

Buckland Finance Committee Minutes
March 2, 2015

Meeting called to order at Buckland Public Library at 7:05 p.m.

Committee members present: Paula Consolo, Michael Turley, Karen Blom, Ben Murray (arrived 8 p.m.).

Others present: Selectboard member Cheryl Dukes, selectboard member Rob Riggan (arrived 7:20 p.m.).

Paula moved to approve minutes from February 16; Michael seconds. Unanimously approved.

Talked about funding of preschool in Mohawk District. Determined that we cannot afford the budget that includes preschool, which has overall town assessments up 5.7% (still don't know what Buckland's individual assessment will be; waiting for the state to send numbers). Need to know if School Committee thinks it can add preschool without changing the Regional Agreement; we think not, but may need legal counsel).

Karen moves to transfer \$129.50 from the Reserve Fund to Safety Drug Testing. Paula seconds. Unanimously approved.

Discussed Conservation Committee budget request. They are asking for increase to \$1,700. Argument is that more funds are needed for training and consulting because this work is more technical than ever and a longtime knowledgeable volunteer is no longer able to do it all. **Karen moved to approve the request; Michael seconds. Unanimously approved.**

Need to ask Andrea about the FRCOG OPEB funding. Only Rob had a copy of this budget. Discussion postponed until next Monday.

Short discussion on capital costs for Mohawk. Determined that we need to hear more from our school committee reps.

Ben arrives 8 p.m.

Discussed overall town budget

Line 37: Boards Clerk Need more info. Someone to take minutes at board meetings for the Zoning Board, Planning Board, Board of Health, and Conservation Committee. Ask Andrea to find out how many hours this person would work and how much would he/she be paid per hour?

Line 44: Ask Andrea about Town Communication/IT increase

Waiting for revisions to the Council on Aging budget. Ask Andrea.

Libraries. Ben suggests that each of the two libraries creates a master plan so that we can determine how we want to fund them. Karen will ask the folks at the Buckland Public Library to do this, and Cheryl will discuss with the selectboard the idea of asking the Arms Library for a master plan.

We decided to cut \$1,000 from the proposed budget for the Buckland Public Library and to ask the Arms Library to lower their budget from a 9% increase to a more modest 6% increase.

We decided to lower the budget for the Recreation Manager by \$1,000 to \$7,500.

Finance Committee meetings are set for:

March 9

March 16

Meeting adjourned 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Consolo