

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

**Meeting Minutes for April 3, 2014**

**Call to Order: 7:05**

**PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:** Maria Wallington (MW);

**AGENDA:**

- 1. Review and approve minutes for March 27, 2014 meeting.**
  - a. Acceptance moved by JD and seconded by AS. **Unanimously approved.**
- 2. Correspondence and transfers**
  - a. None
- 3. Town Administrator's input**
  - a. None
- 4. Further discussion of departmental budgets for FY 2015**
  - a. Changes from previous budget version
    - i. Moved Audit out of budget into Article so it can be financed with Free cash, so it can begin sooner; to meet Federal obligations of closing out Comm. Dev. Block Grant. Currently funded @ 20,000; but some portion maybe funded by CDBG; excess will go to Stabilization
    - ii. Added line item for town meeting expenses +2,500
    - iii. Removed 1,000 from Postage
    - iv. Added 13,000 for machinery maint to keep existing loader running
    - v. Removed 6,000 from transfer station due to cheaper vendor costs
    - vi. Current deficit in Snow/Ice is ~63,400; to be financed w/ Free Cash
    - vii. Stabilization add 96,657 as an article, to be financed w/ Free Cash. This is approx 50% of available Free Cash as per town Financial Reserve Policy
    - viii. Added purchase of 2014 Ford Explorer to replace Police Ford Expedition 39,000
    - ix. Becket Athenaeum requested 30,000; reduced to 20,000 same as last year
    - x. Removed Becket Arts Center ADA Lift 40,000. Might be able to get grant. Suggest that the arts center consider applying for Community Preservation funds.
  - b. Current estimated excess 259,804.
    - i. Mostly due to reduced school budget; and also reduced legal fees
  - c. Replacement Grader is Prop 2 ½ article; no impact on FY2015 tax rate. Estimated \$80,000/yr for 5 years starting FY2016.
  - d. Rationale for adding 3<sup>rd</sup> police cruiser: last year a 3<sup>rd</sup> shift was added; 150% of previous hours on the equipment. Either replace them sooner; or get a 3<sup>rd</sup> cruiser. Which is better ? 3<sup>rd</sup> vehicle creates more flexibility if one needs repair or the chief needs to use a cruiser. Only additional cost is insurance.
  - e. Nearly \$260,000 excess levy capacity is mostly due to previous fiscal year.
- 5. Further development of Capital Plan for Town of Becket**
  - a. Nothing further discussed.
- 6. Any other business:**
  - a. Cancel tentative meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Joint meeting with Board of Selectman April 16<sup>th</sup>; first agenda with School board; then vote on articles
  - c. Keep tentative meeting on April 17; likely will be canceled

**Next meeting:** April 16  
**Adjourn:** 8:28 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Jeremy Dunn

Approved by Steve LaBelle, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stephen LaBelle". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the "Approved by" text, with a horizontal line drawn through it.