

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Town Hall
557 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223

MINUTES FOR MEETING ON APRIL 20, 2018

PRESENT:

Finance Committee – Dan Parnell (DP), Maria Wallington (MW), Mark Karlberg (MK),
Ann Spadafora (AS)

Selectman: William Elovirta

ABSENT: Ronald Defoe (RD)

Meeting was called to order at 4.40 pm to review Select Board changes to some budget items on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting.

AGENDA:

1. Approve minutes for previous meeting(s). Postponed until next full meeting .
2. Town Administrator had requested \$2,250.00 to be transferred from Reserve Fund to Police Dept Payroll Account(#01-250-5500). The Police Academy had reimbursed the Town for cost of training a full time office who resigned.

Also, needed transfer of \$1,643.63 for repairs to cruiser.

3. BUDGET:

- a) TA reduced Assessors Salary Account by \$10,000.00
- b) TA reduced Reserve Account by \$10,000.00 for ambulance costs.
- c) Ambulance Stipend for Part-Time EMTs –
 - (i) TA proposed increases for Training Officer and for one Paramedic who rated higher Salary levels.
 - (ii) Discussion of contracts with County and ALS Services. TA suggested we pay just the differential to save a potential \$15,000.00.
- d) Vocational Transport – Reduced budget by \$10,000.00
- e) Highway Road Improvement Account – Reduced budget by \$10,000.00. Will not need to spend so much on repairs for the existing backhoe when replacement comes.
- f) Stabilization Account – Reduced contribution per original budget by \$23,000.00.

TOTAL BUDGET REDUCTIONS – Approximately \$63,000.00.

Proposal to accept by Maria.

Seconded by Dan.

All in favor.

4. NEW ITEMS:

Bill Elovirta and Town Administrator had met with the Representatives from the D.E.P. to discuss what action to take regarding the contaminated spring on Rt. 20 close to the Chester town line.

The new warrant article needs a 2/3 vote for \$15,000.00 to do a study. Choices are threefold –

- a) Install a UV filter to treat coliform which would require a shed (8'x10') and the need to bring electricity across Rt 20. The spring is on land owned by the Deerhaven private community and involves access via a right-of-way belonging to an abutting house.
- b) To drill a well which would not necessarily ensure good water.

Both of these options would make the Town of Becket the owner of a MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM with the accompanying responsibilities, costs and liability.

- c) Close access to the spring with a wall.

THE DEP HAS AGREED TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE VOTE AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING.


Maria moved that FinCom NOT support putting any further monies into the spring project.

Dan seconded.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Meeting adjourned at 5.20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Chair

Ann G. Spadafora
FinCom member.

/ags