

Buckland Finance Committee Minutes
Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Meeting called to order at Buckland Public Library, 7:30 p.m.

Committee members present: Karen Blom, Paula Consolo, Ciara Hayden, Larry Langford.

Others present: Town administrator Heather and citizen Marilyn Kelsey

Karen motions to accept the minutes from Sept. 16. Paula seconds. Unanimously approved.

Discussed Senior Center Expansion

Lynne says that Nov. 6 there will be another meeting about the Senior Center expansion at Mohawk Trail Regional High School.

4 Pillars of the project are:

1. Ownership - seems to have settled on 3-town ownership model
2. Funding sources - So far \$400K-\$800k total from the 3 towns
3. Site planning - back to the drawing board; sites that were eliminated are back in
4. Cost - \$3.4 -\$5 million, just on the structure (no furniture).

The Masons are holding an open house on Sunday, Oct. 20.

Discussed Special Town Meeting Warrant

Heather noted that one bill for \$800 has been added to past bills since we last met. The \$800 bill for appraisals will come out of Selectboard Expenses.

Karen moves that we support the warrant. Ciara seconds. Unanimously approved.

Special Town Meeting is on October 21 at 7 pm at Town Hall.

Finance Committee Meetings set:

Nov. 18 Town Hall

Dec. 16 Buckland Public Library

Jan. 20 Town Hall

Feb. 17 Buckland Public Library

March 16 Town Hall

April 20 Buckland Public Library

Heather will ask all town departments to have **capital plans** and \$\$ needed by Nov. 15.

School Committee reps have requested a meeting to discuss town/school budgets.

Paula raised issue of a **rural initiative** from the state Office of Rural Affairs. She will share the article about this so that we can discuss at a future meeting.

Heather will send us an **updated debt schedule**.

Heather reported that the selectboard is considering making a higher payment on the highway garage in the first couple of years in order to pay off the loan quicker.

Discussed our OPEB requirements

Heather says we have moved ahead on this and are looking much better for our bond rating.

Reviewed capital budgets

Heather reported that the town Finance Team is meeting regularly and this has been very helpful. They are not crazy about the Google Sheets. We will stay with it at least for this year, but ownership of the file will move to Heather. To accomplish this, Heather will create a Google account for the town. Ben Murray will also have edit rights on the document.

Heather will give Karen the log-in info so that Karen can edit the **Finance Committee webpage** on the town website.

Karen asked Heather to continue to ask the accountant for finals on tax collection and bills for FY19.

Next meeting November 18, at Buckland Town Hall, at 7 pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by Paula Consolo

The block contains three handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is a stylized, cursive 'W'. The signature in the upper right is 'K. Stan'. The signature in the lower right is 'J. Murray'.