

Town of Becket Finance Committee

March 21, 2011 Minutes

FinCom: Present: Steve LaBelle, Ann Spadafora, Jeremy Dunn Absent: Dan Parnell, Chuck Andrews  
Select Board : present: George Fuller, Bill Cavanaugh  
Other Town Officials: Richard Furlong, Craig Kleman  
Public: Mercedes Gallagher

Meeting was called to order @ 7:11pm

1. Approval of March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 FinCom minutes. Moved by Ann. Second by Jeremy. Approved unanimously.
2. Review of proposed Free Cash usage  
Funds available:

Certified Free Cash	\$351,150.
Released Overlay Surplus:	\$30,000.
Total	\$381,150

To Allocate for Fiscal Year 2011 underfunded / overdrawn accounts:

Municipal Utilities	\$10,000	
Municipal Buildings	\$10,000	repairs
Fire Station 1 Well	\$2,800	\$300 to finish well, \$2,500 to cap old well (not budgeted)
Demolition Fund	\$2,500	unscheduled demolition
Veteran's Benefits	\$20,000	3 veterans drawing benefits; town is reimbursed in next FY
Health Insurance	\$50,000	budgeting error, plus additional staff taking benefits
Ambulance Salaries	\$48,000	cannot drawn on Enterprise fund in the first year
Previous Year's Bills	\$6,923	unpaid FY2010 bills

Police & Fire Radio Upgrades \$25,000 Federally mandated upgrade by 2013.  
Agreed to do now since funds are available. Will be article on warrant

All the above items were approved.

Allocated: \$175,223  
Remaining: \$205,927

Use of remaining funds

Reserve Fund	\$5,000	initial proposal; some debate whether this is really needed more than \$9,000 remains in Reserve Acct at this time. Perhaps reduce to \$3,000
Stabilization	\$185,000	initial proposal
Leave in Free cash	\$15,927	debate about whether it was wise to leave in free cash; May be better to use while funds are known to be available

**TASK:** Richard & Craig to revise proposal and present at next FinCom meeting

3. Review of current budget draft, by line item
  - a. Debate about appropriate level of salary increase. FinCom previously voted (3/3/11) to recommend increasing salaries 1.5% based on Boston & Albany CPI, current salaries at competitive level, and generally poor economic climate. Select Board advocated for 3.0%. No consensus reached. All salary line items held for further discussion at next FinCom meeting.
  - b. Discussion on how to budget for Salaries affected by Road Districts, as per Auditor recommendation to include all Road District income in the base salary. Deferred until Tax Collector and other staff can be present at next FinCom meeting
  - c. Lines 14-36, 101-104, 119-122, 140-143 held for reasons a) and b)
  - d. Lines 96 (Voc. Tuition) and 97 (Voc. Transport) held until we have more information about Vocational enrollments, after April 1
  - e. Line 116 (E911 Communication) reduced from \$10,000 to \$9,657 per bill received
  - f. Lines 150 (Recreation) and 151 (Parks) held until FinCom meets with respective boards
  - g. Line 154 (Memorial Day) – proposal to increase funding to purchase flags.  
**TASK:** Town Admins to research flag costs and amend the budget
  - h. all line items not held or revised as noted, were approved as per current budget draft
  
4. Public Input  
Mercedes spoke in favor of 1.5% salary increase for town employees, as opposed to 3.0%, based on general economic climate.

Next FinCom meetings:

March 31, April 7, May 5

Adjourned @ 9:57pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeremy Dunn

Clerk pro tem