

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF FINANCE
Budget Workshop
March 30, 2017
REVISED MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Alliance

Board Members Present: Joe Rodorigo, Joe Dowdell, Tom Pratt, Marc Bronn, and Jim Huk

Not Present: Brian Ploss

Others Present: First Selectman Chris Bielik; Selectman Mike Krenesky; T. Broesler, Finance Manager; Len Greene, Town Clerk; Mary Ann Holloway, Tax Collector; Luke Marshall, Citizens News; and various Dept. Heads and Chairs of the Boards/Commissions

Chairman J. Rodorigo called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

2. Public Comment

J. Rodorigo asked three times and there were no public comments made at this time.

3. Budget Workshop - Discussion

a. Public Works – Rob Pruzinsky (Page 7)

The Members and R. Pruzinsky reviewed the budget as submitted.

R. Pruzinsky noted that the chipper could be removed. R. Pruzinsky also noted that the chip sealant line item should be changed to pavement maintenance or preservation as a better description of that line.

b. Park & Rec – Rob Pruzinsky (Page 9)

The Members and R. Pruzinsky reviewed the budget as submitted.

R. Pruzinsky noted that sanitation is increased due to the addition of Toby's Pond and Riverbend Park. It was also noted that vehicle maintenance is affected due to the new truck.

The Members and R. Pruzinsky reviewed and discussed the Capital Projects.

J. Huk asked if there are any "musts" and R. Pruzinsky indicated the 550 is. R. Pruzinsky also noted that they are "putting band-aids" on the town garage.

J. Rodorigo asked if there were any questions and there were none at this time.

c. WPCF – Walter Opuszynski (Page 8)

The Members and W. Opuszynski reviewed the budget as submitted.

J. Rodorigo asked about the alarm system. W. Opuszynski noted that there is back up with cell phones if the alarms go off and phone lines go down. M. Bronn noted that electricity is going up and asked about the solar plant benefits. C. Bielik indicated that it is not factored in yet.

J. Rodorigo asked if there is anything that is not on Dave Prickett's list that is being discussed with this budget. W. Opuszynski indicated that this budget has nothing to do with Prickett.

The Members and W. Opuszynski reviewed and discussed the Capital Projects.

J. Huk asked if the roof replacement has to be done and W. Opuszynski indicated that it started leaking. The pump house roof (Bldg. 2) is concrete and deteriorating. W. Opuszynski noted that they are looking at a new leftover and priced 2 different trucks. The crane truck that was received from the Fire Dept. needs too many repairs and the expense is costly.

J. Rodorigo asked if there were any questions and there were none at this time.

d. Fire Dept. – Chief Jim Trzaski, Asst. Brian DeGeorge, Captain Howard Leeper

The Members, Chief Trzaski, Asst. Chief DeGeorge, and Capt. Leeper reviewed the budget as submitted.

Chief Trzaski noted that there is a slight increase in the telephones and in Bldg. maintenance. Chief Trzaski also noted that the communications equipment increased due to purchasing lower-end portables. Chief Trzaski explained the request of having a stipend for the Chief as well as the amount paid to a firefighter per call.

The Members, Chief Trzaski, Asst. Chief DeGeorge, and Capt. Leeper reviewed and discussed the Capital Projects.

Chief Trzaski explained the “musts” of enhancements to the communication system, turnout gear for new members, and the 3rd & final phase of Engine 3. He then explained the “shoulds” of portable radio replacement and the purchase of 2 Lucas CPR automatic chest compression units. He then explained the “coulds” of pneumatic lifting bags and Station 2 remodeling/removal.

J. Roderigo asked if there were any questions and there were none at this time.

e. Police Dept. – Lt. Eddie Rodriguez (Page 6)

The Members and Lt. Rodriguez reviewed the budget as submitted.

The Members and Lt. Rodriguez discussed a change in the number of shifts and the pay rate to attract new officers. J. Roderigo would like 2 scenarios – with the part-timers and pay increase, and a number for a full timer.

There were no Capital Projects discussed with Lt. Rodriguez.

J. Roderigo asked if there were any questions and there were none at this time.

f. Library – Sue Dowdell and Eric Dev, Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees (Page 8)

The Members, S. Dowdell, and E. Dey reviewed the budget as submitted.

S. Dowdell indicated that the library is looking for a Technology Librarian. S. Dowdell noted that the computer support line item would be decreased/taken out if a Technology Librarian is hired. S. Dowdell also noted that some of the part timers are looking for other positions due to the rate of pay.

The Members and S. Dowdell reviewed and discussed the Capital Projects.

S. Dowdell is requesting 2 circulation computers since the ones the library has are from 2010.

J. Roderigo asked if there were any questions and there were none at this time.

g. Senior Services – Bernie Dionne (Page 10-11)

The Members and B. Dionne reviewed the budget as submitted.

B. Dionne explained that she is having a problem with keeping her hours below 20 hours per week and servicing the community with the mini bus.

J. Rodorigo asked if there were any questions and there were none at this time.

h. Assessor's Office – June Chadderton (Page 2)

The Members and J. Chadderton reviewed the budget as submitted.

J. Chadderton noted that she needs a new computer for her Capital Projects.

J. Rodorigo asked if there were any questions and there were none at this time.

i. Town Clerk – Len Greene

The Members and L. Greene reviewed the budget as submitted.

J. Rodorigo asked if there were any questions and there were none at this time.

j. Registrars of Voters – Kathy Grace and Helen Mis (Page 4)

The Members, K. Grace, and H. Mis reviewed the budget as submitted.

K. Grace and H. Mis explained that they are looking for an increase in pay based on the work load being more and there are more classes for new programs that they need to attend.

K. Grace and H. Mis indicated that the only Capital Project is electronic poll books.

J. Rodorigo asked if there were any questions and there were none at this time.

k. Tax Collector – Mary Ann Holloway

The Members and M. Holloway reviewed the budget as submitted.

J. Rodorigo noted that there is a discussion about the position being taken out as an “elected” position and making it a “paid” position. C. Bielik indicated that this is being reviewed by the Town Atty. for his legal opinion. The discussion will be tabled until the next Board of Finance meeting scheduled for April 18, 2017.

J. Rodorigo asked if there were any questions and there were none at this time.

l. Park & Rec – Bob Egan (Page 9)

The Members and B. Egan reviewed the budget as submitted.

J. Rodorigo asked if there were any questions and there were none at this time.

m. Community/Media Center Building Committee – Mike Krenesky

The Members and M. Krenesky reviewed the budget as submitted.

M. Krenesky explained that the \$60,000 is for Phase 1 - schematic design – for the program which would lead to a referendum on the project.

J. Huk pointed out that the Commission is a not budget holding department and therefore, cannot make request for capital and that was his understanding that the Commission was formed by the Board of Selectmen. J. Huk asked M. Krenesky if the request was in his role as a Selectman or as a member of the Commission. M. Krenesky responded it was as a member of the Commission. J. Huk asked if the Board of Selectmen had approved this request. M. Krenesky said they had not.

M. Krenesky provided an exhibit that provided high level estimates for the cost of a 10,000-square foot Library and 5,000-square foot Community Center. J. Huk asked M. Krenesky if he thought it followed normal project management methodology to begin expenditures on a project which did not have public approval, known stakeholders, or a clear sponsor. M. Krenesky agreed it did not. J. Huk asked why the Board of Selectmen did not make a request for the town to approve the entire project, not just the architectural fees. M. Krenesky responded that it would be a non-starter as the town would not approve a project for seven million dollars. J. Huk stated that it then made no sense for the town to spend money for a study on a project that he thought would not be approved.

M. Bronn noted that there was a library built in Oxford that totaled 8,000-square feet, and that Oxford is a larger town than Beacon Falls.

J. Rodorigo asked if there were any questions and there were none at this time.

4. Adjournment

J. Roderigo reminded the Members that the regular monthly meeting has been rescheduled from Tuesday, April 22, 2017, to a special meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. This meeting will be held at the Senior Center, starting at 7:00 PM.

The Members discussed the possible dates for the next budget workshop, a Public Hearing, and a Town Meeting. After a brief discussion, the next budget workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at the Senior Center, starting at 7:00 PM. The regular monthly meeting for May 2017 will be held on May 9, 2017, in the Town Hall Assembly Room, starting at 7:00 PM. The possible date for the Public Hearing is May 16, 2017 and the possible date for the Town Meeting is May 18, 2017.

With no further business to discuss tonight, J. Roderigo asked for to motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn tonight's meeting at 9:53 P.M.: **Huk/Pratt**; *no discussion*; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Board of Finance