

Buckland Finance Committee and Select Board Joint Meeting

Feb. 26, 6 pm, Buckland Town Hall

Present: Select Board members: Dena Willmore, Zack Turner, Barry DelCastillio,
Fin Com members: Karen Blom, Ben Murray, Larry Langford, Ciara Hayden, Paula Consolo,
Raymond Lanza-Weil

Others: Heather Butler, Town Administrator and Marilyn Kesley, resident

Meeting commenced 6:08 pm

The overall rev/exp analysis and capital budget were reviewed. Presently it looks good - about \$36,000 above the line. Anything above the line means less budgeted and is a relief to taxpayers. Though almost all budget requests are updated in the FY21 google budget, it is still fluid as details are nailed down. Fin Com will do a line-by-line review at its next meeting.

There was a discussion on how to use our free cash for stabilization account and capital request funding. Certified Free cash from FY19 was \$141,500 of which \$30,000 is needed for FY20 expenses. That leaves about \$110,000 available for FY21. The town Financial Policy and Procedure manual was reviewed for Capital and stabilization funding.

a) Capital request that were agreed upon (not voted) the following:

- 1) \$3,000 for the historical building on Upper St. owned by the town, funded via raise and appropriate.
- 2) \$10,000 for police equipment - new required radios, funded with free cash
- 3) \$75,000 for highway paving - Long discussion about our roads and how to find the money to repair them. The roads are the #1 complaint from citizens. A bandaid resurfacing of the upper part of North St will not fully repair it and wastes money by pushing the problem out another year or two. It was generally agreed to put some money towards engineering a real fix and use the remainder of our small roads budget on fixing potholes until a bigger plan can be made. Funded with free cash
- 4) \$45,000 for Rec Area construction of the new septic system - there was a limited discussion about whether this should wait until the big construction but after reviewing the rationale to have municipal funds to show support when seeking grants for the larger buildings, it was left in the budget and agreed to fund it from general stabilization.
- 5) \$10,000 request from Town Clerk for data codification was tabled for further Fin Com discussion.
- 6) \$30,000 request from Senior Center expansion committee - recommended no funding. Zack will let them know at their next meeting.

b) Stabilization account funding was discussed and agreed (not voted) upon the following:

- 1) \$20,000 into highway stabilization for future vehicle purchases - \$5,000 via rais & appropriate and \$15,000 from free cash.

- 2) \$10,000 into transfer station stabilization for future compactor needs - funded with free cash.
- 3) \$3,000 into technology stabilization was tabled for Fin Com to discuss at next meeting
- 4) Remainder of unspent free cash would go toward General Stabilization as a warrant article to be voted on at town meeting.

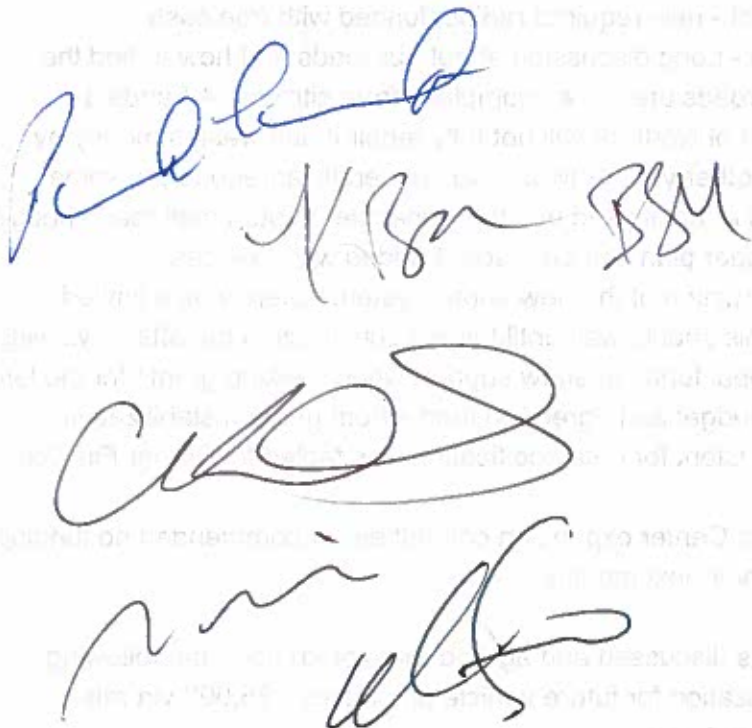
c) There was a short discussion on payroll/salaries for town employees - this is the purview of the Select Board and they voted a 2.5% COLA. The salary google sheet still needs some final work. It was suggested that the town Personnel Committee meet to go over salaries - who is on this committee?

d) Larry Langford will continue editing the Fin Com memo with the latest changes.

e) The school budget was briefly touched on - specifically clarification on the number of students going to Smith Vocational High School. The Mohawk Trail school budget is being voted on tonight by the school committee.

Meeting adjourned 7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted by Karen Blom



The block contains four handwritten signatures. The top signature is in blue ink and appears to be 'P. Blom'. Below it is a signature in black ink that looks like 'K. Blom'. To the right of that is another black ink signature that appears to be 'BSM'. At the bottom is a large, stylized black ink signature that is difficult to decipher but may be 'C. Blom'.