

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

**Meeting Minutes for April 10, 2019 – Joint Meeting with Becket Board of Selectman**

**PRESENT:**

Finance Committee (FC): Dan Parnell (DP) - by phone; Ron DeFoe (RD); Ann Spadafora (AS); Chuck Garman (CG); Mark Karlberg (MK)  
Interim Town Administrator: William Caldwell (WC)  
Selectman: Michael Lavery (ML); William Elovirta (WE);  
Town Secretary: Beverly Gilbert (BG)  
Other: Bill Cavanaugh

Minutes reflect only the Finance Committee Meeting actions. Board of Selectmen recorded their own minutes of their portion of the Joint Meeting.

Meeting was called to order by MK at 6:01 PM. .

**AGENDA:**

- 1. Joint meetings called to order by both WE and MK**
- 2. Correspondence and transfers**
  - i. None
- 3. Administrator's input**
  - a. Summer help adjusted from \$20,400 to \$16,800 (2 people from Memorial Day to Labor Day)
  - b. Tax title expense can be reduced by using a tax title company
    - i. DP recommends we hold at current \$25k because our receivables are so high (\$1.3M)
  - c. We will eventually need a plan for Becket's share of the new WRHS (Wahconah Regional High School in Dalton)
    - i. DP and WE are favoring debt exclusion
    - ii. Will not need decision this year
  - d. Salary adjustments for Building Inspector and Town Clerk have been requested
    - i. Consensus is no adjustment beyond current planned 2.8% for Building Inspector and 2.0% for Town Clerk
  - e. Town Treasurer and Clerk of Committees show greater than average 2% increase (3.0 and 3.1% increase respectively) due to number of work days
    - i. WC will have calculations rechecked
  - f. Fire Chief Salary
    - i. Considering increasing salary and with inspection fees going to town
    - ii. Recommend raising salary to \$7300
- 4. Budget Discussion**
  - a. General Operating
    - i. AS questioned elimination of General Maintenance Mowing Budget
      1. Contract with power company has expired and will not renew
    - ii. AS questioned Athenaeum operating budget
      1. Must be increased 2.5% annually to retain accreditation
    - iii. ML questioned situation regarding transfer station funding
      1. WC stated our transfer station contract is up for renewal in mid-2020
    - iv. Bill Cavanaugh requested better quality gravel for cemeteries
    - v. Motion made to increase Operating Budget to \$6,717,003
      1. Moved by MK, seconded by AS. Roll call MK aye, AS aye, CG aye, DP aye, RD aye for approval unanimously

b. 2019 Capital Projects

1. Bill Cavanaugh requested 54" mower with FE Loader and backhoe for cemeteries (John Deere 1025R) - appears to be about a \$25k machine
2. DP recommended we put an additional \$15K into Reserve Fund and do some research prior to making a decision for approval by BOS/FinCom
  - a. We will increase Reserve Fund from \$35k to \$50k
3. Total Request is \$186,995.29

Police - 2019 Ford Utility Interceptor	\$ 55,493.37
Becket Arts Center - Painting and Electrical	\$ 7,120.00
Buildings and Grounds - Town Hall Parking Lot	\$ 15,000.00
Buildings and Grounds - Town Hall Kitchen	\$ 10,000.00
Buildings and Grounds - Ambulance Drainage	\$ 60,000.00
Becket Athenaeum - Well and Septic	\$ 35,000.00
Parks and Recreation - Maple Street	\$ 4,381.92

c. Articles for Annual Town Meeting Warrant

1. Motion for Fin Comm to approve articles 1 through 28 except article 24 (no opinion offered on article 24) as discussed. Moved by MK, seconded by CG. Roll call MK aye, AS aye, CG aye, DP aye, RD aye for approval unanimously

ii.

5. **Broadband Update**

- a. None

6. **Any other business**

- a. None

7. **Adjourn meeting**

- a. RD moved to adjourn meeting at 7:52 P.M. MK seconded. Roll call MK aye, AS aye, CG aye, DP aye, RD aye for approval unanimously

**Next meeting: May 2, 2019 at 6 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted by Ron DeFoe

Approved by Dan Parnell Chairman

