

**TOWN OF BERKLEY
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2018 MINUTES

Members in attendance: Chairman Joe Freitas, Secretary Michele Hamilton, Nancy Gajoli, Melinda Paine-Dupont

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman Joe Freitas.

Review of July 25, 2018 was requested and a motion was made, seconded and approved by all members in attendance.

In the inter office correspondences was the applications for the ATFC Conference for November 3, 2018 and the MMA Conference in January 2019. After a brief discussion it was decided that no members of the Finance Committee would be attending the ATFC Conference and all members in attendance have agreed to attend the MMA Conference in January.

In addition, invitations were presented to each member to attend the open house for Bristol Plymouth High School.

Chairman Joe Freitas provided the committee with a review of the Warrant for the upcoming November Special Town Meeting.

Included in this review were two handouts, the Fiscal Year 2019 estimated figures of the budget and warrant notes showing the possible amount of monies available and where these funds proposed could be allocated.

The finance committee was not able to vote on the warrant or make suggestions as the warrant has not been approved by the Selectmen and this will take place on Wednesday October 17, 2018 at 5:00pm. It was requested that members of the Finance Committee be in attendance if possible.

The departments of the town are still negotiating or have job postings looking to fill positions. The fire department and the town have not been able to come to agreement and the department has gone to arbitration. This decision by the department will not have an impact on the town this year.

The Highway Department and the Council on Aging still have applications out. The Highway is looking for a truck driver and the Council on Aging is looking for a Director.

One of the reasons the departments are having difficulty filling positions is the amount of money being offered. There is a proposal to increase minimum wage to \$12.95 at the beginning of November 1, 2018 and a five year plan to have everyone up to \$15.00 by utilizing a new step increase plan.

In our packets was a copy of the Host Community Agreement that was signed on September 25, 2018 between Frozen 4, LLC and the Town of Berkley. This agreement grants a license to operate a Marijuana Cultivator plant on the property located at 130 Myricks Street, Berkley, MA.