

Buckland Finance Committee Minutes  
October 16, 2017

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

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

**Others present:** Andrea Llamas, town administrator, and Martha Thurber, school committee representative

Note: The library meeting room is reserved by a book club for all 2nd Mondays of the month.

There was some confusion about the meeting time because the minutes from last meeting said that this meeting would be 6:30 pm, but the meeting was actually posted to be 7 pm. Going forward, all meetings will be at 7 pm unless stated otherwise.

**Karen motions to accept the minutes from Sept. 18. Larry seconds. Unanimously approved.**

Martha came to let us know that we must begin to think about replacing the flooring on the north side of Buckland Shelburne Elementary School. The work on the south side has been completed and ended up costing more than expected. She believes the remaining work will also be more expensive than we had planned for. The cost could be around \$300,000, split between the two towns. Paula wondered if the old and new parts of the building had the same flooring, or if there was a possibility that some of the flooring was newer and perhaps would be less troublesome (no asbestos? Different mastix?). Martha thought that it was all the same, but said she would find out for sure. The school district doesn't plan to do this work this year but would like us to consider it for the next year or later.

We established a schedule of meetings that Andreas will post.

Andreas can't read the Google Docs shared with her, so she is going to set up a Google account using her town email so that she can read these documents.

**Reviewed all capital requests**

Suggested that the schedule of capital projects be changed to show the actual cost of requests.

Highway truck: \$177,000 request. We have \$135,000 saved for this vehicle, so if we can fully fund highway stabilization at \$60,000, we will have more than enough to pay for this.

Police cruiser: \$40,000 request. This cruiser was scheduled to be replaced last year, but considering it was in pretty good condition, we were able to put off the purchase. We have more

than \$29,000 saved for this, so a \$16,000 investment will allow us to pay for it with some money left over. Jim thinks we could sell the old cruiser for \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Police radio system: \$20,000 request for the system. This is to bring our radio system up to the standards of the State Police. Idea is to add to this each year to pay for the entire system. Need to know what the tally is for everything.

Town Hall project: \$30,000 request to pay for siding and painting of signage.

Police building: \$10,000 request. Andrea said we got a grant for \$70,000 to install insulation and LED lighting in the building. This is helpful, but more work needs to be done. There is a problem with water leaking into the basement and the HVAC system is in need of attention so that we can protect this town asset.

Recreation Area: Request for \$15,000 for materials for our highway department to create a parking area. Request for \$2,000 to move electrical service, although the rec committee is hoping the Franklin County Technical School can do this for free. This needs to be done if we get a grant to build a playground on the site.

Codification project: Request for \$10,000 to begin scanning and cross-referencing town documents. Annual cost would be around \$1,200 after the initial work is done. This request was made last year, but the town did not fund it.

Senior Center: Request for \$15,000 for each of the 3 towns that share the senior center. We were surprised to see this, as we remember last year's request as being a "one-time" cost. We need more information about this request. The Finance Committee is concerned about the scope of this project.

Wastewater treatment: Request for \$10,000 from each town to cover inflow/infiltration study and/or resulting required work. We could fund this from the Enterprise Fund or add it to the sewer rate.

Transfer Station: No request made. There is \$24,000 in the stabilization fund for this, and we have been assured that this is enough for future needs.

We need to figure out how to pay for our debt from Hurricane Irene. Our legislators are working on this, but we are not sure any relief will come.

## **Highway Garage Update from Michael**

We have a draft plan to build a 5,000 sq ft building, demolish all the buildings on site except for one small structure, then add a 5,000 sq ft unheated pole barn for storing vehicles. The highway garage committee continues to work on this.

Karen proposed that folks from the senior center be asked to come to our next meeting on November 20. The Recreation Committee is already planning to come to that meeting.

Ben will ask Police Chief Jim Hicks whether we can spread out the cost of the radio equipment he has requested.

Next meeting is Monday, Nov. 20, at 7 pm in Town Hall

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Consolo