

**Finance Committee
Town of Buckland
Minutes of Meeting
February 21, 2022**

This meeting is being conducted remotely in accordance with the provisions of the Governor's March 12, 2020, Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

Present:

Finance Committee: Larry Langford, Paula Consolo, Dena Wilmore, Bruce Lessels via Zoom

Town of Buckland: Heather Butler, Town Administrator, Barry DelCastillo, Selectboard

Others: Zack Turner, interim highway boss

The meeting was called to order by Chair Langford at 4:18 p.m.

Dena motioned to approve the minutes of Feb. 7; Bruce seconded. Dena, yes; Bruce, yes; Larry, yes; Paula, yes. Unanimously approved.

Discussion of how to spend our \$362K in free cash.

Pool committee is \$218K short of the money needed to fund the preferred pool project design. Committee is planning to begin more fundraising, but is asking the town for \$100K. Dena questioned whether we can use any of the \$500K in ARPA funds, but Heather has not heard that this is allowed. Heather points out that if we use ARPA money for the pool, we could not use it for other infrastructure projects, of which there are many.

Financing for a loader or any other highway equipment must be in place so that we can purchase or lease (to own) this equipment in FY23. Equipment is getting snatched up by other towns; all of FY22 equipment is gone, so we need to move fast. Zack thinks that we will be very lucky if our backhoe makes it to next winter, and the loader is probably not far behind it. It will be in need of serious repairs, which will not result in any return on our investment. The lease-to-own program is such that they cover repairs for three years and we own the equipment after 3 years.

Zack highly recommends that we purchase the mini-excavator so that we can get back to cleaning the ditches along roads, which is the main culprit in our road deterioration. We can also buy attachments for it and maybe use it for mowing along roadways too, eliminating the need to contract this work out. Instead of buying a backhoe we would buy a mini-excavator.

Dena moved that we support option 1, as presented by Heather. This would mean that we use Chap. 90 funds to pay the first year's lease agreement for the F550 and the mini-excavator. It

also includes money to fix the electrical issues at the Historical Society building. Paula seconds. Dena, yes; Bruce, yes; Larry, yes; Paula, yes. Unanimously passed.

Paula asked about the leaky oil tank in the police station. Heather says that is being taken care of with FY22 funds.

Larry moved to adjourn. Paula seconded. Unanimously approved.

Adjourned at 4:55 pm