

Buckland Finance Committee Minutes

January 21, 2019

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

Committee members present: Karen Blom, Ciara Hayden, Raymond Lanza-Weil, Larry Langford, Ben Murray, Paula Consolo arrived at 7:10 pm.

Meeting Minutes January 14 - Karen moves to accept, Raymond seconds, passes unanimously

Police Department Budget Discussion

Police Chief Jim Hicks did not show up. This is very unusual for him. Karen will contact him to set up another time.

Review of January 14 minutes. Moved and accepted with change.

Paula arrived and noted that she was listed as being present on Jan. 14, but she was out of town and not there. Minutes were adjusted accordingly.

Rural Aid for Schools Support Letter

Short discussion of letter from school committee reps to state reps to support incorporating rural funding into the Massachusetts school aid formula. Karen moves to support letter, Raymond seconds, all agree to sign the letter. Karen will deliver to school committee.

Senior Center Expansion

The Finance Committee generally understands and supports the need for better facilities for the Senior Center. In considering the committee's fiscal responsibilities to the residents of Buckland, the Finance Committee feels much more information is needed before moving ahead. To begin gathering the necessary information, Ben incorporated these questions in an email.

1. What percent of current eligible residents from Buckland and from other towns use the senior center?
2. What is the assumption about that percentage over the next 5 and 10 years?
3. What is the assumption about the increase in eligible residents over the next 5 and 10 years?
4. What new programs will the center offer when there is more space?
5. What are the implications to the operating budget in having a larger space and more programs? Increase in staff? Increase in heat and electric? Increase in maintenance? Other increases?
6. How many square feet is currently used and how many square feet will be necessary to carry out the new programming?
7. Considering the plan for Mole Hollow, what is the demand for retail space in Shelburne Falls? Are there any tenants lined up? What is the cost of renovations?

Ben reads the letter and motions to accept, Paula seconds, passes unanimously. Ben will send it electronically to our Select board.

Budgets

Short discussion about Police requests for new vehicles. We put off the purchase of a new Crown Vic last year. We will have enough funds to buy it this year if we can fund the Police Stabilization at the \$15,000. Karen will try to reschedule the Police Dept for our Saturday meeting.

No budget from Steve for the highway department yet. Karen will ask new town manager to request it from Steve. Karen will try to get Highway Dept to meet for our Saturday meeting
Discussed meetings planned for next month or two.

8:45 pm - Raymond motions to adjourn, Karen seconds, passes unanimously

Next meeting is Saturday, January 26, 2019, at 9 am in Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Consolo.

