

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

Minutes for Thursday, March 21, 2013

Call to Order: 7.05 PM

Present: Steve LaBelle (SL); Ann Spadafora (AS); Dan Parnell (DP); Maria Wallington (MW); Jeremy Dunn (JD); Joe Kellogg (Interim TA) (JK); Bill Elovirta (BE) Select Board (SB); Mark Karlberg (MK); Jeanne Pryor (JP)

Absent: None

Public Present: None

AGFND

1. Review and approve minutes for February 21, 2013 Motion: MW Second: DP Approved
March 7, 2013 meetings Motion: Second: Tabled until next meeting
2. Correspondence and transfers: None
3. Town Administrator's input: TA & SB met with Fire Chief who requested a new vehicle (\$45K). Request tabled at present.

Budget Review:

- We have been over appropriating the CBRSD Capital because we have been putting it in 2 places.
- A new line item in the budget is for Emergency Training for \$5K. It will be for any type of emergency training the town needs to provide.
- Request for \$7,500 for Dry hydrant in town. This is needed to repair 3 of the current ones and add more. A Dry Hydrant is a pipe inserted permanently in a body of water that the fire dept can hook up to to refill the tankers during a fire emergency.
- \$100K in is for Stabilization Fund
- Transfer a position from Highway dept to Town Hall Maintenance to provide maintenance & cleaning capabilities for town buildings as well as park maintenance and the person will be available to help with snow plowing in Winter. The position was approved by FC (Motion: SL Second: MW) Note that this position has costs associated in addition to the compensation. The savings of the cleaning in the Town Hall was negated by needed repair materials as well as the addition of a new vehicle (Pick Up) for the position.
- 2% COLA for Employees was approved by FC (Motion: DP, Second: MW)

The attached lists the Budget line items (TA Recommended) approved by the FC. All other lines need further information or discussion before recommendation from FC.

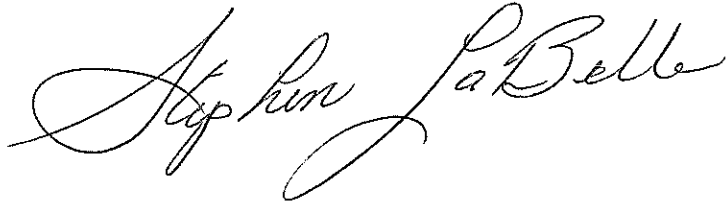
4. Further OPEB discussion (Requested by Dan): JK relayed information that his past experience with the OPEB projections are that they are not realistic in the way they have been calculated. It doesn't take into consideration that we have insurance to cover the expenses (it assumes self insurance). The current cost is high as a per person cost because not all retirees are under Medicare yet.
5. Any further budget changes for FY 2014: covered above
6. Discuss Salary Survey – local or outsourced: Done internally. JK has an informal one done by Berkshire County towns that will suffice

7. Any other business: MW presented that Becket Athenaeum actuals for FY 2012. These will be discussed when determining the Town Funding request.

Adjourned: 9:11 PM

Respectfully submitted by Dan Parnell

Approved by Steve LaBelle, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen LaBelle". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Approved by Steve LaBelle, Chair".

