

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

Minutes for Thursday, December 6, 2012

Call to Order: 7.00 pm

Present: Steve LaBelle (SL); Ann Spadafora (AS); Dan Parnell (DP); Maria Wallington (MW);  
Jeremy Dunn (JD); Craig Kleman (CK); Jeanne Pryor (JP) (Select Board (SB))

Absent: None

Public Present: Purr McEwen (PM), Kathy DeFoe (KD), & Zina Jayne (ZJ) – Becket Athenaeum

AGENDA

1. Review and approve minutes for  
November 1      Motion: AS      Second: MW  
Nov 28          Motion: AS      Second: MW.

All Approved

2. Meet with Zina Jayne for the Becket Athenaeum (BA)

The BA requested funding at \$63,000 up from the current level of \$42,000. The funding is necessary as the BA has been running at a significant unsustainable deficit because of building maintenance and other issues. There was a presentation comparing town funding for the BA compared to other non-profit Berkshire County libraries. The requested amount is in line with other town support of their local libraries. It was recognized that the town has budget constraints within proposition 2.5 and the current situation of town property values and that once funding is brought up to a level that level becomes the benchmark the library and town must live with in the future in order for the library to remain certified. JD asked what Plan B would be if full funding could not be met. The BA stated a cut back in services most likely the curtailment of the Director. It was asked about Washington's share and it was stated that Washington's share is in line with its' residents usage. No resolution at this time but it was brought up that the Town should come up with a strategy on funding the library and at what level.

3. Correspondence and transfers

Transfer of \$755.67 to cover new software licenses for Office 2003 Pro. JD made a motion to accept and MS seconded but JD stipulated he wanted to call Computers R Us because he felt the price of the software was excessive given the age of the product and that the licenses should be able to be acquired for much less.

4. Town Administrator's updates (Levy deficit, EMS vehicle, Highway Budget?)

STM is scheduled for Dec 12 at 7PM. CK sent an email on the above topics (see below). Additional notes on above topics: Comment that could the EMD be a current Police Officer was raised to solve the issue of town vehicle for the position since the Police Officers have access to the Town 4WD and they are usually on call during emergencies. There was also discussion on the Tax Recap AND Overlay. It was suggested that the Assessor be requested to submit the Overlay estimates for the next fiscal year to be used in the Budget Process and to compare these estimates to what is reported on the subsequent Tax Recap and explain variations before submission to the DOR for approval.

5. Any other business – CK will be leaving employment of the Town effective Dec 31.
6. Public Input – No other

Adjourned: 8:46 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Dan Parnell

Approved by Steve LaBelle, Chair \_\_\_\_\_

CK Email content:

To all,

These items were part of the FinCom agenda for tomorrow night.

Town Administrator's updates:

- Levy deficit – as noted in previous emails there is not a deficit but the town is 109k to the good on its levy capacity. •
- EMS vehicle – if this is the proposal that the Emergency Management director floated at the last Selectboard meeting, he has not returned to continue discussion about his vehicular needs. •
- Highway Budget – I have spoken with a few FinCom Members and Len Tisdale said that he would be preparing a highway budget for the town.

See you tomorrow night.

Craig Kleman

Town Administrator

Town of Becket

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