

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Town of Becket
557 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223

Meeting Minutes for December 1, 2016

PRESENT:

Finance Committee (FC): Dan Parnell (DP); Ron De Foe (RD); Mark Karlberg (MK); Maria Wallington (MW)
Town Administrator: Ed Gibson (EG)
Absent: Ann Spadafora (AS)
Public: Jeanne Pryor, Jeff & Shelley Wilkerson, Linda Bacon

Meeting was called to order by DP at 6:03 PM.

AGENDA:

1. **Review and approve minutes for November 3, 2016 meeting.**
 - a. MW moved to accept the minutes of the November 3 meeting, as corrected. MK seconded. Passed unanimously.
2. **Correspondence and transfers**
 - a. EG detailed the following Reserve Fund Transfer request:
 - i. Request to transfer \$25,000 from the Reserve Fund (acct # 01-941-5500) to Bonny Rigg Culvert (acct # 21-421 5500) to pay for unanticipated expenses to hold the water back while pouring footings. Acceptance moved by DP and seconded by MW. Passed unanimously.
3. **Town Administrator's input**
 - a. EG reported the following:
 - i. Departmental budget requests have been received;
 - ii. Still working inventory of 292 properties in tax arrears;
 - iii. Tax classification hearing planned for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting ;
 - iv. The highway department truck just replaced (2005 International) has been loaned to Tolland after a fire destroyed their town garage;
 - v. EG, Jeanne Pryor and Bill Elovirta will be attending the next Central Berkshire Regional School District meeting being held to discuss the Cummington exit from the district.
4. **Update on Ipswich Pharmaceuticals interest & plan for Sunnybanks Farm location**
 - a. EG provided an update on the latest proposal for the medical marijuana growing facility in Becket
 - i. The company is considering the purchase of part of Sunnybanks Farm (aprox.30 acres;
 - ii. The facility will be comprised of standard style greenhouses;
 - iii. Lighting at the facility will be minimal to lessen light pollution;
 - iv. The company, in addition to paying property taxes will provide the town with 2.5% of the gross sales and provide employment for local residents;
 - v. A yet to be scheduled meeting by the company will provide additional information on their proposal.
 - b. DP moved to send a note to the BOS that the company's proposal has merit to provide the financial benefit per the wording of their letter. MW seconded. Passed unanimously.
5. **Early Budget Discussion**
 - a. No new major requests are on the horizon.
6. **Any other business.**
 - a. None
7. **Adjourn meeting**
 - a. MK moved to adjourn meeting at 7:32 P.M. MW seconded. Passed unanimously.

Next meeting: January 5, 2017 at 6 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by Mark Karlberg

Approved by Dan Parnell, Chair

Maria Wallington vice chair