

Buckland Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2020 - virtual meeting

This meeting was conducted in accordance with the state of Mass. recommendations for virtual meetings during the time of Covid-19 pandemic.

Present - Karen Blom, Ciara Hayden, Larry Langford, Ben Murray, Raymond Lanza-Weil

Absent - Paula Consolo

Others - Heather Burke, Dena Wilmore, Barry DeCastilho, Lisa Blackmer, Marilyn Kelsey

Meeting commenced at 7:05 pm

- 1) Meeting minutes from 5/11/2020 were passed over due to Paula's absence.
- 2) FY 21 budget discussion - Heather has met with town depts and made roughly 10% reductions in the operating budget. Revenues of local receipts and state aid have been reduced by 25% (Senator Adam Hines recommends starting at 30%). Other lines were level funded with FY20. The following is a summary of some of the cuts.
 - a) Admin. Assistant salary level funded - not working Friday due to town hall closed
 - b) Tax title zeroed out since there's still money left in this account
 - c) Reval cut \$10,000 will still give enough for FY22 revaluation
 - d) Not filling the full-time highway positions saves around \$40,000
 - e) Winter roads cut of \$20,000
 - f) Arms Library and Senior Ctr - level funded, but if these are assessments can we change the amounts requested? Karen will contact Arms and Sr Ctr.
 - g) Other 10% overall cuts.
 - h) COLAs kept at 2.5% with discussion - BOS had previously voted this
 - i) School budget discussed - they're doing 1/12 budget off FY20 but towns need to put in the assessed FY21 amount into the budget. School Comm feels that it will be less than this amount, but not sure by how much
 - j) Discussion about the increase in recycling costs and how to fund it. Heather suggested charging \$10-20/year user fee. Some felt it should be part of tax levy and not a fee. We need to make up roughly \$11,000 over FY20. We have a 5-yr contract for the increased cost. This needs to be a public hearing.
 - k) Some present expenses are COVID related and will be reimbursed through the CARES act (federal money). Heather is keeping track of these expenses.
 - l) Discussed the 25% revenue reduction. Some fin com felt it should be more - 30% as suggested by Senator Hines. Larry will adjust his revenue model to 30%
- 3) Free Cash balance FY19 is at \$141,499 and can be used for stabilization and capital. There was general consensus that as much as possible be put in stabilization as a saving account. In order to use it later, we need a STM. Since this year towns can roll over their free cash past the end of the fiscal year, Dena suggested we just leave it alone

until the fall when we know more and will likely have a STM to approve a revised budget. The following changes were made to the budget to reflect this-

- a) No stabilization funding - leave all budget requests in free cash
 - b) Cut of \$25,000 in Highway paving
 - c) No funding of \$45,000 for Rec Com septic project - unclear of project status
 - d) No funding of \$30,000 St Ctr expansion - unclear of project status
- 4) Request to use \$20,000 of Reserve Fund to cover unexpected/unfunded FY20 costs - this will leave our free cash balance alone. The following is a breakdown of the request. Karen motioned to accept these requests, Ben seconded. Roll call vote - Karen - yes, Larry - yes, Ciara - yes, Ben - yes, Raymond - yes. Motion passed un

Unfunded Budget Item		Free Cash	Finance Comm Reserve	FY20 Avail Funds	Not Funded
21,000	Grant Match		5,400	5,600	10,000
14,000	Reval		7,000		7,000
5,300	Town Audit		5,300		
4,300	Tax Mapping		2,300	2,000	
250	250th Anniv				250
44,850		0	20,000	7,600	17,250

- 5) There was a discussion about the school budget as presented at the FY21 level. Should this be voted down at town meeting and a new figure provided once better info is available from the state?
- 6) Review of the ATM Finance Memo - If we stay with the new ATM schedule the memo needs to be approved and to town hall by June 18th. Larry has been updating the memo in Google, but we need to wait until we have an approved revised budget.
- 7) Public Comments - Marilyn Kelsey said as a taxpayer she'd prefer not having a recycling center annual fee.

Karen motioned to adjourn, Raymond seconded. Roll call - Karen - yes, Larry - yes, Ciara - yes. Ben - yes. Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm

Respectfully submitted by Karen Blom

