

4/12/21

Buckland Finance Committee Minutes

Called to order at 6:01

Attending - members Paula Consolo, Larry Langford, Raymond Lanza-Weil, Ciara Hayden, Tim Gaulin, Bruce Lessels (taking minutes); town administrator Heather Butler, townsperson Lynn Kelsey

Approved minutes from 3/29/21 - unanimous

2022 Budget

Heather updated us on recent changes - she hasn't made any since last meeting

School capital articles are the only updates she has received.

RLW - there is a lack of trash pickup from the public receptacles on the sidewalks. As a tourist town, this is an important issue. Would like us to allocate some money specifically to picking up the trash Saturdays and Sundays from March through October.

PC - Several years ago, the selectboard felt that the business assn should pick up the trash instead of the town. One issue is that the hwy dept doesn't work Fridays.

RLW - both selectboards have defunded the business assn. It should be the responsibility of the town. Cost to pay someone to work 4 hours Saturday and Sunday @\$21/hr and time and a half and 8 hrs per weekend for 35 weeks - about \$11,000.

HB - hwy dept has keys to the transfer station, so they should be able to dump there. Biggest pushback may be from hwy superintendent b/c overtime may not be as desirable as we think. Superintendent has a plan to hire a 5th assistant who could help this situation. Someone from this group needs to bring this idea forward to the selectboard tomorrow night.

HB confirmed that we are already picking up trash on Saturdays, so the only additional pickup would be on Sundays, cutting the additional budget amount to about \$5500

LL and RLW plan to attend the selectboard meeting tomorrow night.

CH asked what we are getting from the filming in town

HB - base amount of \$20,000. Town hall rental fee of \$500 a week over 8 weeks. Each dept that has been involved has been billed at \$35 an hour. They're also picking up police detail costs. This is going to the officers, but there's an admin rate that's going to the town as well.

CH - are we reporting this as revenue in the budget?

HB - if we do nothing and simply deposit those funds into our revenue, that money will be added to free cash base as unanticipated revenue.

HB proposes setting aside a good portion of the filming money for downtown improvement projects.

LL - We also need to talk about funding OPEP, but improving the downtown is a practical benefit for the town, since the town's success depends on it looking good.

Short term - put money in this budget to pay for this summer's trash pickup

Long term - revolving fund from film revenues to cover cost of trash pickup and other improvements to the town.

Lynn Kelsey - when Bob Dean was town admin, there were more trash cans.. Since then the number has been reduced and the openings in the cans has been reduced. We should revisit what we were doing 10 years ago.

CH - report on her follow up with Arms Library re allocation of town assessments between Shelburne and Buckland. She read the email she received in response to her inquiries.

- There has not been a MOU with Buckland for the last 17 years
- Buckland owns half of the collection per the original bequest
- On average, Buckland has paid about 23%
- 2022 budget is based on the assumption/hope that operation will return to normal
- They draw 3 to 5% of endowment
- In some years there have been unexpected bequests, but these are dwindling
- Funding for opening Sundays for 3 hours is calculated assuming 2 staff members for 26 weeks for total of \$2418

MTRS capital funding

MTRS has proposed warrant article wording for BSE and Mohawk. HB emphasized the importance of ensuring that the wording is correct so bond counsel can secure funds.

LL - these are health and safety and operational imperative articles. L/T plan to FY 28 includes the same amount for up to 5 years.

HB - wording will likely be changed, but the amounts will stay the same

This will be school district debt that they'll assess us for. The district will determine the term of the debt.

HB will share a state calculator that shows the impact of borrowing

LL - would like to show how revenue and expenses have grown over the last decade. We need to think of creative solutions such as sharing services across towns. LL will start to draft a memo.

Warrant closes on May 3. She should have a draft to us for our first meeting in May.

We have a mtg scheduled for 4/26. If we move that to 5/3, we'll be able to see the draft warrant.

Public Comments

Lynn Kelsey - for Heather in regard to film money. Keeping it simple is the way to go. Anything that helps the village look more prosperous. Maybe some more user friendly trash bins, more benches by the river.

HB response - water bottle filling station, a few more trash cans, other details we could do.

CH - flower boxes, lights

Adjourned at 7:21 pm