



**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday April 13, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson of the Board, W. Hopkinson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:39 P.M.

Present: Board Members B. Ploss and R.Doiron. W. Hopkinson noted that since there are not enough members to form a quorum, there will be no voting at this meeting unless one more member arrives.

Also present were Selectmen S. Cable, D. Sorrentino and M. Krenesky, Town Finance Manager, M. Gomes and Beacon Falls Resident Susan Dowdell.

Note: G. Smith arrived at 8:45 completing a quorum.

Comments from the Public

S. Dowdell, 32 Wolfe Ave., Beacon Falls, CT, spoke regarding minutes that she read from the Board of Finance workshop of March 30th. She noted that the documented minutes were incorrect as they related to library circulation. She noted that the circulation has actually gone up 15% (not 10% as reflected on page 8 of the minutes) and has actually doubled in the last five years. S. Dowdell also noted that the minutes stated that "if the budget does not pass, we will have to look into volunteers" and S. Dowdell was wondering what that meant, who was going to look for them and where are we going to find them? W. Hopkinson noted that the spirit of the conversation was based on our concern for the library knowing that there was an increase. There are also other vital services in town that may also have to be cut so the comment was just a note to see if we could fill any of the gaps with volunteers. G. Smith also noted that the Library was mentioned because we don't know where we would go for cuts so the Library was mentioned as an example. S. Dowdell asked that the minutes reflect a more global picture and not just filling the library with volunteers. The minutes are now on-line and

for those who just read them and don't come to the meetings may not get the whole picture. W. Hopkinson noted that these minutes will reflect S. Dowdells accurate information. S. Dowdell also asked that the Library staff have the same hours as the town hall staff. Currently the library staff work 30 hours per week while the rest of the town hall work 35 hours each week (and the library is open 42 hours per week). W. Hopkinson noted that we already have the increase in the budget. Currently it is in the budget but the Board of Finance cannot make any promises that it will stay. The budget has to go before the town for a vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board of Finance reviewed the minutes.

March 9, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes

R. Doiron motioned to approve the March 9, 2010 Board of Finance Minutes Regular Meeting Minutes. G. Smith 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

Discussion: R. Doiron wanted to point out that he has been involved with this Board for a long time many years ago and he does not ever remember a set of minutes being as comprehensive as this set of minutes and he wanted to commend L. Classey on a job well done. He noted that the minutes in the past were just not as detailed.

March 22, 2010 Joint BOF/BOS Workshop Minutes

R. Doiron motioned to approved the March 22, 2010 Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen joint budget workshop. G. Smith 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

March 22, 2010 Special Meeting for Fire Department Transfer

G. Smith motioned to approved the March 22, 2010 Special Meeting held for the Fire Department transfer. R. Doiron 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

R. Doiron questioned a procedure. He noted that the 10% number that was given to the Board of Finance regarding the library circulation was actually given to them. The minutes were reflected correctly as to what was said at the meeting so amending the minutes might not be procedurally the correct thing to do. After discussion, it was determined that we cannot go and change the documented minutes but a note can be made in these minutes to reflect the correct information.

March 30, 2010 Joint BOF/BOS Budget Workshop

R. Doiron motion to accept the March 30, 2010 Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen joint budget workshop with the change in the library percentage increase noted in the minutes of the Board of Finance Regular meeting minutes from April 13, 2010.

Discussion: It was discussed that the minutes should be accepted as presented as they were documented correctly as to what was said during the meeting. The increase of library circulation has gone up 15% (not just 10%) and this information should be documented in the April 13, 2010 Board of Finance Regular Meeting Minutes as is being done so in this paragraph. W. Hopkinson also asked that a note also be made that when the comment was made regarding library volunteers, it was not meant to replace staff. S. Cable commented that during the workshop, this was general conversation. M. Krenesky noted that these corrections will be made to the April 13th meeting and if anyone wants to read minutes, they should read all minutes.

G. Smith believes that the procedure is to accept or not accept the minutes of the meeting and since the minutes of the meeting reflect what was discussed, then they should be accepted as accurate minutes. Any new information will be documented in new meetings and thereby filed as such.

R. Doiron withdrew his motion to accept the March 30, 2010 meeting minutes with reflected changes.

R. Doiron motioned to accept the March 30, 2010 Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen joint budget workshop minutes as presented. G. Smith 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

April 5, 2010 Joint BOF/BOS Budget Workshop Minutes

W. Hopkinson noted a change on page 1. The minutes reflect that "Beacon Falls will be carrying \$599,000 of the school budget due to the shift in population." W. Hopkinson noted that the \$599,600 is not just due to the shift in population but also due to the region 16 increase. She noted that this was mentioned several times during the meeting.

Additionally, W. Hopkinson noted that where the minutes (also on page 1) reflect the information about the re-val, the current minutes reflect that we have \$80,000 in the current budget and we put \$60,000 in for 2010/2011 but should actually say "we currently have \$20,000 in the current budget 2009/2010 and we put \$60,000 in for 2010/2011. These minutes reflect the corrections to the previously filed minutes as the filed minutes were considered "draft" until they are approved by the Board of Finance.

G. Smith motioned to accept the April 5, 2010 Budget workshop minutes with the noted changes to be made to page 1 which will reflect the correct amount of money that was put in the 2009/2010 budget and the 2010/2011 budget for the re-vals and that the amount of money that the town of Beacon Falls will be carrying as a result of shift in population and increase in Region 16 noted on page 1 was actually \$599,600. B. Ploss 2nd the motion. Three voted aye with 1 abstention (R. Doiron) as he was not present for the meeting.

Tax Collectors Report

R. Doiron motioned to accept the Tax Collectors Report. G. Smith 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

R. Doiron motioned to have the Tax Collectors Report include percentages when it is presented to the Board of Finance. G. Smith 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

Town Clerks Report

There is no Town Clerks Report. M. Gomes explained that the hold-up is related to signatures cards not being complete. He noted that he needs to get down to the bank and sign them. W. Hopkinson asked for a commitment from M. Gomes as to when he could get to the bank and start the process. M. Gomes noted that he will try and do it this week. A discussion took place noting that the books will not be properly reconciled by M. Gomes until May 1, 2010 and therefore not be presented to the Board of Finance until June 1, 2010. M. Gomes explained that the monies are currently up to date and that he will have a statement in May and will be able to present a report in June and he does not see it to be a problem.

The minutes note that the Board of Finance does not have a Town Clerk's Report.

Treasurers Report

Discussion: It was discussed that the \$582,942.09 is spread across 4 different accounts. S. Cable noted that these funds were put in different account for the banks to be competitive however we should be looking into other banks as well. The funds go into a checking account and then are moved to the sweep account. The Treasurer follows set procedures but it was mentioned that the monies should be moved to whatever interest rates are higher. G. Smith noted that the interest rate in the repos account should be looked at.

W. Hopkinson noted that she would like the Treasurer to add on to her report what the percentage rates are.

R. Doiron motioned to accept the Treasurers Report. G. Smith 2nd the report. All voted aye.

APR 20 2010

R. Doiron motioned to have the Treasurers Report included percentages when it is presented to the Board of Finance. G. Smith 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

R. Doiron motioned to have the Treasurers report include current interest rates for all Beacon Falls Accounts when the reports are presented to the Board of Finance. G. Smith 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

Finance Managers Report

M. Gomes explained that his intent was to incorporate the expenditures each month into the budget document however he also noted that due to a computer crash during the day, he lost all the data he had worked on today. He will re-create it.

He noted that we are about \$250,000 below what we budgeted at the end of March and he noted that we are in pretty good shape. He noted that we will be doing transfers next month. He also noted that tax collections and trash lines are good. There will be some problems in the Police Department.

It was noted that there will be a change in the Fire Department and on April 24, 2010, Michael Pratt takes over as the new Chief. It was noted that the finances of the Fire Department as they related to the Town Finance Department have been going very well. All are in hopes of it continuing that way. There was concern that this may not be a smooth transition due to lack of harmony in the department.

G. Smith noted that there is a problem already with line item 1552 in that they have already spent \$29,235 and have only budgeted for \$30,000.

B. Ploss noted that during a side discussion with S. Cable, that S. Cable noted that she will try and get the financial books up to this point.

It was noted that the current Chief used Purchase Orders for everything and his system was working very well. It was discussed that the upcoming Chief should be educated as to how the purchase order system works and how important it is.

G. Smith motioned to not accept the Finance Managers Report as it is only a partial report due to a computer problem. R. Doiron 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

Board Clerks Invoice

G. Smith motioned to accept the Board Clerks invoice. R. Doiron 2nd the motion. All vote aye.

Transfers

None.

New Business

S. Cable commented on the insurance negotiations that she had today. She noted that the leader of the union representative said they had to set ground rules for the negotiations. According to S. Cable, the bottom line is, and is public knowledge, that they are asking the employees to pay more towards their insurance premiums. S. Cable noted that she was not happy about the way it went today as they were pro-longing the process. She is asking that the employees help out the town which is only fair because she believes the town employees have a Cadillac program. She has compared our program with other towns, etc. She would like their contributions to their insurance to be increased as well as reduce the amount of buy-backs that 2 of the unions get. If the husband or wife carries insurance and the employee opts out of the insurance, they get a third back. Unfortunately, it did not go that way today and she hopes the negotiations will go well but for now we have to keep the same numbers in the budget.

The minutes reflect that at 8:35 P.M., the Board of Finance no longer has a quorum for this meeting.

It was noted that the Region 16 budget appears to be a fair budget. There was a 0 percent increase in the teachers contract. The population shift is only about 30 people. Some kids are coming out of private school from 8th grade going into public and some kids are coming out of Home School and going to public.

Correspondence

A letter from S. Dowdell regarding the comments in the minutes of April 5th were discussed and are attached.

G. Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M. R. Doiron 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Classey
Clerk for the Board of Finance

