



TOWN OF BERKLEY FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting minutes of February 22, 2022

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

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Joe Freitas at 6:00pm

Chairman Joe Freitas requested a review of the minutes from the meeting of February 7, 2022.

After review, a motion was made by Tabitha Mccrohan and seconded by Matt Chabot, verbal roll call done and minutes unanimously.

The purpose of this meeting is the K-8 school system

Chairman Joe Freitas, introduced our new Superintendent of the K-8 school system, Melissa Ryan and requested the presentation of the school Fiscal Year Budget of 2023

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 offset the cost needed to support the schools and public departments that are also needed to function as a community.

Based on the preliminary budget, 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 can reach out to. Problem there some grants are not renewable and cannot 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 investigated and determined 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.



3-14-2022

Matt Chabot 3-14-2022

Michael K. Hamilton 3-14-2022