



FINANCE COMMITTEE
TOWN OF BERNARDSTON
BERNARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
30 JANUARY 2023

PRESENT: Jody Coleman, Brian Hervieux, Steve Nestanpower, Stan Garland, Brian Keir, Ken Bordewieck.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM.

The meeting consisted of the following reviews or discussions in the following order:

1. The minutes of the Committee's meeting on 9 January 2023 were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
2. The fire department budget was discussed with Chief Shedd. The ambulance fee was adjusted from 11k to 12.5k. Vehicle repairs have increased due to the age of the fire department equipment. Mr. Bordewieck asked about Leyden fire coverage and if it is costing Bernardston money to cover them. Chief Shedd stated that there are discussions planned with Leyden.
3. The barn and animal budget was then reviewed with Chief Shedd and it will be level funded.
4. The Emergency Management budget was discussed next and Chief Shedd stated that there will be a slight increase in this budget due to Code Red costs.
5. Mr. Garland brought up the subject of pay increases for town employees. Several ideas were discussed by the group. Mr. Garland made a motion to increase town pay by 4.4%. It was seconded by Mr. Nestanpower. A vote was taken and passed unanimously to set this amount as a placeholder for further discussions.
6. The Special Funds report was reviewed with no issues found.
7. The Budget expense report was reviewed. The Tree Warden budget is at 102.43% due to storm damage.
8. Mr. Kier notified the group that the PVRS budget sub-committee meeting would be held Feb. 1st and that the public hearing for the PVRS budget would be Feb. 9th.
9. The Tax Collector budget was reviewed. There will be a small increase 447.00. The group agreed that we will not need to meet with her.
10. The Planning board budget was reviewed with no major changes.

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30 January 2023

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11. The Powers Institute budget was reviewed. The group will ask questions when we meet with them.
12. The COA and Senior Center budget was then discussed. We will ask questions pertaining to added work hours when we meet with them.
13. The Assessors budget was reviewed with no questions.
14. Mr. Hervieux repeated his request to have an assistant hired to take minutes for Finance Committee meetings and to help with paperwork.

The next meeting of the Committees will be at the Town Hall Monday February 6th at 6:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jody Coleman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jody Coleman', with a large, stylized initial 'J' and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.