost of a project manager. Discussion included what could possibly be eliminated from the work to rebid project to bring closer to budget, whether the town could handle the project management piece with town employees.

TASK: Richard F. to look into what could be eliminated and rebid of contract. Possibility would be the radiant heat.

2. Tax Collection issues: Does FinCom support sending out first quarter bills right away on the heels of the fourth quarter bills just sent? This would avoid Chris Bleau, Treasurer, having to take out loans.

Discussion: Unanimous support to send out the tax bills now.

3. Tax Collector's 'log jam' of paperwork due to DOR's tardy Tax Certification. Kathy Hayn said her department is currently overwhelmed and she needs extra help temporarily. Steve had suggested letting Heather work more hours and using the budgeted Administrator's unused salary for July to pay for her extra hours. (A janitor would also have to be hired for Heather's second position).

Discussion: Treasurer is going to help on her days off so item is resolved

4. Discuss how to pay for new well at Fire Station #1 in Becket Village. Water is polluted.

Discussion: Meyer bid \$6,000 for a fixed cap cost for a new well. Recommended to take funds from current Firehouse Budget.

5. Engagement letter from Town Auditor - check record to see if an amount is budgeted for FY2011.

Discussion: \$17,000 for cost of Audit.

Tabled for present as Engagement Letter not yet available.

6. Re Item 18 on the Select Board meeting on July 28, 2010 - discuss Washington's share of budget for Fire Department coverage in their town.

Discussion: It was believed that Washington paid \$6,000 last year as part of the \$24,000 Budget. Recommend same fee as this year and have new Administrator meet with Washington officials to discuss fee for next year well in advance

7. Status of grants outstanding after the SB dropped the ball.

Discussion: There will be a resubmission of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

8. Public Input.

None

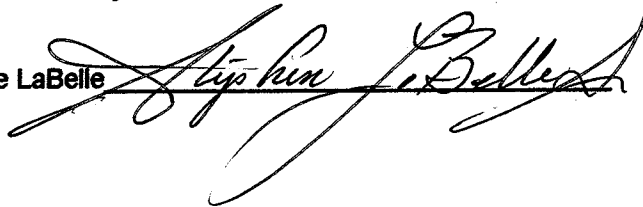
9. Any other business to come before this committee.

1. Concerning the Budget process it was brought up that any monies awarded to private non-profit entities such as the Becket Athenaeum or Becket Arts Center that we need a contract with the organization that outlines the services the town will receive for the funding.
2. John Murray submitted a bill for perc tests done on the town property put up for auction. What is the status of that bill. Unknown at this time and will be investigated for the next meeting.
 - a. **Task:** Richard to look into status.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12 PM

Respectfully submitted by Dan Pamell

Approval: Steve LaBelle

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve LaBelle", written over a horizontal line.