

Town of Becket Finance Committee

Sept. 8, 2011 Minutes

FinCom: Present: Steve LaBelle, Ann Spadafora, Jeremy Dunn

Absent: Chuck Andrews, Dan Parnell

Town Officials: Craig Kleman

Meeting was called to order @ 7:07pm

1. Minutes of prior meetings were not available for approval. Deferred till next meeting.
2. No transfers.
3. Salary Survey. Craig joined the MA Municipal Personnel Assn. No materials received yet. Tabled until next meeting.
4. Costs of Hurricane Irene. Est \$140,000 to repair gravel roads. \$70,000 to repair culverts, of which 90% may be reimbursed by FEMA/MEMA. Net \$7,000 cost to town. Other costs (Police overtime, Emergency Management, etc.) under \$2,000. The town may use deficit spending with letter to MA DOR; Select Board postponed sending such a letter. Must be done by end of year. Funds can only come from Stabilization; needs vote at town meeting. Possibly wait till May ATM, when we will know the exact numbers.

SL: suggests no use of private vehicles for town business, due to potential liability to the town if they are damaged during such use.

Road districts also trying to get FEMA/MEMA reimbursement. They must do so on their own.

Town employees will do debrief of emergency-management process, to see what can be improved in future.

5. Review of Ambulance Expenses. Question whether we should pay for EMT licenses for paid staff.  
**TASK:** Craig to ask Jim K. to find out what other towns do.
6. Review of YTD expenses for the town. Income not present on this report.
  - a. Question about process for taking cash at the Transfer Station. This has been the subject of audit recommendations in the past. SL recommends that receipts are always given.
  - b. Question about Recreation Commission spending \$ to send children to YMCA camp. Is it appropriate to spend a large part of the budget on an activity for just a few (25) children?
7. Retirement Liabilities. Review of report prepared by the Segal Group, for Berkshire County town managers. Question whether these numbers are the same or different as County Retirement, already budgeted.  
**TASK:** Craig to find out.

No public input.

Adjourned @ 7:55pm

Respectfully Submitted  
Jeremy Dunn  
Clerk pro tem

