

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

Meeting Minutes for March 27, 2014

Call to Order: 7:04

PRESENT:

Committee (FC): Ann Spadafora (AS); Maria Wallington (MW); Jeremy Dunn (JD)
Board of Selectmen (B of S): Bill Elovirta (BE);
Town Administrator: Ed Gibson (EG)
Highway Superintendent: Chris Bouchard
Public: None

ABSENT: Dan Parnell (DP); Steve LaBelle (SL)

AGENDA:

1. **Review and approve minutes for March 20, 2014 meeting.** Acceptance moved by MW and seconded by JD. **Unanimously approved.**
2. **Discussion with Highway Superintendent Chris Bouchard.**
 - a. **Capital budget**
 - i. Dump truck was put off from last year. It is in a phase where it requires repairs that will need to be in the budget if a new truck is not purchased.
 - ii. Limiting the capital purchases for which we will need to borrow to the grader allows for the debt schedule not to rise significantly.
 - iii. We can auction/sell the grader and probably get \$35,000.
 - b. **Highway Operations budget**
 - i. Transfer station labor increasing due to additional hours, proper accounting of vacation time and increased salary rate for an employee no longer receiving the Senior Work abatement.
 - ii. Transfer station costs are actually about \$6000 less than listed on the budget sheet and will be adjusted accordingly.
 - iii. Highway department project management is being studied for planning of employee use and succession planning.
 - iv. Ground Speed Computer Controllers were explained.
 - v. Scan tool was explained.
3. **Correspondence and transfers**
 - a. None
4. **Town Administrator's input**
 - a. None
5. **Further discussion of departmental budgets for FY 2015**
 - a. Machinery account doesn't reflect the \$13,000 that may be needed for the dump truck, but EG will find that somewhere so the total budget will not go up.
 - b. Tax rate predicted to be \$10.60 which is a 1.5% increase over last year.
 - c. We have some leeway to put money into stabilization and to pay off winter road costs which the FC supports.
 - d. EG hoping to have final recommendations for the next meeting.
 - e. JD notes that the changes in the by-laws would require mailing warrants to part time residents as well as full time residents. EG has enough money in postage to cover this but may take some out and create a Town Meeting account.
6. **Further development of Capital Plan for Town of Becket**
 - a. Nothing further discussed.
7. **Further scheduling for FinCom meetings:**
 - a. No change yet in meetings scheduled last time.

8. Any other business:

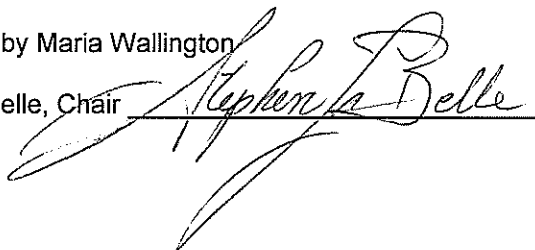
a. None

Next meeting: April 3

Adjourn: 9:07 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Maria Wallington

Approved by Steve LaBelle, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stephen LaBelle", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "LaBelle" clearly legible.