



TOWN OF BERKLEY FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting minutes of February 7, 2022

In Attendance: Chairman Joe Freitas, Michele Hamilton, Tabitha McCrohan, Matt Chabot

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Joe Freitas at 6:07 pm

Chairman Joe Freitas requested a review of the minutes from the meeting of January 18, 2022.

After review, and a correction on adding Matt's last name, a motion was made by Matt Chabot and seconded by Michele Hamilton, verbal call done and minutes approved with correction.

The purpose of this meeting was to revisit the dated calendar, discuss various departments and what, we as a committee, need to know in order to put together a sustainable budget for fiscal year 2023. In addition, we need to remember to lookout for the coming years and what the needs of the town will be facing and have revenue to meet those issues.

The first meeting we will be meeting with is the K-8 school system. We review and discussed several dates and determined that February 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm and this date worked for both the committee and the administration of the school system.

70+% of our tax revenue, fees, etc. that come within the town goes towards our children's education. The community does not have enough commercial revenue coming in to off set the cost needed to support the schools and public departments that are also needed to function as a community.

Based on the preliminary budget, it seems the k-8 budget is requesting an additional 4.56% increase budget from last year. Along with the other school systems, This is definitely a cut above from what this town can afford and to maintain the existing community as we know it now.

We reviewed the difference in chapter 70 monies received from the state over the past five years and in general the amount received is roughly 20,000\$. Grant money is another source of income that the school is able to reach out to. Problem there some grants are not renewable and can not be considered apart of future (town) budgets. This is a topic we need to address.

Busing is an issue. We have roughly 7 buses and only a small portion of the community are utilizing the service. It was looked into and determine the cost of providing our own bus system is financially not feasible at this time.

In addition, the towns people are not utilizing the bus and this causes a traffic backup at the school. We have a police officer that is receiving pay to help with the backup and this needs to be looked into. Right now, it seems the bus system is not functioning to its full potential and we need to address this as well.

In addition, we need to review and discuss the contractual requirements and if there are any contracts being negotiated.

The budget priorities of \$436,000 need to be discussed.

Take a look at the budgetary increase of \$119,600.00. Especially the BCS Security Officer Detail of \$35,000, with a possibility of \$4,000 increase.

The preliminary budget came in at \$9,136,051. A \$398,686 (4.56%) from fiscal year 2022. We as a committee will need to review school choice, chapter 70 monies, grant fees, number of students currently in our school systems, special needs, any funds coming in and how they are being applied. We also need to stress the fact that grant paid positions and curricular programs running are not to be considered within the budget for future fiscal years to come.

We discussed several details of what's to come and what is needed to fulfill our commitment to the community and provide a sustainable budget.

Chairman Joe Freitas requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm.

A motion was made by Tabitha McCrohan and seconded by Matt Chabot. The committee verbally unanimously voted to adjourn.

Joe Freitas February 22, 2022.
Matt Chabot February 22, 2022
Tabitha McCrohan February 22, 2022
Michaela Hamilton February 22, 2022