

Buckland Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm, Buckland Public Library

Committee members present: Karen Blom, Ciara Hayden, Paula Consolo and Ben Murray
Town Administrator, Andrea Llamas in attendance.

- 1) Request for transfer of \$19,000 from the reserve fund to the select board expense account to cover the "make ready" work for Verizon and Eversource to fiber optic wire Apple Valley homes.

Discussion about total costs to wire remaining 12 homes scattered throughout Buckland and Apple Valley residents at about \$80,000 to \$100,000 is much less than the town originally was told. This may be our best option to reach 100% service for our residents. Karen motions, Paula seconds, approved unanimously.

- 2) Motion to accept the minutes as presented from Nov. 5th meeting – Karen motions, Paula seconds, approved unanimously.
- 3) School Committee Budget meetings set for 5:00 pm on Nov. 29, Dec 12 and Dec 19th. All are encouraged to attend and participate at this early stage. More discussion on general method of budgeting – finance committee would like to see a level funded budget not level service budget which includes any increases that occur after school budget is approved at annual town meeting. The school committee seems to prefer level service approach which costs more year to year. The district just signed a new transportation bus contract with Kuzmeskus with a 12% increase – is this each year or over the life of the contract compared to the last contract?
- 4) Ciara attended a FRCOG training for municipalities. The big topic of discussion was school funding. Most attendees want more communication and information to understand school budgets – they are often confusing the way they are presented to the public. FRCOG was asked to help with this.
- 5) Whit Sanford from the Partnership has requested a meeting with us. She'll be invited to our December meeting to present their budget request. We would like a review of what they've done this year.
- 6) Senior Center expansion group is meeting on Dec. 6th 7:30 – 9 pm to present a draft operating agreement and purchase proposal – they are still looking at a few sites. All are encouraged to attend.
- 7) Town Administrator, Andrea Llamas announced she is leaving at the start of the new year for a position with the town of Northfield. This will be a big loss for Buckland. We should check with our select board on what they plan to do for this vacancy.
- 8) Discussed FRCOG consultant, Joe Markarian's budget spreadsheet proposal from our September meeting – we think it prudent to hold off during this transition with a new town administrator – could be too much to implement for FY20. We want to eventually adopt some of his proposals.
- 9) We will start to periodically review the town expense reports from the accountant -ask to have them quarterly.
- 10) Discussed meeting times – 6 or 6:30 not working for some. **We will meet at 7pm from now on.**

Town Hall

Next meeting, Monday Dec 17th, 7 pm at Buckland Public Library, meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm

Respectfully submitted by Karen Blom

