

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Town of Becket
557 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223

Minutes for Thursday, January 24, 2013

Call to Order: 7.00 pm

Present: Steve LaBelle (SL); Ann Spadafora (AS); Dan Parnell (DP); Jeremy Dunn (JD); Joe Kellogg (Interim TA) (JK);

Absent: Maria Wallington (MW)

Public Present: Kristopher McDonough (Police Chief) (KM); Jim Kupernik (Ambulance Director) (JKup)

AGENDA

1. Review and approve minutes for January 3, 2013 meeting
Motion: JD Second: DP Approved as amended
2. Correspondence and transfers
None
3. Discuss the topic of a bi-weekly payroll system again.
JK will investigate the issues with moving to bi-weekly payroll and will plan to do so starting with the new fiscal year, July 1, pending approval of the Select Board.
4. Town Administrator's updates (meeting with Dept Heads)
Ambulance – JKup presented the same budget as last year. Currently it includes a 3% wage increase to be adjusted to the recommendation of the SB. He is looking to purchase an automatic CPR machine for approximately \$16K to be voted from Free Cash. There was a brief discussion about the new ambulance, current cost of \$135K and a useful life of 8 years. The plan is to fund Stabilization from Free Cash to provide for this cost when necessary, about \$20K per year.

Police – KM explained the Police budget is the same as last year. The number of shift hours provided remains constant with the exception of added part time hours for increased allowed time off of full time officers. A Capital request to replace an aging cruiser was discussed. It was agreed that although the department has a 3rd cruiser to allow for posting at police monitored highway work this older cruiser will not enter the vehicle replacement program. It will be used until it is too costly to maintain. There will be a new cruiser replaced every 5 years.

Town Administrator's updates continued including agenda item 5 - Dept budget requests:
Salary Survey – Egremont has done a salary survey. JK is populating Becket's data and will be ready for the next meeting.

Board of Health has 2, soon to be 3 new members which will need training and certification. There will be an increased budget request to fund this. In light of this the BOH reviewed rates charged for services and determined they were low and has increased the fees. There was also a suggestion that a Revolving Fund be established to handle BOH costs being utilized from funds received. (Side note to review the ATM Articles and the towns Revolving Funds and to be sure all Revolving Funds are voter

approved in the FY 2014 Budget)

Civil War Obelisk – Rita Furlong will investigate whether the Obelisk can qualify as a designated cost of the CPA.

A new Town Accountant (Margaret McClellan) was hired. She currently is the Accountant for Otis and Tolland.

The search committees for the new Highway Director and Town Administrator will be finalized at the next Select Board meeting on Feb 6.

Beth Van Ness is asking to Town to fund a budget for Elderly transportation. JK asked for a formal request with background information.

The 250th Anniversary Committee will be asking for a \$5,000 one time budget.

The Bi-Law Committee will be asking for \$2K for a Town Meeting Sound System.

SL asked to have the Children's Holiday Party budget increased from \$500 to \$1,000. It was asked what was spent last year, how much was funded by the Town Budget and the need for the increase. SL will follow up.

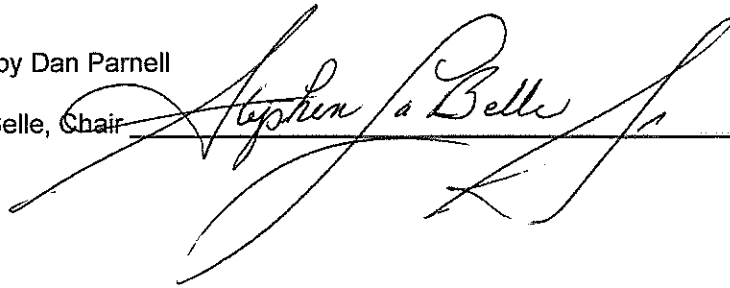
Becket Arts Center requested same as last year or \$1,800.

5. Any other business: None

Adjourned 8:46 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Dan Parnell

Approved by: Steve LaBelle, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen LaBelle", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.