

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

Meeting Minutes for July 11, 2018

PRESENT:

Finance Committee (FC): Dan Parnell (DP); Ron DeFoe (RD); Ann Spadafora (AS); Mark Karlberg (MK); Chuck Garman (CG)
Interim Town Administrator: Bob Markel (BM)
Chris Lynch of Matrix Design Group (CL)

Meeting was called to order by DP at 6:04 PM

AGENDA:

1. Meeting minutes

- a. Approve Minutes for June 7, 2018 FinCom meeting
 - i. Accepted minutes as amended (Motion on Ambulance transfer was MK, not MW)
 - ii. Moved by AS and seconded by MK. Approved unanimously

2. Correspondence and transfers

- a. Annual dues for Association of Town Finance Committees are due (\$135)
 - i. Move to pay by AS, second by CG. Approved unanimously
- b. Motion to accept transfers as submitted below
 - i. Move to pay by AS, second by CG. Approved unanimously

FROM:		TO:	
Assessor Salaries	14,575.15	Snow & Ice	60,508.65
Treasurer Expenses	5,000.00	Selectmen Expenses	510.14
Audit Expenses	9,500.00	Tax Title Expenses	3,946.08
Reserve Fund	10,000.00	Municipal Buildings	564.05
Short Term Debt Interest	1,500.00	Veterans Benefits	9,248.98
Municipal Bldg Expenses	7,500.00	N. Becket Cemetery	2,195.36
Highway Garage	2,400.00	Transfer Station Expenses	2,400.00
BOH Salaries	1,307.80	BOH Expenses	1,308.80
Highway Fuel	21,000.00	Memorial/Veterans Day	100.89
Highway Gen Maintenance	<u>10,000.00</u>	Ambulance Department	<u>2,000.00</u>
	82,782.95		82,782.95

3. Administrator's input

- a. We have an opportunity for a grant for new HVAC for Town Hall
 - i. Up to \$250k grant for a possible heat pump based system; linked to a solar array

1. Grant opportunity for \$12,500 for a professional consultant to assess whether to go heat pump or propane based system
 2. In February, we can apply for a grant for a propane based system if that is our best technology
 3. We will need an updated energy audit for Town Hall
- b. We are working with Colonial Power on power aggregation
 - i. Aggregation plan posted on website today (7/11/2018)
 - c. Working on 20 year vehicle replacement plan
 - i. FinCom can then meet with Department Heads
 - ii. Replacement needs to be based on overall economics rather than purely age
 - iii. Do we need a truck wash to lengthen their service life
 - d. BM has a contract extension through October 31, 2018
 - e. We have contracted with Housatonic Basin on the Route 20 spring
 - i. BM is keeping the Chester Town Administrator informed
 - f. Town of Washington Fire/Ambulance
 - i. We have negotiated \$12,500 per annum for fire coverage with provisions for future increases
 - ii. We no longer have to provide backup ambulance coverage for Washington
- 4. Broadband Update**
- a. CL has presented BOS a proposal for Matrix Design Group to take over broadband project
 - i. Pole survey process is an ongoing process and big unknown in make ready cost
 - ii. Matrix is posing to build a fiber optic based system that the town can purchase in 3 years
 1. Town is responsible for make ready costs
 - iii. Matrix is estimating a make ready cost of \$480 per pole which seems at odds with us having 22% red poles with an average replacement cost of \$4500 each
 - iv. Matrix was the original engineering company for WiredWest
- 5. Topics for future meetings**
- a. Reserve and free cash policy
 - i. Need more than Chapter 90 funds for repaving
 - b. County wide gas tax could be beneficial
 - c. Becket could consider a meal tax
 - d. OPEB liability analysis
 - e. Capital purchase plan/Departmental budget challenges
 - f. Tax and title sale
 - g. Bank interest rates
 - h. Are our costs for road districts covered by fees
- 6. Adjourn meeting**
- a. MK moved to adjourn meeting at 7:28 PM. CG seconded. Approved unanimously

Next meeting: August 8, 2018 at 6:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Ron DeFoe

Approved by Dan Parnell, Chair

