

**Buckland Finance Committee Minutes**  
January 15, 2018

Meeting called to order at Buckland Public Library, 7:08 p.m.

**Committee members present:** Paula Consolo, Larry Langford, Michael Turley, Ben Murray, Karen Blom

**Others present:** Dena Willmore, select board member

**Karen moves to accept the minutes from Dec. 18. Paula seconds. Unanimously approved.**

**Budget Discussion**

We need to pay our expenses for Hurricane Irene. Dena estimates that the state's portion of this bill will be about \$400,000. Town administrator Andrea is hoping we'll get reimbursed but we need to pay the bill in the next couple of years, which means we must budget for this expense.

The first pass of the town budget shows expenses are \$74,000 more than revenue. We worked to cut at least \$74K from this first pass of the budget, which did not include salary increases and had only a preliminary number for schools.

**Capital**

To cut \$74,000 we looked at our largest expenses, one of which is \$60,000 budgeted for highway vehicles. After discussion, we decided to cut \$40,000 from this line item, thinking that we will need to move out the purchase of new vehicles by a year or two. Question was raised: Do we really need 6 dump trucks? Can we do without the truck that is scheduled to be replaced next year? How many trucks do other towns have?

We also looked at police vehicles and considered whether we need to have three. Discussed whether going down to two vehicles would save any money in operating expenses. Decided to keep \$12,000 in the budget for police vehicle replacement and to move out the purchase of a new vehicle by one year.

Looking at the budget for Town Hall, we discovered that there seems to be a mistake on the capital projects sheet, which says we will spend \$93,000 but shows only \$64,000 in expenses. Karen will discuss this with Andrea, but we cut \$30,000 for the siding, thinking that we could use the \$29,000 left over from last year. Other questions raised: Should we replace the windows before we replace the siding? How much exactly will the siding cost?

HVAC shows up on the sheet, but what does this cover? We assume it's for the police building,

but we need to know the details. Also, will this work add value to the building if we decide to sell the building?

The annual \$10,000 request from the town clerk to codify documents was not approved. We hope the technology will improve and make this expense far less.

A \$20,000 request for police radios was discussed. We will ask police chief Jim Hicks for some clarification. It seems that this will be funded over 3 years, \$7,000 per year, but it was a bit unclear. We wonder if we truly need 5 portable radios, and we wonder if there are any grants that might help with this expenditure.

Short discussion on the senior center request. Considering how tight the budget is, we are finding it hard to recommend putting money aside for a project that is not well defined. If Ashfield and Shelburne fund this, must we? We would like the committee looking at locations for the senior center to look at the Buckland Police Station again, this time considering using the entire building.

Short discussion on school budget. Paula reminded all that this is more than 50 percent of our budget and that we really have no idea what Buckland's portion of this budget will be. It was also mentioned that if a student decides to enroll at Smith Vocational School or more students at Franklin Tech, those budget items will rise significantly.

**Transfer \$391.26 from the Reserve Fund to the Planning Board Expense.**

**Ben moves. Larry seconds. Unanimously approved.**

Next meeting is Monday, January 22 at Buckland Town Hall at 7 pm. This will be preceded by a Recreation Committee presentation on plans for a new pool, at 6 pm.

We will also have a meeting on Saturday, January 27, beginning at 8 am with several town departments.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Consolo

UABce  
Bill Hicks  
Paula Consolo