

Buckland Finance Committee Minutes
January 28, 2016

Meeting called to order at Buckland Town Hall, 8:43 a.m..

Committee members present: Karen Blom, Bill Knittle, Michael Turley, Cynthia Caporaso, Paula Consolo arrived at 8:56 am. **Others present:** Town administrator Andrea Llamas

Discussed some of the errors and changes in the budget. State revenue figures (House budget) won't be out until late Feb. but the figures in our budget are best estimates at this time.

Arms Library: Laurie Wheeler, Karen Sheaffer, Sheryl Gilmore, Manat Wooten (arrived 9:05), Kate Downes (arrived 9:14 because she was waiting at front door)

Library is very busy. Circulation is robust. According to CW Mars 27,000 items were in circulation, compared with 24,700 the year before. Arms budget is up 3 percent, but they are asking the town of Buckland for a 2 percent increase in funding.
Arms leaves at 9:26 a.m.

Police: Jim Hicks arrives 9:26 a.m.

Pretty much flat budget. Discussed putting off the purchase of a cruiser so that we don't need the \$15,000 to fund police stabilization this year. Jim says the Crown Vic is a great car, and he thinks it can run an extra year. No issues with the police budget.
Jim leaves at 9:41 a.m.

Buckland Public Library: Sue Atherton, Horace Taft-Ferguson, George Dole arrive 9:58 a.m.

Asking for more hours for staff and slightly higher wages. We questioned why funding from the BPL trust was going down while the town was being asked for an increase. Finance Committee would like to see a new budget from BPL with \$12,900 coming from the trust (same as last year) and \$3,000 coming from state aid (closer to last year's number than the \$2,500 estimate). Ask the library volunteers for information on circulation and programming, something we ask for each year. We asked that they create a book or some way to pass information down to new volunteers from year to year. We suggested they consider spreading out the increase in staffing and pay over two years and bringing us a budget that is closer to a 3 percent increase.
Library leaves at 10:41 a.m.

Highway: Steve Daby arrives at 10:42 p.m.

Discussed road repaving request for \$80,000 to finish Bray Road. Steve explained that if we finish the job this year, we will probably save about \$15,000 because costs increase and because the paving company charges us for moving its equipment to the site. Thought was to

leave in the \$80k for this repaving job, but take \$10,000 out of Road Machine Maintenance, which Steve thinks might work this year. Not sure where the rest of the funding will come from.

Discussed the Highway Garage and the Special Town Meeting being called to vote on borrowing \$3.5 million for renovation as a debt exclusion. According to Andrea, there will be a reverse 911 call to alert voters that this is on the warrant for the meeting, Feb. 7, 2017. This could add 75 cents per \$1,000 of value to tax burden.

Paula makes a motion that we support Articles 1, 2, and 3; Karen seconds. 4 yes, 1 abstain (Cynthia). Finance Committee requests that a detailed explanation of the borrowing be given as a handout at the Special Town Meeting.

Mohawk Schools Discussion

Talked about the increase in assessment and the decrease in revenues coming from E&D. Last year Mohawk used \$250,000 from E&D to fund operating budget, but this year that number is only \$50,000. We'd like to know why. And we'd like to see that number increase, possibly to \$150,000.

Town Hall Siding

Andrea says we need \$60,000 for siding on Town Hall. There is \$29,000 in the budget, so she is requesting \$30,000 more. Seems like a good plan, but we aren't sure if we will have the money to fund this work.

Next meeting is February 6, 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Paula Consolo