

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

Minutes for Thursday, September 6, 2012

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

Present: Ann Spadafora (AS); Dan Parnell (DP); Maria Wallington (MW); Jeremy Dunn (JD); Steve LaBelle (SL); Craig Kleman (CK)

Absent: None

Public Present: None

AGENDA

1. Review and approve minutes for meeting of August 22, 2012  
Motion: AS                      Second JD                      All Approved
2. Correspondence and transfers  
No transfers. There is a conference on Oct 20<sup>th</sup> for the Association of Town Finance Committees. Members have attended in the past and found it quite informative. MW & DP will attend.
3. Town Administrator updates  
Bill Girard has sent out bids for demo's of select properties. No bid submissions have been received to date. The town has been offered \$88,000 from the Nature Conservancy and Federal Dept of Fish & Wildlife for a town owned Maple St parcel. At present the parcel is land locked. The Select Board (SB) has not yet voted on the offer although it was discussed at previous SB meetings. AS & MW attended the Performance Evaluation process on Wednesday. The SB will be conducting performance appraisals for employees this year.
4. Update on employee wage data entry and access to other towns' data  
(Comments on SB meeting for 9/5/12 to discuss issue).  
The SB voted to include money for a new survey in the 2014 Budget. It was felt that there was not enough time to conduct an independent one this year not to mention there was no budget money for one also. It was agreed it is time to get an updated survey to properly move forward with salary adjustments and compensation. CK has also contacted the BPRC to see if a county wide survey would be of interest and to see if there is any state grant money that could be obtained.
5. Discussion re Bylaws governing the budget process & timeline  
Tabled
6. Any other business  
The topic of Quarterly vs Semi Annual tax bills came up. It has been several years since the switch to quarterly bills and since then many more road and lake districts have been formed. These added volumes along with some other concerns (borrowing rates) which may no longer exist bring up the need to revisit the topic. The Tax Collector initially expressed this concern during the 2013 Budget Process. It was decided to put this topic on the next meeting agenda and ask the impacted parties to attend for a discussion.

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Jeanne Prior (JP) has drafted a Reserve Policy for the Town. JD found a Finance Reserve policy from August 2006 that was adopted in Jan 2007. Both were compared and it was decided to put this topic on the next FC meeting agenda and ask JP to attend for a discussion and consensus.

JD brought up OPEB as was discussed with the State DOR rep at the last meeting. We have still not gotten any more clarity on the topic. In summary it was felt what was needed was:

- a. What is the Town obligated to provide in the way of OPEB.
- b. What does the Town want to provide.
- c. Given a decision on the above, what is the Actuarial Projected Cost to provide OPEB.
- d. How will the Town Fund this obligation.

CK will follow up on Point 1 for a start.

7. Public Input

None

Next meeting will be Oct 11.

Adjourned 8:34 PM

Respectfully submitted by Dan Parnell

Approved by Steve LaBelle, Chair

  
p.p. Stephen LaBelle

10-11-2012