

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Town of Becket
557 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223

Meeting Minutes for March 6, 2014

Call to Order: 7:01 PM

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT: Dan Parnell (DP);

AGENDA:

1. **Review and approve minutes for February 20, 2014 meeting.** Acceptance moved by MW and seconded by AS. Unanimously approved.
2. **Correspondence and transfers**
 - a. None
3. **Town Administrator's input**
 - a. We are going to have a special town meeting for consideration of changes in bylaws on town meetings, parks and recreation consolidation, bylaw review committee and community preservation. Also three or four financial Articles including one transfer between accounts. Date will be coordinated with the town moderator.
 - b. Accounting to date was distributed.
 - c. The police Ford Expedition was seen by dealer for possible problems who suggested it needed \$3800 of work. Nothing was done though it seems to be running better. It has 137,000 miles on it.
 - d. Harbor master is planning a survey of dock owners to identify the types of docks they have. We may need to be increasing dock fees to compensate for fewer dock requiring permits. Becket currently has low fees compared to surrounding towns. The boat motor may soon need to be replaced.
 - e. Public water supply grant for evaluation North Becket water issues and needs looks like a good possibility.
4. **Discussion on departmental budgets for FY 2015**
 - a. Revenues will possibly be down this year compared to last year. This is reflected in today's draft of the FY 15 budget.
 - b. Arts Center is requesting funds for ADA compliance construction for access to the second floor (\$40,000).
 - c. School budget amount is set for now.
 - d. Ed is now planning to meet with department heads about to budget. Ed's proposals will be finalized by the end of March so the FinCom can do its part by mid April. JD requesting Ed's proposed budget be available for the FinCom March 20 meeting.
 - e. The Becket Athenaeum has requested level funding plus 2.5% to meet requirements for continued certification and \$30,000 for capital improvements which will include needed upgrade to the front entrance for ADA requirements and improving heat efficiency of the huge windows.
5. **Further development of Capital Plan for Town of Becket**
 - a. Not much has changed except for Harbor Master's request for a new motor for the boat.
6. **Review the 2013 FinCom Report for Becket Annual Town Report**
 - a. The FinCom annual report has been submitted.
7. **Report on meeting with School Committee Feb 25th**
 - a. We don't yet have a Becket representative on the CBRSD board.
 - b. There is some suggestion that the budget may not pass. Newspaper articles have reported a discussion of closing one school to reduce the budget by about \$700,000.
8. **Any other business**
 - a. MW will be absent all of April.
 - b. No one has yet submitted paperwork to run for the FinCom position which JD is vacating.

Next meeting: March 20, 2014

Adjourn: 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Maria Wallington

Approved by Steve LaBelle, Chair

