

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

**Meeting Minutes for March 5, 2015**

**Call to Order:**

**PRESENT:**

Finance Committee (FC): Steve LaBelle (SL); Ann Spadafora (AS); Maria Wallington (MW); Mark Karlberg (MK); Dan Parnell (DP)  
Board of Selectmen (B of S): Bill Elovirta (BE)  
Town Administrator: Ed Gibson (EG)  
Public: Jeremy Dunn

**AGENDA:**

1. **Review and approve minutes for February 19, 2015 meeting**
  - a. Acceptance of minutes move by AS and seconded by MK. Passed unanimously with one abstention (SL).
2. **Correspondence and transfers**
  - a. Newly revised FC handbooks from MMA are available. AS will order copies for each member.
  - b. CBRSD adopted a budget tentative set for \$26,509,205. Becket amount not yet available.
  - c. EG reports that B of S requested FC meet with Wired West officials and B of S. B of S suggested March 19 and April 2 as options. FC recommends March 19 at 6:00 PM prior to FC meeting.
  - d. No transfer requests.
3. **Town Administrator's input**
  - a. See # 4
4. **Departmental budgets FY 2016**
  - a. Capital Plan reviewed.
    - i. EG recommending the metal roof option for the town hall. Needs attention very soon. Metal will last a lot longer.
    - ii. Fire escapes need to be done.
    - iii. Heating/cooling system still under discussion.
    - iv. Fire station 1 windows need replacing and will probably need abatement of asbestos, etc.
    - v. Fire department wants thermal imaging cameras which EG recommends.
    - vi. Recommending dump truck replacement and budget adjustment to keep repairing loader rather than replacing this year.
  - b. Current debt schedule was distributed
  - c. Budget recommendations
    - i. It currently looks like School expenses (line 117) will probably be more than we originally thought.
    - ii. Insurance budget is going up for property and causality insurance but health insurance budget will not need to go up and may go down.
    - iii. Board of health wants increase to staff office and to get software. Also they are using more contract help.
    - iv. Highway materials for gravel road repairs in up as expected from last year's plan.
    - v. Snow and ice deficit budget may need to be adjusted to better represent the average costs. An alternative would be to add to the reserves for unusual years.

5. **Other business:**

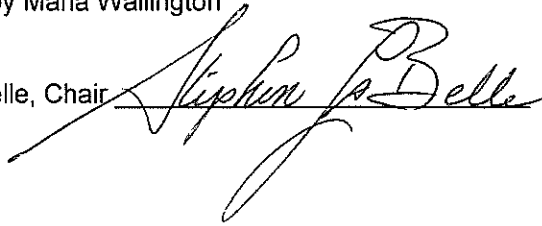
- a. Jeremy Dunn asked if FC has question re Wired West. He hopes to have final bond amount limit by our meeting with representatives. Becket would need to vote on debt exclusion for borrowing the money.

6. **Next meeting:** March 19 and April 2.

**Adjourn: 7:00 PM**

Respectfully Submitted by Maria Wallington

Approved by Steve LaBelle, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stephen LaBelle", written over a horizontal line.