

**Beacon Falls Board of Finance
10 Maple Ave.
Beacon Falls, CT 06403**



**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS
Board of Finance/Board of Selectmen Joint Budget Workshop
Wednesday May 22, 2013
Discussion after Public Hearing
(Draft Copy-Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Jim Huk called the Board of Finance/Board of Selectmen Joint Budget Workshop to order at 8:16

Members present: Joe Dowdell, Jack Levine, Robert Doiron, Brian Ploss, Marc Bronn

Board of Selectmen present: First Selectman Gerard Smith, Dave D'Amico, Chris Bielik

2. Discussion and Vote for 2013-14 Budget

Motion to delete the \$10,000 for the Public Works snow plow from Special Projects 10-90 Ploss/Levine; all aye.

Motion to decrease Employee Benefits 10-13 medical insurance line 1245 by \$9,703 to \$325,000: Levine/Huk;

Discussion:

R. Doiron questioned what this might will go to up next year and should it remain as is to possibly defer anticipated increases for next year.

C. Bielik suggested using actual numbers, rather than trying to bank savings is a risky proposition.

Vote: all aye

Motion to relook at the debt service for the proposed fire truck and the fire house roof replacement, the debt interest and principal of \$72,000 is too high; only pay the interest for the first year which would be \$19,250; Bronn/Doiron;

Discussion:

J. Levine strongly opposed this idea of only paying interest, it would be disingenuous to pay only interest the first year he would like to see a level basis for the loan, and have it structured so the payments are divided evenly over the years of the loan.

M. Bronn withdrew his motion.

Motion to give all elected official budgeted salaries a zero increase including the First Selectman, creating a total budget savings of \$9,276: Levine/Doiron; all aye.

Cuts included:

First Selectman 10-01 item 1010 wages \$8,612
Selectman 10-01 item 1011 wages \$87
Selectman 10-01 item 1012 wages \$87
Town Clerk 10-05 item 1010 wages \$44
Tax Collector 10-07 item 1010 wages \$99
Treasurer 10-09 item 1010 wages \$67
Registrar of Votes 10-29 item 1010 wages \$280

Discussion:

J. Levine noted that at the public hearing he did not hear anyone say this was a bad budget, he thought the budget was good right with the above changes and recommended leaving the Wastewater treatment plant alone.

C. Bielik expressed his support of the budget with the above changes.

G. Smith thought a 3.7% budget increase even with the above changes was too high. If this budget is defeated by referendum in June, he was concerned it would be into July before a budget passes.

C. Bielik – if 3.7% is perceived as too high, town doesn't want to make hard cuts that are emotional and lose services, get increase in the 2 percentage increase.

J. Levine commented that the majority of current budget increases included the fire truck, required refinancing of debt service and unfunded state mandates.

G. Smith recommended decreasing the budget to get the percentage of increase down to 2%, based on what has happened in surrounding towns with passing their budgets.

Motion cut \$30,000 from Wastewater Treatment 10-67 line 1765 equipment replacement to be reduced to \$128,800: Levine/Ploss; all aye.

Motion cut an additional \$20,000 from Wastewater Treatment 10-67 line 1765 equipment replacement to be reduced to \$108,800: Levine/Doiron;

Discussion: none

Vote: all aye

Motion for the Board of Finance to adopt a proposed 2013-2014 municipal budget of \$6,204,629: Levine/Dowdell; all aye.

Overall this is a \$180,612 increase over last year or 2.99%

3. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the joint Board of Finance/Board of Selectmen budget workshop at 8:48 PM: **Bronn/Doiron**; all aye.

Motion to adjourn the joint Board of Finance/Board of Selectmen budget workshop at 8:48PM: **Bielik/Smith**; all aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Melville
Clerk for the Board of Finance