

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF FINANCE
BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Joint Special Meeting
June 5, 2017
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag

Chairman Joe Rodorigo called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 P.M.

Board of Finance Members Present: Chairman Joe Rodorigo, Marc Bronn, Joe Dowdell, Tom Pratt, Jim Huk, and Brian Ploss (arrived at 7:08 PM)

Board of Selectmen Members Present: First Selectman Chris Bielik, Selectman Peter Betkoski (arrived at 9:00 PM), and Selectman Mike Krenesky

Approximately 15 members of the public present.

2. Department Head Comment

J. Rodorigo asked if there were any Dept. Heads present who would like to make a comment.

Sue Dowdell, Library Director, noted that she appreciates the difficult task ahead of the Boards and the items that she presented were approved by the Library Board. S. Dowdell requested that the Boards do not touch the part timers because it will affect the Library projects such as Robotics and Theater Group.

Jeremy Rodorigo noted that Fire Chief Brian DeGeorge is on his way. When Chief DeGeorge arrived, Joe Rodorigo asked if he had any comments to make and Chief DeGeorge did not.

3. Public Comment

J. Rodorigo asked three times if there were any comments from the public and there were none at this time.

4. Discussion of Municipal Budget for the Town of Beacon Falls, CT for Fiscal Year 2017-2018

J. Rodorigo noted that there have been some minor modifications made to the budget and the Boards will be going through each section to see if there are any further changes. J. Rodorigo noted that there was a line item omission in the Debt Services when the format was changed. The line item for Debt Service Principle should be at \$965,131 but the calculation does not change due to the omission.

Joe Dowdell wanted to go on records indicating that he believes that the budget in front of everyone tonight is the correct budget and that vote from last week was a true representation of the town. J. Dowdell noted that the budget as is should be the budget that goes to the referendum vote and will oppose any changes made tonight.

J. Rodorigo also wanted to go on records indicating that the budget that was presented was a very good budget, representing a .4 mil, and put us on the path that the Boards have been trying to do for the past three years.

The Boards reviewed the First Selectman section of the budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Town Hall section of the budget and there was a discussion on the Alarm System Monitoring. M. Bronn suggested that the Alarm System Monitoring should be cut from the budget and C. Bielik noted that it could be deferred until next year.

Motion to remove the Alarm System Monitoring in the amount of \$8,100 from the proposed budget: **Bronn/Huk;** discussion by M. Bronn noting that there would be a decrease on the other side since it is a new system. C. Bielik noted that this was a recommendation from the Risk Assessment Team. J. Huk also noted that this could be revisited at another time; **ayes – Bronn, Huk, Pratt, Ploss, Bielik, and Krenesky and nays – Rodorigo and Dowdell.**

M. Krenesky suggested to remove the Human Resources Specialist since it is a new item and an extra that would be nice to have and something that we need.

Motion to remove the Human Resources Specialist in the amount of \$25,100 from the proposed budget: **Krenesky/Huk;** discussion by J. Rodorigo indicated that by not having an HR person has cost the town thousands of dollars and this position is needed. J. Dowdell noted that the auditors have indicated that this position has been needed for many years; **ayes – Krenesky and nays – Rodorigo, Dowdell, Pratt, Bronn, Huk, Ploss, Bielik.**

The Boards reviewed the Town Clerk section of the budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Tax Collector section of the budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Treasurer line of the proposed budget and no change was made.

The Boards reviewed the Building Inspector section of the budget and there was a discussion on the Mileage. T. Pratt questioned the amount in the Mileage and J. Rodorigo indicated that the Building Inspector estimated the amount based on his mileage in Oxford and Seymour. There were no changes made in the Building Inspector section.

The Boards reviewed the Employee Benefits section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Board of Assessors section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

As a Point of Order, J. Huk asked who is a voting member of tonight's meeting and J. Rodorigo indicated that all of the members of the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen can vote tonight since it is a Joint Special Meeting.

The Boards reviewed the Board of Assessment Appeals section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Zoning Board of Appeals section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Board of Finance section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Finance Department section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Economic Development Commission section of the proposed budget and there was a discussion on an EDC Coordinator position. J. Rodorigo suggested the additional of a EDC Coordinator position in the amount of \$50,000 and then eliminate line items of Expenses in the amount of \$2,000 and Membership/Marketing in the amount of \$5,000. After a brief discussion, the amount was suggested to be changed to \$35,000 instead of \$50,000 by M. Bronn. C. Bielik asked for the recommendation of the Vice Chairman of EDC, Jeremy Rodorigo. Jeremy Rodorigo indicated that the Commission has been talking about this position for a number of years and a person is needed to focus 100% of their time and energy on bringing businesses to Beacon Falls. Jeremy Rodorigo believed that \$50,000 would be a good amount because \$35,000 might scare people away. After a brief discussion, a motion was made to add \$50,000 to EDC Consultant line item in the proposed budget.

Motion to increase the EDC Consultant line item in the proposed budget from \$0 to \$50,000: Huk/Bielik; discussion was held by the members if the amount should be \$35,000 or \$50,000. Based on the discussion, J. Huk amended the motion for an amount of \$35,000 instead of \$50,000.

Motion to increase the EDC Consultant line item in the proposed budget from \$0 to \$35,000: Huk/Bielik; no further discussion; **ayes – Rodorigo, Bronn, Huk, Pratt, Ploss, Bielik, and Krenesky and nays –Dowdell.**

The Boards reviewed the Inland Wetlands Commission section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Conservation Commission section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Planning & Zoning Commission section of the proposed budget and there was a discussion on the Wages, Enforcement line item. C. Bielik indicated that there is an opportunity of decreasing the Wages, Enforcement line item since the numbers of hours may be less than previously worked.

Motion to decrease the Wages, Enforcement line item in the proposed budget from \$31,491 to \$28,49; Bielik/Huk; no discussion; **ayes – Rodorigo, Bronn, Huk, Pratt, Ploss, Bielik, and Krenesky and nays –Dowdell.**

The Boards reviewed the Water Pollution Control Authority section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Registrars of Voters section of the proposed budget and there was a discussion on the Wages, Registrars (2) line item. It was noted that the amount was calculated incorrectly and corrected from \$25,500 to \$26,400 based on what they are currently making. The amount for the Registrars is \$1,100 per month times 2 Registrars for 12 months = \$26,400.

The Boards reviewed the Professional Fees section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Insurance section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Agency Membership section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Misc. Boards & Commissions section of the proposed budget and there was a discussion on removing \$500 from the proposed budget for the Sesquicentennial Committee.

Motion to decrease the Sesquicentennial Committee line item from \$500 to \$0 in the proposed budget: Pratt/ Rodorigo;*discussion noting that the Committee has never been formerly formed;***ayes – Rodorigo, Bronn, Huk, Pratt, Ploss, Bielik, and Krenesky and nays –Dowdell.**

The Boards reviewed the Fire and EMS section of the proposed budget and there were discussions on the several of the line items.

J. Rodorigo noted that the heat cost for Fire House #2 is very expensive, now there is phone and internet to pay for as well. T. Pratt asked about the thermostats and Chief DeGeorge indicated that they are digitally set now and the heat is not used all the time. T. Pratt suggested that the Chief watch the usage and set controls to help with the Utilities costs.

M. Bronn asked about the Personal Protection Equipment being in the proposed budget for \$52,000. M. Bronn asked if that much in new equipment is needed and Chief DeGeorge indicated that the Cap. portion is to bring the Fire Dept. up to where they should be since they are behind in replacement equipment. Chief DeGeorge noted that the equipment expires after a certain number of years. J. Huk asked since membership is at a high point, are more members needed. Chief DeGeorge explained that before, members would be there for 20 years and now, members are there for 5-6 years. Chief DeGeorge also noted that a membership drive is done when members leave.

T. Pratt asked about the Building Maintenance line item and what is projected for the coming year. Chief DeGeorge indicated that the line item is for general maintenance, no major projects are projected to be done. J. Rodorigo asked for the difference between Building Maintenance and Bldg. Equip. Maint. & Repairs. Chief DeGeorge indicated that the Bldg. Equip. Maint. & Repairs are for the fixtures inside the building.

T. Pratt asked in regard to Hose Replacement, is it a safe year. Chief DeGeorge indicated that it would be ok to skip one year.

Motion to decrease Bldg. Equip. Maint. & Repairs by \$500; decrease Communications Equipment – Maint. by \$1,000; and Equipment Maintenance by \$500: **Bronn/Pratt;no discussion;ayes – Rodorigo, Bronn, Huk, Pratt, Ploss, Bielik, and Krenesky and nays –Dowdell.**

Motion to decrease Hose Replacement Program FD by \$5,000: **Pratt/Huk;no discussion;ayes – Rodorigo, Bronn, Huk, Pratt, Ploss, Bielik, and Krenesky and nays –Dowdell.**

T. Pratt recommended in removing the \$18,000 from the Departmental Supplies – AMB by having the EMS account pay for the supplies and not have the split this year so the account stays soluble. J. Rodorigo indicated that there is a \$25,000 revenue line item and it would have to be taken on both side, giving a net \$0.00. Jeremy Rodorigo noted his concern with a possible loss in revenue. Joe Rodorigo indicated that this would be a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen since the Board of Finance does not have the authority to do it. C. Bielik and M. Krenesky agreed that it does not make sense to do at this time.

The Boards reviewed the Fire Marshall section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Emergency Management section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Safety Committee line item of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Fire Hydrants section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Police section of the proposed budget and there was a discussion on the Wages – Part Time Patrol.

C. Bielik noted that there is an opportunity to decrease the Wages – Part Time Patrol line item. C. Bielik also noted that an estimate of approximately how much additional coverage we would get from new hires is needed. J. Rodorigo indicated that \$57,000 has been spent in the past 11 months. After a brief discussion, a motion was made to decrease the line item.

Motion to decrease Wages – Part Time Patrol from \$107,800 to \$90,000: Huk/ Pratt; discussion by J. Rodorigo noted that he would be more comfortable with \$100,000 and C. Bielik suggested to change the line item to \$95,000. J. Huk amended his motion based on C. Bielik's suggestion.

Motion to decrease Wages – Part Time Patrol from \$107,800 to \$95,000: **Huk/ Pratt;no further discussion; ayes – Rodorigo, Bronn, Huk, Pratt, Ploss, Bielik, and Krenesky and nays – Dowdell.**

T. Pratt questioned the Wages – Overtime line item and how the holiday shifts are paid to the officers who worked a double shift. After a brief discussion, C. Bielik indicated that they will look into this. J. Rodorigo also indicated that the contract needs to be reviewed so we are not in violation of their contract.

Motion to decrease Wages – Overtime from \$42,000 to \$40,000: **Bronn/Pratt;discussion by C. Bielik indicated that this is not a good idea; ayes – Bronn, Pratt, Huk, Krenesky, Ploss, and nays – Bielik, Dowdell, Rodorigo.**

The Boards reviewed the Animal Control section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Public Safety section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Public Works section of the proposed budget and there was a decision on several line items.

T. Pratt asked about the Vehicle Maintenance in regard to the number of new vehicles put in place. C. Bielik noted that there have been several in the past couple of years and a new one coming. C. Bielik suggested changing the line item to \$30,000.

Motion to decrease Vehicle Maintenance from \$35,000 to \$30,000: **Huk/Bronn;***no discussion;***ayes – Rodorigo, Bronn, Huk, Pratt, Ploss, Bielik, and Krenesky and nays – Dowdell.**

Motion to decrease Snow Removal Material from \$75,000 to \$70,000: **Bronn/Pratt;***discussion by J. Rodorigo noting that line item started at \$90,000 by Rob Pruzinsky and it was already decreased to \$75,000. M. Bronn noted that we just purchased some towards the end of the season and we are in full inventory;* **ayes – Rodorigo, Bronn, Huk, Pratt, Ploss, Bielik, and Krenesky and nays – Dowdell.**

M. Krenesky questioned about budgeting for cutting a new brush & tree disposal area. M. Krenesky noted that there is nothing in the proposed budget for the work to be done. J. Rodorigo indicated that a request has never been made to have money in budget for the project.

The Boards reviewed the Town Garage section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Community Welfare section of the proposed budget and there was a discussion on the Town Nurse.

M. Bronn asked about the Town Nurse. C. Bielik indicated that there is an overwhelming support to have the Town Nurse and reminded the Board that it is a Union position. If the Town Nurse is laid off, then there are unemployment costs associated with the layoff

Motion to remove the Town Nurse from the proposed budget: **Bronn/Ploss;***discussion by C. Bielik indicated that the position cannot be cut without permission from the Board of Selectmen and not in favor of cutting this position. M. Krenesky noted that this could be discussed at the July Board of Selectmen meeting and Beacon Falls is one of the very few communities who have a Town Nurse. M. Krenesky also noted that the Town Nurse provides services to seniors and other people in the town and does not see how it can be cut this year. J. Rodorigo noted that all positions are not necessarily under the purview of the Board of Finance but under the Board of Selectmen.***M. Bronn withdrew his motion.**

The Boards reviewed the Refuse section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Wastewater Treatment section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

J. Rodorigo noted that the Bulky Waste Transfer is being budgeted for 7 in the proposed budget. There was a brief discussion on the number of months that the Bulky Waste Transfer should be opened.

The Boards reviewed the Library section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Parks & Recreation section of the proposed budget and there was a discussion on the Court Maintenance.

Motion to decrease Court Maintenance to \$2,000: **Huk/Pratt;no discussion;eyes – Rodorigo, Bronn, Huk, Pratt, Ploss, Bielik, and Krenesky and nays –Dowdell.**

The Boards reviewed the Community Media Center section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Minibus Operations section of the proposed budget and there was a discussion on the Wages – Driver.

Motion to decrease Wages – Driver from \$23,081 to \$18,000: Krenesky/Ploss; discussion by J. Rodorigo noting the town took the grant to purchase the minibus and if we stop running the minibus, then the money would have to be reimbursed. C. Bielik reminded the Boards that this is Union position. C. Bielik indicated that the position is funded for 20 hours per week. M. Krenesky amended his motion to decrease the line item to \$21,000.

Motion to decrease Wages – Driver from \$23,081 to \$21,000: **Krenesky/Ploss;no further discussion;eyes – Rodorigo, Bronn, Huk, Pratt, Ploss, Bielik, and Krenesky and nays – Dowdell.**

The Boards reviewed the Senior Citizens Center section of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Contingency line item of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Debt Service – Interest and the Debt Service - Principle sections of the proposed budget and no changes were made.

The Boards reviewed the Cap. Projects of the proposed budget. J. Rodorigo indicated that there are some that are contractual requirements and any decreases in the Cap. Projects do not improve the mil rate; the only thing it does is improve the unassigned fund balance.

The Boards did not make any changes to the Phone System – Town Hall; Security Upgrade – Police, Fire; Library Computer, scanners, software, installation; Codification – Town Clerk (this comes out of MERS); Replace Computers – Town Hall; Truck – Public Works; Antenna – Fire (this is LoCIP funding); Upgrades to Engine 3; Erect Garage – Wastewater Treatment; and Guard rail replacement – Public Works.

Motion to decrease Personal Protection Equipment to \$15,000: **Bronn/Rodorigo;discussion by Chief DeGeorge noting that there is gear expiring and they are treading water. C. Bielik also noted that there are 16 new members that need gear;no ayes and all nays.**

Motion to open Portable Radios for discussion: Pratt/Rodorigo. M. Krenesky asked what the original request was for and J. Rodorigo indicated that it was \$105,000 and it has now been broken down into three years, \$35,000 each year. A Katherine Matthies Foundation grant was applied for in the amount of \$10,000. There was no change made to the Portable Radios.

Motion to open Antenna for discussion: Ploss/ Rodorigo.J. Rodorigo indicated that the Antenna is for the redundancy to the calls at the Fire House. If power is loss, this will act as a backup and there is not back up now. J. Rodorigo also indicated that if the town does not receive the LoCIP funding then the project is not done. C. Bielik indicated that the money has to be approved for a certain project and the Antenna does fall under the LoCIP options. There was no change to the Antenna.

5. Discussion and Vote to Send Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Municipal Budget for the Town of Beacon Falls to a Public Vote

After calculating the changes that the Boards made tonight, the projected mil rate will change to 35.9. J. Rodorigo noted that this is an Expense Budget. The amount generated by tax revenue would be \$16,150,696. The town budget number would be \$6,748,256 and the starting number was \$6,822,012.

J. Rodorigo indicated that anything past what it here would affect Direct Personnel and the Board of Selectmen would need to make a recommendation.

6. Discussion and Vote on Format of the Public Vote

J. Rodorigo indicated that the Board of Finance would recommend to the Board of Selectmen to send the town proposed budget number of \$6,748.256 to a full-day Referendum to be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at Laurel Ledge School.

Motion that the Board of Finance recommends to the Board of Selectmen to send the town proposed budget number of \$6,748.256 to a full-day Referendum to be held on June 14, 2017 at Laurel Ledge School: Rodorigo/Huk; no discussion; **ayes – Rodorigo, Bronn, Huk, Pratt, Ploss, and nays –Dowdell.**

7. Adjournment

With no other business to discuss tonight, J. Rodorigo asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn tonight's Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen Joint Special Meeting at 9:09 PM: Bielik/Pratt;no discussion;all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Board of Finance

Clerk, Board of Selectmen

DRAFT