



TOWN OF BERKLEY FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting minutes of April 26, 2022.

Finance Committee Meeting for April 26th, 2022.

In attendance Joe Freitas, Matt Chabot, Michele Hamilton, Nancy Gajoli and Tabitha McCrohan.

Call to order 6:02 PM by chairman Joe Freitas.

Review of the Minutes from April 11th, 2022. Motion to accept the minutes made by Michele Hamilton and seconded by Tabitha McCrohan.

We reviewed the updated Cherry Sheets from the House Ways and Means. Per the Cherry sheets the Town of Berkley has increase student reimbursements from approx. \$30 per kid to \$60. Even though the State is seeing large increases in revenue we are not receiving the same. There has been a decrease in the cost of school sending per the House Ways and Means. We are still waiting for the final amount.

Review and discussion of the current town budget. There was much discussion on the importance of maintaining a sustainable budget while trying to maintain current operations and what the future may look like. The finance Committee has agreed to prepare a budget with using general funds to maintain operating and one without. Fin Com then reviewed line item by line item. The following questions were requested by email from the Town Administrator and Director of the Library to clarify some of the questions that were raised during the review.

To the Library:

The budgeted line item for education, is this person still with the library and are they still using this?

To the Town Administrator:

Under the Public Safety building there is the line item 18,400. Can this possibly be paid for through covid funds? Prior to Covid the cost was significantly lower, is that something we can potentially go back to?

The overtime line for the Police does that include overtime with the railroad? We remember some discussion from previous budget years about that including the railroad details and then it was coming back from them. Can you clarify this for us?

Can you advise us on what is being used, up to this point, in the unfunded liability and what it is currently returning back to the general fund?

Have you received the cost for street light?

The current recommended budget is using \$200,000 from free cash. If the Finance Committee were to recommend eliminating the use of free cash then the current K-8 budget would come in at roughly \$280,000 short of where it currently is. We would also see significant decreases through all the other departments. Fin Com discussed that this is as close as we can get without the final numbers from contract negotiations.

Motion to adjourn made by Tabitha McCrohan seconded by Nancy Gajoli and adjourned at 8:40pm.

Joe Freitas 5/16/2022

Matt Chabot

05/16/2022

Michele K. Hamilton