

**Buckland Finance Committee Minutes**  
March 5, 2018

Meeting called to order at Buckland Public Library, 7:03 p.m.

**Committee members present:** Karen Blom, Larry Langford, Bill Knittle, Michael Turley, Paula Consolo (arrived 7:10), Ben Murray (arrived 7:14)

Minutes from the last meeting on Feb 12th were discussed, motion to accept made by Karen, seconded by Larry and approved by all.

There was a discussion of having a joint BOS and Fin Com meeting sometime after town meetings with Shelburne to discuss ways to reach joint efficiencies in budgets and operations.

Karen gave synopsis of Select board meeting on February 27, when police and highway departments made cases for their capital requests.

Police is okay with pushing off the purchase of a new vehicle another year. Select board believes that new radios may not be needed, so suggestion is that we wait to fund them next year.

Highway wants to replace the 1988 International and is worried about another vehicle (the 1999-550 truck) that may need replacing this year. Steve would believe the 550 is less valuable to the town than the International.

New Smith Vocational student has put the budget above the levy limit. Adjustments will need to be made to balance.

Larry gave update on Senior Center plans. They intend to:

1. Look for a site (Sweetheart, Buckland Police Station, BSE neighbor, Arms Academy, former Mole Hollow).
2. Write a plan for what the new facility would do/be.
3. Write a value proposition; why should anyone support this.
4. Decide on a fundraising approach; maybe hire someone to fundraise.
5. Write a budget for operations.
6. Figure out who will own the building.

Finance Committee does not support the \$15,000 capital request at this time. We need more detail on what this facility and program would provide.

Discussed school budget and possibility of talking with other towns about the increases in elementary school operating costs. The instructional budget at BSE is up more than 17%, with an increase in the number of teachers and aids even though the number of students is relatively flat. School Committee goal is to keep budget below 2½ percent, but Finance Committee discussed how budget should be as low as possible. Savings from school closings and from other decreases should not be offset with increases in staffing. Budget information given at the public hearing came after the School Committee had voted on the budget.

Finance Committee will not meet on March 12th due to not having new financial reports in time. There may be the need to add a meeting on March 26th to work on the Memo.

We will meet on:  
Monday, March 19, at Buckland Public Library.  
Monday, April 16, at Buckland Town Hall.

Plan is to have the final memo to Andrea for distribution on April 23.

Discussed putting the memo on the website and sending it to people we know, including town moderator Phoebe Walker. Larry will take first stab at writing an introduction and creating a visual to illustrate the town's financial woes.

Bill will not be running for reelection to Fin Com. Mike has taken out papers but is not sure he will run or turn them in. We may be down 2 members and need to think of potential residents to ask to run. BOS can always appoint someone if no one runs in the May election

Town meeting is May 9th. Adjourned 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Consolo

