

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF FINANCE
Monthly Meeting
May 13, 2014
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

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

Board Members present: Joe Dowdell, Joe Rodorigo, Brian Ploss, Robert Doiron, and Jack Levine

Not present: Marc Bronn

Others present: First Selectman Chris Bielik, Selectman Dom Sorrentino, Selectman Peter Betkoski, State Representative Theresa Conroy, Fire Chief Jim Trzaski, Asst. Fire Chief Brian DeGeorge, and 2 members of the public

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept the March 11, 2014; the March 25, 2014; the April 2, 2014; and the April 29, 2014 meeting minutes: Doiron/Levine; no discussion; all ayes.

3. Treasurer's Report

Reports were distributed to members for review. C. Bielik indicated that there are some new accounts showing up on the reports from now. One is the cumulative funds from the Conservation Commission's Land Acquisitions Fund are going to be broken out and separately held. The same will be for the Library Fund. The banks that are involved with the new accounts are Ion Bank and Naugatuck Valley.

4. Town Clerk's Report

Reports were distributed to members for review.

5. Tax Collector's Report

Reports were distributed to members for review. C. Bielik wanted to make note of the entry dated 04/15/2014 for \$130,000 collected.

6. Selectman's Report – Chris Bielik

C. Bielik formally introduced State Representative Theresa Conroy to the board members. The budget process finished last Thursday with getting approval from the town. There are a few minor twicks on the Revenue side and there is an expense correction that will be arriving. There were some last minute adjustments to some of the Revenue lines coming from the State of CT. When you add all the adjustments together, it was a plus of about \$12,000. One significant change that was made was in Prior Year Tax Credits. Originally, that line was funded at the state level to about \$4,000,000 and we were counting on about \$70,000. When that line got cut to about \$1,100,000, our portion was zeroed out, affecting the revenue coming in. With the school budget in hand, we will be getting at least the \$200,000 payment credit from the surplus. We will not be getting the additional \$100,000 +/-, based on the vote from last Monday. With it passing by 4 votes, the district will be keeping the \$245,000 to allocate to the roof repairs over the Arts section of Woodland. After questioning the process a little more, C. Bielik found out that we would not have received a payment from them as an overpayment where in fact that we would have a reduction by the amount in our first payment in the new fiscal year. The revenue numbers that are now in the budget are as good as we know them to be as of today.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Discuss and Set the Mil Rate for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year

J. Levine asked to see the numbers to see how the calculation of the mil rate was reached. He asked what 1 mil is equal to and J. Roderigo indicated that 1 mil is equal to \$475,000. C. Bielik indicated that they are pretty confident in that number. J. Roderigo and C. Bielik indicated that the mil was calculated by taking all the Revenues coming into the town from any source and back out from the amount that has to be raised from taxation alone and ending up with the net number. This comes to approximately \$15,000,000, and then, take that number and divides it by the Grand List coming to 32.5 mils. J. Levine asked what tax collection rate was being used and J. Roderigo indicated 98% which was used last year. C. Bielik indicated that we are at that if not exceeding that number.

After doing a final review of the budget for the fiscal year 2014-2015 with the adjustments to the Revenues that C. Bielik mentioned in the Selectmen's Report earlier tonight, and doing a final review of the calculations of the proposed mil rate for the fiscal year 2014-2015, the board agreed to an increase of 0.6 mil increase.

Motion to approve the increase of 0.6 mils and set the mil rate to 32.5 mils for the town of Beacon Falls for the fiscal year 2014-2015: **Rodorigo/Levine**; no discussion; all ayes.

8. **Transfers**

There is a request from the Board of Selectmen for only one transfer. C. Bielik introduced Chief Trzaski and Asst. Fire Chief DeGeorge if a discussion of their request of a transfer is needed. The Board of Selectmen recommended last night a transfer from the Fire Dept. Vehicle Fuel, line item 10-90-44-1470 of \$10,000 and from the Fire Dept. EMS Training, line item 10-90-44-1486, \$5,000, for a total transfer of \$15,000. The total amount of \$15,000 would be transferred to the Fire Dept. Vehicle Repair, line item 10-90-44-1472, \$15,000. The history of this predates the leadership team present at tonight's meeting. Previously, the fire chief controlled the entire budget and then decided that the responsibility of the EMS line items to the EMS director. Earlier this year, the former EMS director indicated that there was an issue of repairs that needed to be done to one of the ambulances. Chief Trzaski noted that there were chronic injector problems in one of the ambulances and the other ambulance was being constructed. This request was presented C. Bielik while there was still enough funds in that budget line to cover the repairs. The problem that occurred was that the EMS director did not open a purchase order on that line item. Then, other repairs were done out of the line item and put it into a deficient when the bill is paid.

Motion to approve the request of the fire department's transfer from line item 10-90-44-1470 - \$10,000 – and line item 10-90-44-1486 - \$5,000 – to line item 10-90-44-1472 - \$15,000: **Levine/Ploss**; no discussion; all ayes.

9. **New Business**

An email was received from the auditors regarding an update on the potential for additional charges relating to the audit. The additional billing came to an amount of \$9,000.

Motion to pay the auditors the additional amount of \$9,000: **Levine/Rodorigo**; discussion was by J. Dowdell, asking where the money was going to come from to pay the auditors. J. Levine indicated the Contingency Fund and J. Rodorigo indicated that there should be remainders of money in the line item since the auditors haven't been paid in the past several months. C. Bielik indicated that in past years, we have historically waited until the closeout of the fiscal year to be going back to take excess money from personnel lines.

Motion to pay the auditors from the Contingency Fund the additional amount of \$9,000: Levine/Doiron; no further discussion; all ayes.

10. Correspondence

a. Board of Finance Clerk's Invoices

Motion to accept the six invoices from the Board of Finance Clerk and pay the total of \$272.50: Levine/Dorion; no discussion; all ayes.

11. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public at tonight's meeting.

12. Adjournment

With no other business to discuss at tonight's meeting, J. Dowdell asked to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 P.M.: Doiron/Levine; no discussion; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Board of Finance