

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF FINANCE  
Regular Meeting  
July 14, 2015  
REVISED MINUTES  
(Subject to Revision)**

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

Board Members Present: Jack Levine, Joe Dowdell, Jim Huk, Marc Bronn, and Brian Ploss

Not Present: Joe Rodrigo

Others present: Selectman Peter Betkoski; Selectman Dom Sorrentino; Tom Broesler, Finance Manager; Sue Dowdell, Director of the Library; and Mike Krenesky, Town Treasurer (arrived at 8:33 PM).

Chairman Jack Levine called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**2. Public Comment**

There were no public comments at tonight's meeting.

**3. Discuss the Region 16 Surplus and Possible Action**

J. Levine indicated that he would like this agenda item discussed in an open discussion by the members.

J. Levine began with the reference to the article in the Citizens News. The Region has increased the budget yet again and spends more money at the end of the fiscal year. It is difficult for this Board to get our budget passed by the townspeople. M. Bronn asked if the Board has a say and J. Levine indicated that legally, we do not. J. Huk asked if we know what the vote was by the Region 16 members. J. Levine indicated that he did not know how the votes were made.

The state average has been around 2% increase over the past 5 years. When comparing the increase from the Region 16 budget to the Beacon Falls town budget, it has adversely affected the flexibility in getting things done at the town level.

The Board of Education has the legal right to spend the money on what they want as long as the motions are made at a public meeting. The budget transfer, in some cases, can be done after the fact. J. Huk noted that as a Board, we are powerless. His thought is to wait until August or September, spending the time in writing a well-crafted letter, expressing the concern. J. Dowdell and B. Ploss agreed that the Board should say something. J. Dowdell noted that the Board should write a letter to the Board of Ed. J. Huk added to copy the members of the town. J. Huk also noted that we bring this up again right before budget season. J. Dowdell suggested inviting the BOE members to this Board's meeting.

J. Levine indicated that the Region has the right to spend every penny of the money in the budget. Also, they could send all or part of the unspent money back to the member towns. They can use all or part of the money in a reserve, by putting up to 1% in there as unspecified. M. Bronn noted that they could stop giving back the surplus. J. Levine added that they could designate a portion of the money for the following year's budget. There is nothing illegal about this. J. Dowdell does not feel as if it is right to back come several years in a row and ask for increases. T. Broesler indicated that they have run three years in a row with surpluses that have been 5% of their overall budget. As a citizen, it does not seem right that we are taxed each year with an increase. J. Dowdell noted that in the budget year 2013-2014 going into the budget year 2014-2015, there was an increase of 1.2% and the surplus is 1.4%.

J. Levine noted that his opinion is that none of the surplus is spent and next year, come in with a 0% increase. It is difficult for this Board to try to keep the increase down when this town has roads are in need of repairs, a wastewater treatment plant that needs upgrades, and more things that need to be done in the town of Beacon Falls. J. Dowdell noted that there is \$56,000 extra for teachers for painting and moving. This was not in the contract. B. Ploss indicated that he has been fighting with them for a while and have attended many of the meetings to try in getting the BOE to understand where this Board is coming from. This Board has such a time in getting an increase of about ½% and they are building a 1.2% increase every year. J. Huk noted that the Region will not listen to individuals who show up to meeting, only to their members on the BOE and listen to public outcry.

J. Huk indicated that the Board make a list of grievances, sending it in August or September, to establish where our concerns are and then go back in April. We need to make it a Region 16 concern and not just a Beacon Falls concern. It will help if Prospect is feeling the same way and having a joint effort. J. Huk indicated that the Board's complaint is not that the Region listed things in a budget and spend it. Our complaint is that things were not listed in the budget, then taking excess capital and not returning it back to the member towns.

J. Levine noted that if the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance of Beacon Falls could have a meeting with the Mayor of Prospect and their Town Council and Board of Finance, and discuss the concerns may bring pressure.

J. Levine indicated in an email that was sent to the Superintendent was copied to every Board of Ed member inviting them to this Board's meeting and the Superintendent was away. There is no one present here tonight from the BOE for the meeting.

J. Levine indicated that he would entertain drafting a letter that would be from the entire Board, have the Board review and make suggestions, and then finalize it at the August meeting. There would be more power by having the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance, and the leadership of Prospect going together to the Region.

Motion to have Jack Levine draft a letter and email it to the Board of Finance to have them review for comments, bring the letter to the August meeting to finalize and receive approval by all Board members: Ploss/Dowdell; no discussion; all ayes.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

There were no minutes to approve at tonight's meeting since the clerk was out sick last month.

#### **5. Finance Manager's Report**

##### **a. Updated on Corrective Action Plan**

T. Broesler indicated that he is working on the Capital Assets.

##### **b. Status Report on Payroll Conversion**

It was asked to have this agenda item removed from the agenda for the next meeting.

##### **c. Status Report on Bank Reconciliations**

T. Broesler indicated that he started reconciling the General Fund bank account.

##### **d. Update on Other Issues**

T. Broesler is thinking that they will be coming in around \$225,000 under on the expenses and around \$225,000 over budget on income. This is the way it is looking now. The income is over based on the back taxes.

T. Broesler indicated that he will be closing the books on August 30<sup>th</sup> and then will be comparing last year's to the current year to see if anything was missed.

J. Levine wanted to compliment T. Broesler on the progress that he has made and the great job he is doing in the position.

## 6. First Selectmen's Report

Since the First Selectman was not present at tonight's meeting, Selectman Peter Betkoski gave the report.

### **a. Proposed Budget Transfers**

The budget transfer request was from the Public Works Department on behalf of the Parks Department and submitted by Rob Pruzinsky. The request comes from an emergency repair to the backflow valve.

Motion to approve the budget transfer as follows:

The amount of \$500.00 to be transferred from Line Item 10-90-71-1550, Tools and Equipment, to Line Item 10-90-71-1855, Grounds Maintenance.

The amount of \$810.00 to be transferred from Line Item 10-90-71-1815, Spray, Fertilizer/Clay, to Line Item 10-90-71-1855, Grounds Maintenance.

The amount of \$900.00 to be transferred from Line Item 10-90-71-1820, Sanitation Facilities, to Line Item 10-90-71-1855, Grounds Maintenance.

**Bronn/Dowdell; no discussion; all ayes.**

The budget transfer requests were from last month and not approved. EDC is looking to have \$2,900.00 transferred from Consultants and \$150.00 transferred from Consultants. This is for the landscaping that was done downtown prior to the Carnival. The work was done by the Boys and Girls Scouts. The First Selectman approved the transfer since he wanted it done before the Carnival.

J. Levine indicated that he is disappointed because this was not approved since it was not an emergency situation and was done after a direct conversation by this Board not to be done. P. Betkoski indicated that the money is in the EDC budget. There is no line item to beautify the town. It was done prior to last month's meeting and the bill has not been paid. M. Bronn suggested that it should be from Public Works. J. Huk noted that the transfer should be approved so the bill could be paid.

J. Levine would not like to have a motion for the approval of the transfer but would like to have a letter sent to the Chairman of the EDC as to an explanation of the decision to go ahead with an expenditure from an account without this Board's approval. After further discussion, J. Levine indicated that he will entertain a motion for the budget transfer.

Motion to approve the budget transfer in the amount of \$150.00 from Line Item 10-90-21-1385, Consultants, to Line Item 10-90-21-1040, Clerk, and a budget transfer in the amount of \$2,900.00 from Line Item 10-90-21-1385, Consultants, to Line Item 10-90-21-1295, Marketing: **Huk/Bronn**; no discussion; one aye by J. Huk and 4 nay by J. Dowdell, B. Ploss, M. Bronn and J. Levine. **Motion does not pass.**

Motion to have the Chairman of the Board of Finance contact the Chairman of the EDC to express the concern of the lack of procedure: **Levine/Bronn**; no discussion; 4 ayes by J. Levine, J. Dowdell, B. Ploss, and M. Bronn and 1 nay by J. Huk.

Motion to approve the budget transfer as stated previously: **Levine/Bronn**; no discussion; all ayes.

## **7. Correspondence**

### **a. Board of Finance Clerk's Invoice**

There was no invoice submitted for tonight's meeting by the clerk.

### **b. Other**

There was no other correspondence for tonight's meeting.

## **8. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, J. Levine asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting.

Motion to adjourn tonight's meeting at 8:58 P.M.: **Ploss/Huk**; no discussion; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo  
Clerk, Board of Finance