

**Beacon Falls Board of Finance
10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403**



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF FINANCE
Monthly Meeting
April 8, 2014
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Joe Dowdell called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Board Members present: Joe Dowdell, Jack Levine, Robert Doiron, Marc Bronn, and Joe Rodorigo

Not Present: Brian Ploss

Others Present: First Selectman Chris Bielik, Selectman Peter Betkowski, Selectman Dominick Sorrentino, Jim Trzaski from the Fire Department, Brian DeGeorge from the Fire Department, and Sue Dowdell from the Beacon Falls Library.

2. Unfinished Business

a. Continue Budge Workshop

M. Bronn has a few questions – the first being if the machinery that is being purchased now will be obsolete once the new equipment is in place. D. Pricket indicated that the majority of what W. Opuszynski is addressing will remain. There are occasions when there will be some mechanical equipment that will need to be replaced since it failed, and that piece of equipment will become obsolete within 2 years. They are trying to focus on things that are energy efficient.

C. Bielik wanted to point out methodology behind some of the cuts. The decisions were based on actuals, looking at what was spent in the past, where we are in this fiscal year, and where we see ourselves going in the future. This pertains to all departments, not just the waste water treatment plant.

We need to be budgeting leanly, budgeting to what is actually being spent, and budgeting towards targets that are reasonable and comfortable as well as mirroring what is happening in real life. C. Bielik noted that the line item for Equipment Replacement was nowhere near the budgeted amount for the fiscal year 2013-2014 through March 2014. W. Opuszynski indicated that the money that was left over was to be used to repairs in the UV system. The repairs were not done due to the upgrades and are looking to do. He also indicated that there is a cost for nitrogen, totaling approximately \$42,000. There are also repairs still needs to be done by June 2014. UV bulbs need replacement and that's approximately \$8,000 to \$10,000. J. Rodorigo indicated that that is in the budget.

J. Rodorigo asked if there were any capital stuff that they want to address. D. Pricket indicated no but they are 2 changes he would like considered. Both banks of the UV need to be run, instead of rebuilding or expanding them, the total amount for the electricity will increase by approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000 and that's just from April through October. The other is the proposed fourth operator. If the other person is not there, it goes onto the contractor and their cost will increase.

C. Bielik next called J. Trzaski again to talk about the Hose Replacement Program under Special Projects. J. Trzaski indicated that every year the hoses are tested. After 10 years, the hoses need to be replaced, even if it passes the testing. This is following National Fire Protection Association standards. Chief Pratt budgeted last year for 1 vehicle's hoses to be replaced and over the next 3 years to have 2 other vehicles' hoses to be replaced. If a new vehicle is purchased, the hoses from the old vehicle can be put on the new one. The amount is the department's proposed budget outfits approximately 1,200 ft. of 5" hose, which is the large diameter hose.

Motion to remove the added employee to Public Works for \$95,000: Bronn/Levine;
Discussion was made J. Rodorigo that there has never been a doubt that the department needs 7 people in Public Works. Historically, there was always a need for a 7th person and there were less people living in town and 7 miles less roads. J. Levine asked if the department runs short with only 6 people and if 1 person is out sick. He also noted that the overtime, with all the storms and everything from the past year, the amount in the overtime doesn't equal the cost of hiring a 7th employee to the department. C. Bielik indicated that when we hire another body when falling short, contractors have to be hired to help. The amount is in another area of the budget. During this past winter, the snow was piling up so high that the department couldn't keep up with pushing the snow off the roads. Payloaders were hired to assist us with this. That line was paid out of snow removal so you have to take that in account and include with the overtime paid. J. Dowdell noted that even with having the 7th employee, we may still need to hire the payloaders through contractors. R. Doiron noted that it was made known that due to union contracts, we are unable to use seasonal employees. It seems as if we may need the 7th person only during the winter and not need that person during the other 7-8 months of the year. C. Bielik indicated that if we go back to actuals, wages overtime were almost \$52,000 for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and budgeted \$35,000 for this year. We spent almost \$49,000 with fewer bodies on staff. The proposed amount for overtime for the Public Works department is \$42,000 based on hiring a 7th person. The Board of Selectmen agrees that a 7th person is needed in this department.

R. Doiron made note that it is still cheaper with the overtime vs. hiring the 7th person. P. Betkowski indicated that the 7th person is needed more than just in the winter. The person is needed in the summertime to fix catchbasins, potholes, and retention ponds. C. Bielik agreed that work that needs to be done that hasn't been done for a while. By having the 7th person, year round, would allow us do the work that needs to be done. P. Betkowski also added that the person could go to the sewer plant to help out there as well. M. Bronn indicated that we let the new foremen have a year to see how it goes with having 6 people over the summer. He has only been on the job for 120 days and we should give him a year to see how he does. Ayes – J. Dowdell, R. Doiron, Marc Bronn; Opposed – J. Levine, J. Rodorigo. Motion passes with a vote 3 to 2.

Sue Dowdell from the Library was next to talk about the cuts in her department. She indicated that cutting the \$500.00 in the Library's Computer Support is based on actuals that were spent in the past, before she was department head. The library is reaching its limit of doing physical books and the bibliomation fees are going up 5% every year. By cutting by that amount will reduce what can be done with the computers. This past year, the library received a Mathies Grant, enabling the library to upgrade the 4 laptops. The library needs \$725.00 of the proposed cuts in able to run the library. J. Dowdell asked J. Levine to chair this part of the meeting. J. Levine asked for a motion to be made on behalf of the library.

Motion to add \$725.00 to the Library's proposed budget by the Selectmen:

Rodorigo/Doiron; *no discussion;* All ayes – Abstained is J. Dowdell since the department head is his wife.

J. Levine turned the meeting back to J. Dowdell.

M. Bronn noted the budget for the proposed year 2014-2015 is an amount of \$6,217,853, an increase of \$38,174. C. Bielik asked if that is using a planning figure of removing the 7th person from the Public Works department. M. Bronn indicated yes, that is correct.

J. Rodorigo indicated that since we cannot hire any seasonal help for Park & Receptions department since the 7th person is not being hired for the Public Work department that the requested \$20,000 on line item 10-90-71-1019 is rolled back to \$15,000.

Motion made to decrease the department request of \$20,000 to \$15,000 on line item 10-90-71-1019: **Bronn/Levine;** all ayes.

The new number for the budget proposed for the 2014-2015 fiscal year is \$6,212,853, an increase of \$33,174. This is .54% increase from last year's budget.

C. Bielik asked about the wage adjustment in Employee Benefits. Historically, we have been running over the proposed amount. To clarify what this is, there are positions in town that does occasional overtime work that is not budgeted ahead of time. The overtime hours have been paid and the wage line will run in deficit. The wage adjustment line is used to clean up all of this.

Motion to take \$10,000 from line item 10-90-13-1235 and make that amount \$13,960 and reallocate the \$10,000 to line item 10-90-59-1049 in Highway Maintenance and make that amount \$52,000: **Bronn/Levine**; no discussion; all ayes.

Motion to Board of Finance to approve the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2014-2015 at the amount of \$6,212,853.00, an increase of \$33,174.00 or a .54% increase over the fiscal year 2013-2014 budget: **Bronn/Levine**; no discussion; all ayes.

C. Bielik indicated that we have to give the public 10 days before we hold the public hearing. Since the week of April 14th through the 18th is a holiday week for most people, that we target for the 22nd of April. J. Levine suggested that we wait another week to get the legal notice posted and give enough time. The date of Tuesday, April 29th seemed good to all.

Motion to have the Public Hearing on the proposed budget at a place to be determined by the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.: **Levine/Rodorigo**; no discussion; all ayes.

Motion to table the Approval of the Minutes from March 11, 2014; March 25, 2014; and April 2, 2014; as well as to table the Treasurer's Report, Town Clerk's Report, Tax Collector's Report, and First Selectman's Report based on the time of the conclusion of the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen's Workshop: **Doiron/Levine**; no discussion; all ayes.

3. Correspondence

a. Board of Finance Clerk's Invoices

Motion to accept the three invoices from the Board of Finance Clerk for the March 11, 2014 monthly meeting; the March 25, 2014 special meeting; and the April 2, 2014 workshop for a grand total of \$266.25: **Levine/Doiron**; no discussion; all ayes.

4. Adjournment

The next regular monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 7:30 P.M.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M.: **Levine/Doiron**; no discussion; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Board of Finance, Clerk