

Buckland Finance Committee Minutes
February 16, 2015

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

Committee members present: Dena Wilmore, Paula Consolo, Michael Turley, Karen Blom.

Others present: Town administrator Andrea Llamas, selectboard member Kevin Fox, selectboard member Rob Riggan.

Met with Council on Aging

Senior center director Cathy Buntin, Eric Temple (senior center), Buckland COA members Joanne Soraka, Ellen Eller, Donna Liebl.

Discussed COA budget. Pointed out that this year's budget included a 53-week pay cycle, so next year should be just 51 weeks.

Need to check Service Incentive figures. Make sure it is based on 32 hrs rather than 34 hrs.

Check Service Unit Percentages for FY 2013. Worksheet has same numbers for '12 and '13.

Check numbers for FRTA and other grants for FY'16.

Determined that in the future (beginning now) COA should track usage and revenue from people from other towns.

COA departs 7:37 p.m.

Janice Purington arrives 7:30 p.m.

Discuss Town Clerk budget. 7:39 p.m. Janice makes a case for training an assistant to the Town Clerk to take on the job when Janice is out, either for vacation or illness. This year Janice had some health issues that made this seem all the more prudent. Recommends paying \$10/hr for training and \$15/hr for doing the work.

Janice made a case for giving her longevity pay (about \$1,000). Finance Committee does not recommend this because the town policy provides longevity only for hired employees, and she is an elected official.

Janice leaves at 8 p.m.

Arms Library representatives arrive at 7:44 p.m.

Discuss Arms Library budget. 8:05 p.m.

Sheryl Gilmore, Karen Shaeffer, Laurie Wheeler, Randy Gobeil, Donna Liebl.

Budget is up 9 percent, but most of this is because of the mandated increase in minimum wage. Library usage is up, so librarian hours are going up by 2 hours per week.

Noted that although the town can not afford 9 percent increases across the board, this increase is within reason (and a small dollar figure).

Arms Library reps leave at 8:37 p.m.

Discussed upcoming Special Town Meeting warrant.

Dena moves to support Articles 1 and 2; Paula seconds. Unanimously supported.

Dena moves to approve overspending for snow and ice removal costs for 2015; Paula seconds. Unanimously supported.

Discussed overall town budget.

Mohawk District is now asking for an additional \$225,000 to fund free preschool, bringing assessments to an overall increase over last year of 5.7% Town does not feel that it can support this. Currently, we have the tightest budget we have seen in many years, with no money available for general stabilization.

Question whether the Regional Agreement must be changed in order to add preschool. Will ask at upcoming budget hearing on 2/18/15.

Determined that the Finance Committee and the Selectboard would send a written request to Buckland's School Committee representatives asking them to vote against adding free preschool.

Finance Committee meetings are set for:

March 2

March 9

March 16

Meeting adjourned 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Consolo