



**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS
BEACON FALLS, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF FINANCE**

JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN

2010/2011 BUDGET WORKSHOP

MINUTES

March 22, 2010

PRESENT

Selectmen S. Cable, D. Sorrentino and M. Krenesky, BOF Chairman W. Hopkinson, Vice Chairman G. Smith and BOF Members A. Choi, B. Ploss, L. Krepinevich, R. Doiron and Finance Manager M. Gomes. Also present were Trooper Cipriano and Lieutenant Rodriguez and resident L. D'Amico

S. Cable called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

S. Cable asked that a motion be made to allow the Chairs to adjust the agenda.

R. Doiron motioned to allow the Chairs to adjust the agenda, G. Smith 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

S. Cable asked that Trooper Cipriano and Lieutenant Rodriguez review with the Board of Finance the Police Departments 2010/2011 budget requests.

Trooper Cipriano explained that a while back that Officer Dudak worked out a package that guaranteed him in his contract 30 hours per week; he got holidays, sick days and vacation days. It resembles a full time package but without medical benefits and only 30 hours per week. He explained that L. Rubbo who was here for almost 20 years and he didn't want him to leave. Trooper Cipriano thought it would be a good idea to offer L. Rubbo the same package as he is a good Officer and would like to keep him in town. He now has the same 30 hour per week package. Trooper Cipriano explained that because these are all 8 hour shifts, 1 week of the month he schedules 24 hours and the other 3 weeks he schedules 32 hours which averages 30 hours per week. He wanted the midnight shift to be covered and not have to hire a full time police officer (which will require medical benefits, etc.). He explained that he gave Officer Gallo the same package. He explained that if he scheduled these guys every Friday, Saturday and Sunday and Beacon Falls being a small town, that the bad guys would figure out the schedule so he chose to rotate the Officers shifts so that it would not be easy for burglars to follow. He also noted that he wants the midnight shift to go until 8:00 in the morning to have a presence during school rush hour. These are the reasons this budget line item for part time patrol has been increased. He noted that by scheduling this way they were able to catch someone stealing the gas grill at the Beacon Falls Pharmacy.

W. Hopkinson asked if these shifts have been already implemented and if they were an add to staff.

Trooper Cipriano explained that since he's been working here (for about 4 years), the town has always wanted a mid-night shift. He explained that if they got a young kid from the academy it would cost the town a ton to certify him and then he will jump ship. He also noted that no one wants the third shift, even young Police Officers with a 40 hour a week shift would be bored and move to another city.

W. Hopkinson asked what would happen if the Town could not approve the additional monies for the additional staff. Trooper Cipriano explained that then he would have to cut back and not have the mid-night shift but noted that this is an efficient way to cover the shifts without hiring full time with medical and pensions. This way it's just the cost of a few vacation days at 30 hours a week.

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He explained that part-timers working a holiday would get time plus ½ whereas the full timers would get double time plus first choice.

G. Smith asked about the DUI Grant and if it is in this requested number. Trooper Cipriano explained that the way he works it between the tickets and the grants, the money almost evens out. He also explained that having the Police Officers roam back and forth is much more efficient for DUI's rather than having a few guys stationed at a DUI check point.

Extra Duty – M. Gomes explained that as a result of the audit, they need to come up with a better way than the way they are doing it now. He suggested a few different ways to do it. It was also discussed that the Fire Marshal is also under the Police Budget.

W. Hopkinson questioned why the Fire Marshal budgeted amount exceeded what they budgeted for the year. S. Cable explained that it was taken out of the wrong line item and that will change.

New Vehicle: Discussion: Trooper Cipriano explained that the year before last they got the new Expedition which is in great shape. They also have the Tahoe which was still a good car but run-down so he had Kainer Tech paint it for \$500 he also had Hillside fix the shocks and it's running great now – should last a couple of years and the town has 2 four wheel drive police cars. We still have the Crown Victoria that was purchased 2 years ago and they are replacing the Crown Victoria that was recently totaled and then they have the Chevy Malibu which is a clunker with 120K miles. He noted it is not a safe vehicle to go to an emergency call in. It was determined that the line item request of \$14,633 represent 2 lease vehicles that will be replaced and the \$27,600 is for buying a new vehicle outright. M. Gomes explained that the amount was presented that way to show the total cost of the vehicle. .

R. Doiron asked if there is a reason they have to have Crown Victoria's as opposed to maybe Impala's or Chargers. Trooper Cipriano said he would look into possible better prices for such cars. W. Hopkinson asked why we can't keep the clunker for private duty and Trooper Cipriano said that he could.

W. Hopkinson summarized the Police Departments budget request as 1. Adding another shift, 2. Purchasing a new car, 3. Fire Marshal's position. She asked what would be his priority list. Trooper Cipriano noted that the Fire Marshal would be first, and then the midnight shift 2nd and the vehicles would be 3rd. Trooper Cipriano explained that they can buy 1 black car, put lights in the grill and use it as a Fire Marshal/Police Car.

S. Cable asked Trooper Cipriano why he has \$1000 more on state mandated training and noted that there was \$3000 requested for a Fire Marshall – S. Cable noted that she thought that since they send the Police to school, why do they need more money for training. Trooper Cipriano noted that there is going to be more training. They found that when qualifying for physical, cops are traditionally trained for shooting during the day but if they have to shoot at night and then get on the stand and are asked how much training they had in night shooting, they are opening up themselves for a law suit. The money for the Fire Marshall will not be needed. Trooper Cipriano noted that he will not need the \$6000 in repairs if he gets the new car. If he does not get the new car he will need the \$6000.

Fire Department: Chief B. Clooney, Assistant Chief M. Pratt and J. Rodorigo from the Ambulance Department arrived at 8:00 to discuss their budget.

S. Cable asked B. Clooney about the transfer request of \$3,999. B. Clooney noted that the computers and copiers are both in the building maintenance line item and they have been eating away at that amount so he needed to transfer more money over to that line item to get them through the rest of the year. He had some money in vehicle maintenance that he could use so that is where he wanted it transferred from. He noted that he will also have enough money left in the vehicle maintenance budget for the rest of the year after the transfer. The Board of Finance question regarding enough money for testing was answered.

B. Clooney was asked if he anticipates more transfers for this current budget and he said that he does. He will work on putting them all together and requesting what he needs at one time.

B. Clooney, in explaining his budget requests, noted that the Fire Department has 25 new members; a lot of them EMT's as well. He noted that it costs approximately \$3500 to gear up and train each Fireman. He noted that the current turnout gear is getting old and while they definitely rotate them and re-use what they can, there is still gear that will not pass inspection (meet the NFPA standards).

B. Clooney noted that the electrical expenses for the new building by the train track have been taken out of this budget and they will need to account for it next year.

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B. Clooney noted that they will probably need more repairs for next year since they didn't require too many repairs this year.

NFPA mandated physicals cost \$100 per person for the AMR, the physicals for the Fireman cost \$495. There is currently only \$9000 in that budget but they will need \$40,000.

Building Maintenance: They will be in need of a roof on the Fire house. The patch that was just made is guaranteed to last 5 years but after that, they will need a whole new roof. He noted that he plans on using the new building to house his brush equipment and also make it into a training facility.

The Fire Department is looking for some grant money to off-set the training cost. They did receive some grant money already that they put back into the account. They are trying very hard to be proactive. S. Cable noted that there is a prediction that there is \$810,000,000 in grant money for the upcoming year for firefighters and volunteer services. S. Cable plans to send some of the town personnel to grant writing classes. She will give B. Cloney some documentation.

B. Cloney noted that the gear is what is taking a toll on line item 1552. He noted that for the last couple of years, this line item has been a catch-all. He would like to leave \$15,000 for turn-out gear as it costs \$1500 per new firefighters and he is hoping to get 10 new guys. He also noted that since all his existing gear is getting old, if he does not get 10 new guys, he will use that money to replace some existing gear. It was also noted that out of the 25 new guys, half of them are EMTs and that costs less.

B. Cloney explained that he would like to implement a new SOP in order to keep the new hires for at least two years. He would like to get 1/3 of the training cost up front from the new guys. At the end of two years, they will be reimbursed. He would like to get the guys to stick around longer rather than spend the money training them just for them to leave and go to a different town. He said that this is one idea on how to keep them longer and not just spend the money training them.

G. Smith asked about the new aerial truck. B. Cloney said that they would like one and that they are only requesting \$735K because they found a brand new truck that will be used for demo's (it is not yet built), they will demo it for a month and show it around and when they are done, Beacon Falls can have it. The truck will meet the town's needs. It does not have the current emissions problems. He also noted that the quicker they act, the more they will save. He used