



TOWN OF BERKLEY FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE:

CHAIRMAN, JOSEPH FREITAS, MICHELE HAMILTON, MATTHEW CHABOT, TABITHA MCCROHAN

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00 PM. BY CHAIRMAN JOE FREITAS.

Chairman, Joseph Freitas, called for a motion to accept the minutes of November 29, 2021 meeting. Motion was made by Tabitha McCrohan and seconded by Matthew Chabot. A roll call vote was taken and the committee members in attendance unanimously voted to approve the minutes as written.

Chairman, Joseph Freitas, called for a motion to table the minutes of November 2, 2021 meeting. Per Michele Hamilton pages were missing from the minutes provided. Motion was made by Tabitha McCrohan and seconded by Matthew Chabot. A roll call vote was taken and committee members in attendance unanimously voted to table the November 2, 2021 minutes.

The Special Town Meeting is behind us and we had a small discussion regarding the events that took place and the decision to recommend the funds needed to cover expenses and close the 2022 budget was to take it from free cash.

Other than Article 5, Bristol Plymouth removal, everything went through without any issues. Those who supported the staying with Bristol Plymouth were the topic of discussion at the meeting. It was voted unanimously by the people of Berkley MA to remain with Bristol Plymouth.

The committee's focus must now put Fiscal Year 2022 behind and start focusing on the upcoming Fiscal Year 2023.

In our packets was information provided for us to review and work through to get ready for discussions with the staff, working through budget decisions, etc.

We have a Summary Budget comparison; available funds break down; and a breakdown of the major accounts fiscal year funds they received.

Also a part of the discussions were various topics that the committee members want to address are the return of the Health funds; the high school re-evaluation of their budget saved us roughly \$400,000, want to follow this and see how it might impact our funding.

How are we going to breakdown this budget? It will not be just from department heads, it will include Salaries, Clothing, Phone, cleaning, and overtime. These were some of the items we want to address and determine if this may be a place we could cut. Will need feedback from the departments

Keeping track of the monies; new growth, school choice, excise tax, state funding and grant funding. This can be a difficult task as the state is not forthcoming in the actual revenue will be dispersed.

We were just informed by the town administration that our cash has been certified at \$1,019,894. These funds from a last year supplement of \$305,000 and \$393,488.00.

Another topic of discussion was the split budget. This would be favorable to the Finance Committee in working through the various budgets. It is a topic brought up at the local selectmen meeting and will be a discussion going forward.

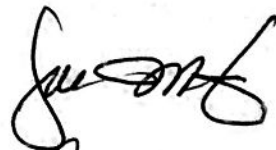

The dynamic of the town shows those who can afford the increases stay and those who can't afford the increases leave. We have to focus on finding a sustainable budget and reach a middle ground.

Some suggestions to work on were a possibility to look into was quarterly payments, especially for the larger accounts and try to maintain a 2.5% increase.

Ask ourselves and those who work for the town, how do we work out a budget?

Also, included in our packets was a copy of an email from Administer, Heather Martin-Sterling regarding questions related to dispatchers.

Chairman, Joseph Freitas requested a motion to adjourn. Motion Made by Tabitha McCrohon and seconded by Matthew Chabot.

 1-18-2022
 01/18/2022