

TOWN OF BERKLEY FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Monday, February 4, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Joe Freitas, Secretary Michele Hamilton, Nancy Gajoli, and Melinda Paine-Dupont

Meeting was call to order by Chairman Joe Freitas at 6:03 pm.

A motion was made to review and discuss Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2019. Motion was made and seconded to approve as written.

The purpose of this meeting was to kick of the 2020 Fiscal Year Budget. Chairman Joe Freitas express the need to stay focus on a couple of bills currently being discussed at the state legislative branch.

- Accountability to school increases tied into collective bargaining
- There are communities able to generate the resources/funds and provide a substantial education. It is being considered to tax these communities an additional 5% dispersing the extra revenue generated to low producing schools.
- Every student gets a certain amount of monies from the state and it would be up to the town to fund the remaining balance.

Chairman Joe Freitas shared a couple of issues that he wants us to focus on is being prepared with questions/concerns that we may have regarding their budget request and to study the financial reports.

Chairman Joe Freitas handed out the initial Cherry Sheet, Front Page and the Operating budget. This led to a question related to the Operating Budget; the lack of actuals expenditures for the accounts is a major concern for the Finance Committee. We also compared (briefly) the Front Page for 2020 to 2019 Front Page.

Also, the committee is looking for reports related to the Capital Spending from last year's budget; looking for reports that show transfers of funds and manager reports. It was expressed by Michele Hamilton that the lack of transparency and the ability to get financial reports on a regular basis is concerning.

Chairman Joe Freitas shared with the committee information from the meeting he attended at Bristol Plymouth regarding MSPA. Basically there are three phases to the process. The state sends a team to do a feasibility study. This is followed by the Project Manager and the Designer. If you are building a new school, the whole project could take up to 7 years from completion and a refurbishing project could takes approximately 2 years from start to finish.

We were advised of an upcoming meeting for a proposed Marijuana Dispensary Establishment is scheduled for Friday February 8th at 6:30. The proposed Marijuana Dispensary, Cultivation and

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We were advised of an upcoming meeting for a proposed Marijuana Dispensary Establishment is scheduled for Friday February 8th at 6:30. The proposed Marijuana Dispensary, Cultivation and

Manufacturing are anticipated to be located at 44 County Street, Berkley, MA. All members indicated they would be in attendance.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. The committee voted unanimously to adjourn.

Jan 26 2.11.2019


2/11/19

Nancy B Gayle 2/11/19

Michele Hamilton 2/11/19