

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Town of Becket
557 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223

Meeting Minutes for September 5, 2013

Call to Order: 7:10 pm

PRESENT:

Committee (FC): Steve LaBelle (SL); Dan Parnell (DP); Maria Wallington (MW);
Board of Selectmen (B of S): None
Town Administrator: Ed Gibson (EG)
Public: None

ABSENT: Jeremy Dunn and Ann Spadafora

AGENDA:

1. **Review and approve minutes for August 8, 2013 meeting: Postponed** until next meeting.
2. **Correspondence and transfers**
 - a. None
3. **Town Administrator's input**
 - a. The Athenaeum Ad Hoc Committee has been commissioned. The FC is required to elect a member. SL was nominated for the FC representative to the Athenaeum Ad Hoc Committee MW. DP seconded the motion and **Steve LaBelle was elected**. The first meeting of the committee is not yet scheduled since the other committee members have not yet been selected. The Athenaeum director has been gathering information about other separate non-profit Library associations with town owned buildings for the committee to consider.
 - b. The auditors have finished their work here at town hall and are completing their reports. They are not going to report the ambulance fund as an enterprise fund as it does meet all the requirements. The FC will be invited to the exit discussion meeting with the B of S.
4. **Revisit Stabilization and free cash policy: postponed** due to absent members whose input is needed.
5. **Cash process at transfer station**
 - a. Changes are underway to improve the way cash transactions are done for the transfer station to eliminate the need for the attendants to be handling cash.
6. **CBRSD calculation charge**
 - a. EG and JP will be going to the meeting the school district is holding to discuss the consequences of the state legislatures action on the school budget. The changes suggest Becket could be hit with an addition of \$228,795 to our assessment. Since budgets are already set, the school board may not vote to make big changes.
7. **Suggestions for Finance committee member to run in place of JD**
 - a. FC members have talked to a few people. A few have said they would consider it. Members will continue to seek candidates willing to come to our meetings and check out the work of the committee. This will be discussed further next month. We are looking for someone with an active interest and willingness to participate.
8. **Any other business**
 - a. The FC had a general discussion of budget training for department heads. EG wants to consider a change in the budget categories to allow better control. SL suggested DP might be available to EG to provide a training session with department heads.
 - b. The FC would like to have a capital expenditure plan laid out for long term planning. It would be of assistance to department heads and the FC at budget time.

Next meeting: October 3, 2013. DP will not be here.

Adjourn: 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Maria Wallington

Approved by Steve LaBelle, Chair

