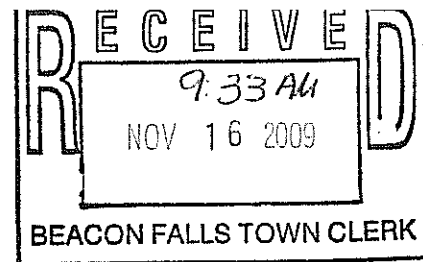


**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
MONTHLY MEETING  
NOVEMBER 10, 2009  
MINUTES  
(Draft Copy – Subject to Revision)**



Chairman M. Bronn called a Special Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Board of Finance to order at 7:35 P.M.

**PRESENT:** M. Bronn, W. Hopkinson, B. Ploss, G. Smith and L. Krepinevich.

**ABSENT:** A. Choie.

**ALSO PRESENT:** First Selectman S. Cable, Selectman D. Sorrentino and Selectman M. Krenesky. Interested resident Robert Bortzfield was also present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**G. Smith made motion to accept the October 13, 2009 Minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Hopkinson. All aye.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

R. Bortzfield noted he was interested in observing how the Board of Finance operates, adding he served for thirty-five (35) years in Municipal Government in Suffield County, New York. It was noted G. Smith's and M. Bronn's term have both expired. The recent election elected Robert Doiron to serve on the Board which leaves an opening for M. Bronn's term.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**W. Hopkinson made motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by G. Smith. All aye.** It was noted Treasurer still has to list the bond money.

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

**W. Hopkinson made motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by G. Smith. All aye.**

S. Cable noted Tax Collector had back taxes in amount of \$160,000 from Beacon Mill Village.

G. Smith asked if Town is collecting taxes on Chatfield Farms, for both used and unused lots. S. Cable said she would check further but she thought tax bills have gone out. She also noted equipment and machinery are also being taxed.

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**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

No report was given to the Board of Finance. W. Hopkinson noted with Audit soon to be completed, Board of Finance should have a better idea of income to the Town Clerk's Office. No feedback has been received at this time.

G. Smith suggesting setting a date for some type of closure on this matter. The Board of Finance wants to see a bank reconciliation of the Town Clerk's account but has been told by Town Clerk that is not the BOF's business.

S. Cable asked the BOF if it felt the Town Clerk's actions have been unethical at any time and is there any basis for this feeling. BOF did not answer the question but did feel that Town Clerk has been defiant in providing information the BOF has asked for. Question asked what specifically does the BOF want from Town Clerk. M. Bronn asked if the Town Attorney has made a legal determination on this.

S. Cable noted that State Statutes say that all monies taken in by the Town Clerk are to be turned over to the Town, with the Town in turn dispensing funds to the Town Clerk. B. Ploss felt this matter should be passed to the Board of Selectmen who can then pass it on to the Town Attorney. W. Hopkinson agreed, saying the Town should collect the fees and then dole out to the Town Clerk. She noted that Town Clerk has offered on more than one occasion to turn everything over to the Town and then it would be up to the Town to manage. G. Smith felt Town's Finance Director could be the person to do this. Bottom line is that all funds have to be accounted for.

After continued discussion, **B. Ploss made motion 'based on the previous offer by the Town Clerk to turn over the entire fee collection process to the Town, with the Town taking over the process of doling out the fees collected to the Town Clerk, 2<sup>nd</sup> by G. Smith.** Discussion. The Board of Selectmen felt that since the Town Clerk did offer more than once to turn over the process to the Town, this would alleviate further conflicts in the future. B. Ploss said there has to be an understanding that 'this is the way it is and this is the way it will be'. W. Hopkinson added this decision is based on what State Statutes allow the Town to do. **Vote on the motion: All aye.**

**REPORT OF THE FINANCE MANAGER – M. GOMES**

Finance Manager is requesting a budget transfer of \$19,500 from the Contingency to fund unemployment payments to a former employee. S. Cable noted Town did fight the Labor Board on this, but after several meetings between the Town's Labor Attorney and the Labor Board, the Town lost its case.

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**B. Ploss made motion to approve the budget transfer request of \$19,500, 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Hopkinson. All aye.**

Discussion on private duty in the Police Department.

Question asked if Summer Recreation Program is self-sustaining. The Program is not self-sustaining. It was noted fees for children attending the summer camp are very low. S. Cable noted Town always has supplemented the program.

G. Smith questioned hydrant rental fees and questioned if the Water Company pays property taxes to the Town.

**W. Hopkinson made motion to accept the Finance Manager's Report as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by G. Smith. All aye.**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

S. Cable noted correspondence had been received from Regional School District No. 16 with regard to distribution of ECS Funding. She noted that Prospect's share of the school budget is 60.14% and Beacon Falls share is 39.853%. Monies will be generated by the State to the Region with a check also going to each. Bottom line is monies are being generated from different pots of money. S. Cable noted some stimulus funds are being used to offset education costs.

S. Cable noted Depot Street Bridge rehabilitation is progressing. Issues with regard to signage and traffic flow are still being worked out. Board agreed the project has to be monitored closely especially with regard to change orders. S. Cable noted Nafis & Young is closely monitoring the project.

Board discussed the potential of Toby's Pond. Ideas with regard to putting in some type of sandy beach and ice skating in the winter.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Teacher contract negotiations are on-going. R. Binkowski should report back to the Board of Finance on what is going on.
2. The Wolfe Avenue Exploratory Committee has been meeting and has recommended the hiring of the architectural engineer. S. Cable noted a recent walkthrough of the property indicates a water problem. Former Building Official and member of the Committee will look at the situation.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

1. M. Bronn noted current clerk L. Classey will no longer be taking the Minutes. K. Wilson will contact Erin Schwarz about taking on this task. She currently takes minutes for a few other Boards and Commissions.
2. W. Hopkinson noted with end of M. Bronn's term on the Board of Finance, she is not able to accept the Chair position. She will continue her term on the Board of Finance.
3. G. Smith and M. Bronn were thanked for their years of service on the Board of Finance.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

With no other business to come before the Board, **W. Hopkinson made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 P.M. 2<sup>nd</sup> by B. Ploss. All aye.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen A. Wilson*

Karen A. Wilson

Temporary Clerk for the Board of Finance – Meeting – November 10, 2009

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