

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**Special Meeting**  
**August 20, 2013**  
**MINUTES**  
**(Draft Copy-Subject to Revision)**

**1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Jim Huk called the meeting to order at 7:01

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

Others present: First Selectman Gerard Smith, Selectmen Chris Bielik, Dave D'Amico, Town Treasurer Mike Krenesky, Town Finance Manager Manny Gomes, Jim Galligan of Nafis & Young Engineers, Inc. and Sue Dowdell, Assistant Librarian

**2. First Selectman's Report**

a. Transfers: explanations provided by Town Finance Manager M. Gomes

Telephone deficit: there was a failure to budget enough in this line item. It was cut too much in previous years and has been under budgeted by \$7,500 per year since the new phone system was implemented. The balance was taken out of contingency. There is a projected shortfall in this year's budget for the telephone line item.

J. Dowdell questioned why the telephone budget wasn't adequately funded since the new phone system was installed especially after the first year of a shortage.

J. Levine commented that if the salaries and telephone budget items were incorrect, it should have been reported to the Board of Finance. He would like to see a monthly report of projections of any budget shortfalls from the Town Finance Manager.

M. Gomes noted that salaries were corrected for the 2013-2014 budget. He explained that the janitor salary had been under budgeted for years. The entire salary budget line can't be predicted for the end of the fiscal year because employees will be paid for unused vacation and sick time. It isn't known until the end of the fiscal year, in June, when the employees were paid for their unused time off what that amount will be.

J. Levine noted that he understood the salary budget lines are unpredictable, but would like to see any other expected shortfalls reported at monthly meetings.

J. Huk questioned the Tax Collector miscellaneous budget line which was \$3,000 short. M. Gomes explained that the Tax Collector had money in the budget to cover this; it was put in the wrong line.

J. Huk commented on the shortfall in the Benefits section and understood that extra duty for police can't be predicted and that any extra duty would increase the benefits line.

M. Bronn asked about telephone contract and if a copy could be obtained from the company. The town may be at the end of the contract, which could possibly be renegotiated. Topic tabled until next meeting.

J. Levine referenced a comment made by R. Doiron at the August 13, 2013 meeting that there was enough money elsewhere in the 2012-2013 budget to cover the transfers requested.

G. Smith noted that was possible because there was an overestimate in insurance, some contingency funds were used and there was money left in trash pickup due to credit received from recycling. The Waste Water Treatment plant also had money left in the budget.

Motion to approve all transfers requested by Finance Manager with the exception of line 10-50-1670 of \$42,660 for snow removal which requires approval at a town meeting: Doiron/Levine; all aye.

### **3. Report on Depot Street Bridge overruns**

Jim Galligan, from Nafis & Young Engineers, Inc., provided an overview of the project and answered questions.

Nafis & Young Engineers, Inc. was hired in 2000 to work on the Depot Street Bridge. In 2003, Nafis & Young Engineers, Inc. provided an estimate of \$3 million to the town of Beacon Falls to secure federal grants and for bonding. The 2003 estimate included \$300,000 for design, \$300,000 for inspection, \$90,000 for legal and incidentals totaling \$3 million for the construction project.

Mr. Galligan explained that this was not a Town of Beacon Falls project, but rather a DOT project since it was funded thru DOT and as such, had to follow all the DOT procedures and be reviewed and approved by the state.

Mr. Galligan noted that due to the problems on Route 84, the DOT modified their inspection proceedings in 2006-7. The Town of Beacon Falls needed a new agreement to include the new requirements for extensive inspections, a quadruple check system, and having paint and construction inspectors on the job at all times, as required by DOT.

In 2009, a \$510,000 contract was agreed on to meet the required DOT inspections, which made

an increase of \$210,000 to the original contract.  
Depot Street Bridge construction started in September 2009.

In December 2009, an inspection using DOT Snooper equipment went under the bridge and found additional problems that needed to be addressed. Nafis & Young Engineers, Inc. provided designs and received town approval before work done which added more materials and time to correct and complete.

For the additional design work required by DOT, inspection and time to complete, \$170,000 was added to the project.

M. Gomes noted that the construction piece was completed under budget.

J. Levine asked why it took so long for the Board of Finance to learn about the budget overruns.

Mr. Galligan explained that the Selectmen's office was kept informed; the contract with the town needed to be extended in order for work to continue on the project.

M. Gomes noted that the construction bills were still coming in. The Depot Street Bridge project will finally be closed out on 8/22/13, then the DOT will audit the entire project.

R. Doiron asked how Nafis & Young Engineers, Inc. got town authorization to continue working.

M. Gomes noted he was aware of the project being over budget in December 2010 and less than a month later the town had applied for another grant to offset the overage, which it didn't cover.

Mr. Galligan commented that the town was told to gather outstanding bills and submit them for a grant. M. Gomes said he got a check in January 2013 for \$145,000 from a 2011 grant request.

R. Doiron noted that the Board of Finance should have been kept in the loop.

J. Huk asked if the town had a say in the DOT requirements and if the town must accept what the DOT required. Mr. Galligan responded that yes, if the town accepted the state grant money; it must also accept their requirements.

M. Bronn asked about the approval and change order procedures.

Mr. Galligan stated the checks were approved by the Board of Selectmen and the change orders originated by the contractor were submitted to Nafis & Young Engineers, Inc. which were then submitted to DOT.

J. Levine recommended that Jim Galligan of Nafis & Young Engineers, Inc. and the town Finance Manager attend the September 3, 2013 Town Meeting for the bond vote and be

available for questions.

#### **4. Discussion of potential for FEMA grant for the Beacon Hose No. 1 fire truck**

J. Huk commented that if the town applied for a FEMA grant, it can't spend any money on a fire truck until the FEMA grant option has been exhausted. He noted that FEMA was still handing out money awarded from 2012 grants and that 22 towns in CT received grants recently. He added that workshops will be held around the state this fall about the grant application and the grant program was funded by Congress.

G. Smith noted the change in wording on the resolution states that the grant application option will be good through end of the fiscal year, and if it falls through, the town can begin financing plans for the fire truck on July 2, 2014.

The wording of the Board of Finance resolutions didn't change as the Board of Finance just approves the appropriation.

M. Bronn asked if the fire truck was inspected every year, and it passed, he didn't understand the urgency to replace it

J. Huk stressed the FEMA grant was based on need and believed that Beacon Falls has a real need.

J. Levine asked what were the options to replace the truck in an emergency, if the truck should fail during this fiscal year.

G. Smith responded that it would have to go to a town meeting to amend the resolutions.

#### **5. Appropriation and bond and note authorization**

##### **5a. Depot Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project Increase**

To consider and act upon a resolution recommending a \$420,000 increase in the appropriation and bond and note authorization for the 2006 Depot Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project.

RESOLVED, That the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of Beacon Falls increase by \$420,000 the \$3,690,000 appropriation and bond and note authorization for the 2006 Depot Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project approved at referendum held June 27, 2006 and at Special Town Meeting held August 28, 2006, for an aggregate appropriation and bond and note authorization of \$4,110,000.

Motion to adopt the resolution for the 2006 Depot Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project Increase: Levine/Doiron; all aye.

##### **5b. Various Sanitary Sewer System Projects**

To consider and act upon a resolution recommending a \$700,000 appropriation and borrowing authorization for costs in connection with various sanitary sewer system projects.

RESOLVED, That the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of Beacon Falls appropriate \$427,660 for costs in connection with various improvements to the Town's wastewater systems, as to be determined by the Water Pollution Control Authority, contemplated to include: supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems and integration, emergency bypass and readiness provisions, and mechanical improvements for the Railroad Avenue, Pine Bridge, and West Road pump stations; short-term measures to address interim phosphorous removal requirements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and for related bond and note issuance and other financing costs; and that the Town issue bonds, notes or other obligations in an amount not to exceed \$700,000 to finance the appropriation.

Motion to adopt the resolution for the Various Sanitary Sewer System  
Projects: Doiron/Levine; all aye.

**5c. Beacon Hose Company No. 1 Volunteer Fire Department Fire Truck Acquisition**

To consider and act upon a resolution recommending a \$700,000 appropriation and borrowing authorization for costs in connection with acquisition of a 75 foot quintuple combination pumper ("quint") fire truck and related equipment for use by Beacon Hose Company No. 1 Volunteer Fire Department.

RESOLVED, That the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of Beacon Falls appropriate \$700,000 for costs related to the acquisition of a 75 foot quintuple combination pumper ("quint") fire truck and related equipment for use by Beacon Hose Company No. 1 Volunteer Fire Department, and for related bond and note issuance and other financing costs; and that the Town issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$700,000 to finance the appropriation.

**Motion to adopt the resolution for Beacon Hose Company No. 1 Volunteer Fire Department Fire Truck Acquisition: Doiron/Levine;**

Vote:

Aye: Huk, Doiron, Levine, Ploss, Bronn

Abstained: Dowdell

**6. Beacon Hose Company No. 1 old radio equipment and Hurst tool**

G. Smith relayed a request from Beacon Hose No. 1 on what to do with old radio equipment and Hurst tool that sit in storage at the Firehouse. This excess equipment was not compatible with current equipment. The Hurst tool, "jaws of life", is broken, and may be good for parts. The Hurst tool and radios were listed on eBay but received no offers.

J. Levine asked if the Board of Selectmen should make this decision, and noted his appreciation of keeping the Board of Finance informed. He also commented that the public

needs to be notified when excessing any town equipment. He said putting it out for public bid would probably cost more to advertise than it would earn.

J. Levine suggested posting the equipment on the O&G web site as a free way to advertise for bids for the equipment

R. Doiron concurred that the town shouldn't spend any money to get rid of this equipment.

G. Smith will contact Chief M. Pratt about posting the equipment on O&G's web site.

## **7. Adjournment**

The next regular monthly meeting will be Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 7:30 PM.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM: Doiron/Levine; all aye.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha Melville  
Clerk for the Board of Finance