

**TOWN OF BERKLEY
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Joe Freitas, Secretary Michele, Nancy Gajoli, Melinda Paine-Dupont

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Joe Freitas.

The purpose of this meeting is to present the FY 2020 recommended budget to the Selectmen of the Town of Berkley. Prior to this presentation the Finance Committee needed to review and approve a change regarding the Library Budget, via an email from Librarian Vicki Dawson a recommendation was made requesting a change in their budget:

"I am requesting one last change to our budget that does not affect the bottom line. Could you please restore our payroll budget to the amount that the Town Accountant calculated (\$54,764 for Library Tech) and deduct the \$4,018 difference from our materials budget? This would leave us with \$17,163 in our materials budget. We will do our best to fill in the gaps with grants, fund-raising, and State Aid."

After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Joe Freitas called for a vote to approve the changes to the Library Budget as requested by Librarian Vicki Dawson. Motion made and seconded. A call for a vote was made by Chairman Mr. Freitas and the committee unanimously approved the Library budget change.

The Finance Committee convened for 10 minutes to move meeting with the Selectmen.

Chairman Joe Freitas walked through the obstacles, various procedures and future challenges the Finance Committee was faced trying to bring about a fiscal budget within the means of the Town of Berkley.

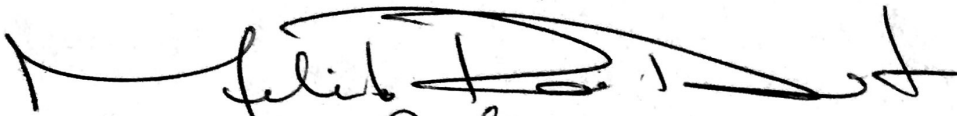
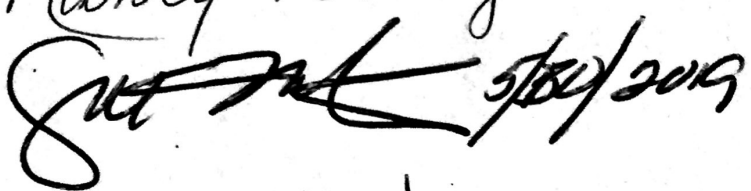
- Budget increase from FY 2019 was \$814,933.
- Total revenue \$21,163,204.25.
- Budget the Finance Committee recommending \$20,310,493.00
- Fully fund the Somerset Berkley Regional School Districts budget request of \$2,581,970 a 4% increase.
- K-8 budget increased by \$256,000 a 3.04% increase.
- EMS coverage for Sundays.
- Library fully funded, 2nd year in a row.
- Getting our municipal and other employees in town to a living wage some to minimum wages by reducing the 20-year grid to a 10 year grid. (One time increase).
- The funding of positions that we partially filled in FY 2019 and now budgeted for a complete year such as, Assistant Accountant Clerk (identified by a previous audit as a need), Human Resources Assistant Treasurer Position, and the Council on Aging Director that was established in December/January of 2019.
- Police Cruiser is in this budget to continue updating our fleet and to reduce maintenance costs in the future.
- New contractual obligations.
- The increase cost of the Recycling (Transfer Point) the volatility of costs to recycle products such as plastic, cardboard, glass. The commodities market has been very unsettled, and it costs the town to get rid of these products to which we used to get paid for such products just a few years ago.
- Insurance costs for Employees continue to impact the budget.

The Finance Committee feels we have addressed the needs of the community; this is a fiscally responsible budget that will allow the Town of Berkley to continue to stabilize and is in great position to maintain excellent bond rating.

The Finance Committee unanimously supports this budget and urges the Selectman's approval of all capital improvements at a total cost of \$406,125, \$690,612 to stabilization, and the proposed budget.

Chairmen Joe Freitas called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm. A motion was made and seconded. A call for a vote was made by Chairman Mr. Freitas and the committee unanimously approved the adjournment.

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Nancy B. Gayoli
 5/24/2019
Michele K. Hamilton