

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

Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2018

PRESENT:

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

Meeting was called to order by DP at 5:08 PM

AGENDA:

- 1. Meeting minutes**
 - a. Approve minutes November 5, 2018 FinCom meeting
 - i. Accepted minutes as written
 - ii. Moved AS and seconded by CG. Approved by AS, CG, DP and RD. MK abstained as was not present at meeting
- 2. Correspondence and transfers**
 - a. None
- 3. Administrator's input**
 - a. We have an promising applicant (William Caldwell) for the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen is entering into negotiations
 - b. Our Community Compact grant has been funded. The Collins Institute at U-Mass-Boston has done most of the Community Compact budget enhancement projects around the state
 - c. All department budgets are in. No need to meet with department heads yet
 - d. Green Community program is on track (window replacements and heating system upgrades). Town of Becket municipality has reduced energy consumption by 30% since 2010
 - e. Working on fire station #1 heating system. \$38k approved at 2017 ATM and we have a \$23k estimate. We are evaluating the viability of a heat pump based system. The major concern is whether it can handle very cold temperatures (about 5 to 0 deg F and below). The potential for a low capital cost baseboard electric system to augment the heat pump system in very cold temperatures was discussed as a possibility
 - f. We have a dilapidated property (house and barn) owned by the town on Rt 20 that should be razed. BM to request a transfer from the Reserve Fund at the next FinCom meeting
 - g. FY2019 Tax Rate is approved at \$11.07
 - h. STM set for January 22 at 7 PM
 - i. It is looking like the most economical solution for the proposed Johnson Hill Repeater will be for Becket to erect their own tower rather than leasing space on the existing tower
- 4. Rt 20 Spring**
 - a. There appear to be enough signatures to put an item on the warrant for the STM
- 5. Broadband Update**
 - a. Broadband committee is working on a proposal for STM for an optimal town owned system
- 6. Adjourn meeting**
 - a. MK moved to adjourn meeting at 6:31 PM. AS seconded. Approved unanimously

Next meeting: January 2, 2018 at 5:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Ron DeFoe

Approved by Dan Parnell, Chair

