

TOWN OF BERKLEY
FINANCE COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER, 20, 2020

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Joe Freitas, Secretary Michele Hamilton (virtual attendance), Nancy Gajoli, Melinda Paine-Dupont.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Chairman Joe Freitas.

Chairmen Joe Freitas called for a motion to accept the minutes of July 27, 2020. Motion was made and seconded to accept finance committee minutes as written. A call for a vote was made by Chairman Mr. Freitas and the committee unanimously approved the ~~adjournment~~ *minutes*.

Chairman Joe Freitas, introduced the topic of a new member. The applicant was not able to attend tonight's meeting so Chairman Joe Freitas gave a brief description of the person and their attributes. Sounds promising and we hope to have an opportunity to meet them.

We reviewed and discussed the front sheet for the 2021 budget, keeping in mind that the figures we are discussing are estimates only. Also, the state cherry sheet has not been approved and provided to the communities and the receiving funds from the state were not greatly hit by Covid-19 pandemic at this time.

The billing for unemployment insurance is questionable. Due to Covid-19, which caused billing issues. There was town staff, teachers and teachers aides that were released, and in addition 5 teachers retired.

Instructions provided to the employees affected were to reach out to Covid-19 for financial assistance prior to going through normal procedures. This helped alleviate some of the financial issues.

In addition, it came to our attention that there were 2 additional employees that chose the family plan, which is going up and individual plans are going down.

The following items were discussed for approval:

- Selectman department, increased clerical of \$3,500 to bring the pay equal to all other clerical staff.
- Town Council, increase of \$15,000 for legal land court.
- Town Buildings added \$3,000 to cover extra expenses.
- Town Buildings, increase in custodial services, added \$5,000.00 to cover wages.
- Emergency medical services, additional \$6,000.00 added to personal wages for new hire pay to complete year end. This includes clothing allowance.
- Animal control, increase of \$50.00 stipend for additional person and weekend coverage,

- Total increase equals \$368,093.00.

Chairman Joe Freitas called for a motion to accept the budget with changes for a November budget at \$2,266,131.00. Motion was made and seconded. A call for a vote was made by Chairman Mr. Freitas and the committee unanimously approved the adjournment.

Budget

Capital improvement items for discussion.

- Berkley Police Department requested \$24,000.00 for an 18-foot center console boat for the Harbor Master.
- Board of Assessors looking for two (2) computer printers @ a cost of \$700. Two (2) new computers @ a cost of \$3,200. New copier @ a total cost of \$5,000. Items listed for consideration over a period of time.
- Berkley Highway Department is looking for \$62,000. Updates for building 1. This includes: a) Update electrical and install fire alarm system @ \$35,000. b) install insulation @\$6,000. c) install ceiling and inside sheathing @ \$3,000. d) install 3 garage doors @ \$18,000. In addition, a wood chipper @ \$60,000. Backhoe @ \$135,000. And two (2) garage doors @ \$6,800.
- Berkley Public Library reequested a new fire alarm system @ \$22,445.
- Berkley Public Schools requested consideration for a small dump truck with plow and sander @ \$62,680. Classroom furniture replacements at the community school @ \$51,156.

Other topics of discussion.

The Board of Health is in need of hiring a full time Board of Health Agent and office staff for fiscal year 2021/2022. Total cost of this expenditure could be in excess of \$100,000.

The Berkley Board of Health requested for current members salaries to be the same as the fiscal year of 2020/2021 @ \$5,000. This will be on the warrant.

Chairman Joe Freitas called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 pm. A motion was made and seconded. A call for a vote was made by Chairman Mr. Freitas and the committee unanimously approved the adjournment.

Joe Freitas 12.8.2020 -

Phil 12-8-20

Michelle Hamilton 12-8-20

Nancy Gajoli Voted - Yes - Via - Zoom