



*FINANCE COMMITTEE &
SELECTBOARD*
TOWN OF BERNARDSTON
BERNARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 22 JANUARY 2024

PRESENT: Jane Dutcher, Brian Hervieux, Stephen Nestanpower, Tammy Powell,
Brian Keir, Ken Bordewieck, Stanley Garland, Karen Kelly

ABSENT: Jody Coleman

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

The meeting included the following reviews and/or discussions held in the order of their occurrence:

1. The minutes of the *Finance Committee's* meeting held 8 January 2024 were unanimously approved as amended.
2. A review of *Budget Worksheet #2* was held with the following observations:
 - a. The budget worksheet did not include the following information:
 - 1) The *Zoning Board* budget;
 - 2) The *Conservation Commission* budget;
 - 3) The *Agricultural Commission* budget;
 - 4) *Land Fill Testing*;
 - 5) *Stabilization Accounts*;
 - 6) The *FRCOG* budget [NB: They will be voting on their budget or FY 25 on 25 January 2024 with no changes foreseen;
 - 7) FY 24 Budget Information.
3. The *Franklin County Technical School* will present their FY 25 budget to the joint meeting beginning at 6:30 PM on 11 March 2024.
4. Possible venues include *Cringle Candle* or the *Library at Pioneer Valley Regional School*. Possible dates of 24 April 2024 or 01 May 2024 were suggested. By a unanimous vote of the Selectboard, the date was established for 30 April 2024 by a motion made by Mr. Bordewieck and seconded by Mr. Keir. Further discussion resulted in a second unanimous vote by a motion made by Mr. Bordewieck and seconded by Mr. Keir to change the date for *the Annual Town Meeting* to 29 April 2024.
5. The following schedule for department review of their budgets has been established:
 - a. 29 January 2024: *Highway Department/Transfer Station* at 06:45 PM;
Police Department at 07:30 PM;

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- b. 05 February 2024: *Town Clerk/Planning Board* at 06:45 PM;
Fire Department/Emergency Management at 07:45 PM
Tree Warden at 08:15 PM;
 - c. 12 February 2024: *Council on Aging/Senior Center/Powers Institute* at
06:45 PM;
Treasurer at 07:45 PM;
 - d. 26 February 2024: Possibly *Cushman Library* [Time to be determined].
6. The *Selectboard* and *PVRSD* need to be scheduled.
7. The Town Caucus will be held on 18 March 2024 beginning at 07:00 PM at Town Hall.
8. 29 February 2024 has been floated as a possible date for the next *Three Town Meeting* [*Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield*] at the *Bernardston Senior Center* or the *PVRS Regional School Library*. The time has to be established.
9. The invoice for the repair to the *BES Septic System* was received and reviewed. The invoice totaled \$ 18,700.00 and included flushing out a mop head, replacing the burnt-out sewer pumps, and flushing the whole sewer system. The discussion raised the following questions:
- a. Who is responsible for the payment?
 - b. The *PVRSD Operating Budget* has not been totally spent and in light of the fact that the *BES Kitchen* needs repairs and upgrades, why can't the surplus be transferred and used for that purpose once the certification process has been completed.
 - c. Any shortfall monetarily will have to be a transfer from the *Stabilization Account* following its referral to the *Town Accountant* and the *Mass. D.O.R.*

The next meeting of the joint *Committees* has been scheduled for 29 January 2024 beginning at 6:30 PM at *Town Hall*.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM via unanimous votes of the *Selectboard* by a motion made by Mr. Keir and seconded by Mr. Bordewieck and of the Finance Committee by a motion made by Mr. Nestanpower and seconded by Ms. Powell.

Respectfully,


Stephen Nestanpower, Finance Committee