

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Joint meeting with  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Town of Becket  
557 Main Street  
Becket, MA 01223

**Meeting Minutes for April 16**

**Call to Order: 5:10 PM**

**PRESENT:**

Finance Committee (FC): Steve LaBelle (SL); Ann Spadafora (AS); Maria Wallington (MW); Mark Karlberg (MK)

Board of Selectmen (B of S): Bill Elovirta (BE); Jeanne Pryor (JP)

Town Administrator: Ed Gibson (EG)

Public: none

Guests: Melissa Falkowski (MF), business manager for CBRSD; Laurie Casna, Asst. Superintendent; Robert Putnam (RP), Superintendent; John Les JL, Becket's school committee representative.

**ABSENT:** Angela Hilton (AH), Dan Parnell (DP)

**AGENDA:**

**1. Joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the CBRSD committee**

- a. RP reported the final budget is much less than last year.(\$214,714 less)
- b. Budget available on line.
- c. Reductions in reorganization in elementary schools, reorganization of middle and high schools, special education, and district reductions.
- d. Additions were added:
  - i. 0.5 Guidance counselor
  - ii. 0.5 Curriculum coordinator
  - iii. Fine and performing arts in high school
  - iv. Summer program additions mostly special ed
  - v. Curriculum additions
  - vi. Special education teacher added
  - vii. Foreign language teacher for middle school level
  - viii. Joint coordinator of curriculum
  - ix. Increase nurses
- e. Budget:
  - i. Projected revenues down \$214,724 though assessment to town is up \$386,658.
  - ii. Major increase in technology budget for hardware and teacher training.
  - iii. Staff changes cause increase in unemployment and retiree benefits.
  - iv. Large textbooks increase.
  - v. Becket's assessment for FY2016 is \$1,914,640.
  - vi. Capital assessment will go up \$3,281.
- f. AS moved FC accept CBRSD budget for FY 2016. MK seconded. Passed unanimously. B of S had already approved the budget.

**2. Review and approve Finance Committee minutes for April 2, 2015 meeting**

- a. Approval of minutes moved by MK and seconded by AS. Unanimous approval.

**3. Correspondence and transfers**

- a. No correspondence
- b. Transfer request for \$7,930.00 transfer to 01-931-5500 Demolition fund from Reserve Fund. This will allow for demolition of 3 properties. Acceptance moved by MW. Seconded by MK. It was unanimously accepted.

- c. Transfer request for \$7,347.38 to 01-146-5100 Tax Collector Salaries from Reserve Fund. This is to cover vacation, personal and sick leave for the retiring tax collector. An additional request will be needed to cover the entire remaining deficit. Acceptance moved by MK and seconded by AS. Passed unanimously. About \$20,000 will remain in the Reserve count.

#### **4. Town Administrator's input**

- a. Budget passed the legislature. Minimal effect on Becket's share.
- b. Winter snow and ice deficit is about \$111,000. Will be requesting \$83,000 from free cash and \$11,000 transfer from health insurance account and a town meeting warrant for \$20,000 transfer from Legal expenses.

#### **5. Final review of the FU 2016 budget**

- a. Discussion of possible vote re: article for Annual Town Meeting relating to WiredWest "last mile" high speed internet broadband service.
  - i. See article recommendations below.
- b. Discussion of all possible ATM articles monetary and non-monetary.
  - i. See monetary articles 1 - 25 below.
  - ii. See articles 26 - 31 below.
- c. Review and possible votes to recommend capital and operating budget for FY 2016 and articles for Annual Town Meeting warrant.
  - i. Article 1. Authorization for payment of prior year's bills: JP moved B of S approval of article and seconded by BE. Unanimous approval.
    - 1. MK moved and AS seconded FC approval of article. Unanimously approved.
  - ii. Article 2. Cemetery salaries: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
  - iii. Article 3. Operating budget: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
  - iv. Article 4. Debt and interest: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
  - v. Article 5. Stabilization funding JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
  - vi. Article 6. Acceptance of Chapter 90 funds: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
  - vii. Article 7. Ambulance enterprise fund: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
  - viii. Article 8. FY Funding of audit of 2015 financial records: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
  - ix. Article 9. Transfer of Reserve Funds to fund 2015 snow and ice deficit: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
  - x. Article 10. Funding of legal, advertising and related costs to process tax delinquent accounts: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.

- xi. Article 11. Broad band internet funding: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
- xii. Article 12. Becket Athenaeum capital repairs: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
- xiii. Article 13. Becket Arts Center ADA lift: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
- xiv. Article 14. Town Hall fire escapes: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
- xv. Article 15. Fire Station 1 window replacement: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
- xvi. Article 16. Purchase of 2 thermal imaging cameras for fire department: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
- xvii. Article 17. Purchase of Dump Truck with plow and sander for highway department: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
- xviii. Article 18. Replacement of auto stretcher for the ambulance department: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
- xix. Article 19. Purchase of computers and software: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
- xx. Article 20. Transfer funds from the health insurance account and the legal expenses account to reduce snow and ice deficit. JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
- xxi. Article 21. Funding of replacement of the roof of the town hall. JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
- xxii. Article 22. Funding for replacement of furnace and heating system of town hall. JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
- xxiii. Article 23. Authorizing the revolving funds for Plumbing Inspector, Gas Inspector and Wiring Inspector: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
- xxiv. Article 24. Funding of Community Preservation Committee: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
- xxv. Article 25. Transfer funds from Historical Resources Reserve and Undesignated Reserve Account of the Community Preservation fund for window repairs of Becket Athenaeum: JP moved recommendation of this article by the B of S. Seconded by BE. Unanimously approved. MK moved FC recommend this article. AS seconded. Unanimously approved.
- xxvi. Article 26. Small wind zoning bylaw.

- xxvii. Article 27 Large wind zoning bylaw.
- xxviii. Article 28 Sale of property Map 217 lot 64.
- xxix. Article 29 Sale of property Map 217 lot 63.
- xxx. No position for Recommendation from B of S or FC on Articles 26 through 29.
- xxxi. Article 30 CPA repeal petitioned article.
- xxxii. Article 31 Energy Committee petitioned resolution.  
NO position from B of S or FC on Articles 30 and 31.

**6. Any other business**

- a. None

7. **Next Finance Committee Meeting:** May 7, 2015 6:00 PM

8. **Adjourn: 9:00 PM** Motion to adjourn by BE for B of S, seconded by JP. Unanimous vote for approval. MK made a motion for the FC to adjourn, seconded by AS. Unanimous vote for approval.

Respectfully Submitted by Maria Wallington

Approved by William Elovirta, Chairman

