

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

Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2013

Call to Order: 7:06PM

PRESENT:

Committee (FC): Steve LaBelle (SL); Ann Spadafora (AS); Dan Parnell (DP); Maria Wallington (MW);
Jeremy Dunn (JD)
Board of Selectmen (B of S): Jeanne Pryor (JP)
Town Administrator: Ed Gibson (EG)
Public: None

AGENDA:

1. **Review and approve minutes for November 7, 2013 meeting and November 20, 2013 joint meeting minutes.** JD moved and DP seconded the November 20, 2013 joint meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.
Acceptance of November 7, 2013 was moved by DP and seconded by AS. Approved unanimously.
2. **Correspondence and transfers**
 - a. Prior to voting for transfers, discussion was held about changing the presentation of the budget warrant to allow more flexibility in the administration of the approved budget.
 - b. In the request for the compressor, SL noted that a fact correction was needed because the vehicle will run without it. JD moved approval of \$2500 request as written. AS seconded. Passed unanimously.
 - c. The request for \$2000 for appraising property to be disposed of was moved by JD and seconded by DP. Approved unanimously.
3. **Town Administrator's input**
 - a. The grader had a fire in it yesterday. \$3800 in repairs are needed which may use up the machinery repair account budget. Highway department will need about \$400,000 in equipment in 2015 warrants.
 - b. Health department has only \$500 left in account. A reserve request will be coming.
 - c. B of S voted a factor of 1 classification next year's taxes for next year. The property valuations went down a little so the tax rate will rise.
 - d. Annual report for green community designation was completed and turned in.
 - e. A Power outage occurred Veteran's day weekend which caused a network switch to burn out leading to further concerns for the network support and configuration.
4. **Any additional input for stabilization or free cash policies**
 - a. Financial Reserves policy was reformatted and italics for the statutory content will be replaced.
 - b. Will be presented to B of S on December 18.
5. **Further discussion on departmental budget improvement**
 - a. JD moved that the town administrator be asked to develop the budget with an extra column of amounts to be voted which shall be a summary on a departmental level where appropriate. DP seconded. Unanimously approved.
6. **Update on CRBSD**
 - a. Nothing new. (See November 20 minutes)
7. **Develop capital plan for town of Becket**
 - a. It's going to be part of the budget process. JD requested a schedule chart with useful life and expected costs for capital items. Budget time line is similar to last year. Note: school capital loan payments probably continue through 2018 fiscal year.
8. **Any other business**

None

Next meeting: January 2 and, for the policies, December 18 with Selectmen

Adjourn: 8:26 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Maria Wallington

Approved by Steve LaBelle, Chair

