

**Board of Finance
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2018**

Members Present: M. Bronn, S. Leeper, T. Pratt, J. Rodorigo

Members Absent: B. Ploss, J. Carroll

Others Present: Finance Manager T. Broesler, Selectman M. Krenesky, Treasurer W. Rodorigo

1. **Call to Order:** M. Bronn called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Public Comment:** No comment.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** J. Rodorigo made a motion to accept all the minutes from March Board of Finance meetings and workshops. T. Pratt seconded the motion. All ayes.
C. Bielik entered meeting at 7:01 PM.
4. **Correspondence/Bills:**
 - a. Board of Finance Clerk Invoices: J. Rodorigo made a motion to approve three invoices from clerk Joann Overby, for the 3 meetings/workshops which took place in March. S. Leeper seconded the motion. All ayes.
 - b. No other invoices.
 - c. **Correspondence:** M. Bronn read the attached letter from Tax Collector, MaryAnn Holloway dated February 15, 2018 seeking a solution regarding 4 properties which are on her tax rolls where there is no expectation of receiving tax collections on these properties. These properties located at 119 & 123 Beacon Valley Road, 108 Beacon Valley Road and South Main Street, inflate her delinquent tax figures. The properties on Beacon Valley Road are unbuildable and contain a brook. The property on South Main Street is 10 feet wide and 700 feet long. After discussion and review of the maps of the property, J. Rodorigo recommended turning the matter over to the Town Attorney to begin the process of titling the property to the Town of Beacon Falls as excess acreage. J. Rodorigo made a motion that the Board of Finance recommends pursuing turning the titles of these properties over to the Town of Beacon Falls, and stopping tax collections on these properties. T. Pratt seconded the motion. All ayes.
5. **Reports:**
 - a. Ambulance Report: T. Pratt noted the report has just been published.
 - b. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Wendy Rodorigo noted there are no significant changes to note. The fire truck purchase impacted the Bonded Projects fund significantly.
 - c. Town Clerk Report: M. Bronn noted this was a strong month. Reporting is missing the last 2 days of March as the Town Clerk has new software being implemented.
 - d. Tax Collector's Report: The board reviewed the March report of the Tax Collector.

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6. **Finance Manager's Report:**

- a. Finance Manager T. Broesler noted that the town is in good shape expense wise, having spent 75% of the expense budget, which is where we should be at this point of the year, including capital purchases and the transfer to the SWWT fund. Tax collections continue to be strong.
- b. J. Rodorigo noted that the finance software vendor was approved at the Board of Selectman's Meeting. T. Broesler will be talking to the vendor to work out a schedule for implementation.

Selectman P. Betkoski entered the meeting at 7:15 PM.

7. **First Selectman's Report:**

- a. **Proposed Budget Transfers:** C. Bielik explained the first transfer is \$1001.00 from 10.90.13.1235 Wages Salary Adjustment to 10.90.07.1049 Tax Collector – Overtime to cover overtime worked by the Assistant Tax Collector during busy tax times. **J. Rodorigo made a motion to approve this transfer. T. Pratt seconded the motion. All ayes.**

There are two transfers from the Fire Department: The first is to transfer \$6418.80 from Contingency 10.90.83.1170 to Mandatory Vehicle Testing 10.90.44.1471. C. Bielik explained that the Fire Department needed to recertify all of their vehicles included Engine #1, because the new aerial truck was not in house in time. The board expressed concern that the Fire Department did not budget for the recertification of Engine #1. Gowan & Knight inspects and recertifies all of the trucks. M. Bronn asked if \$25,000 was enough to cover these inspections moving forward, and what was paid out of the Mandatory Vehicle Inspection line item last year. He requested General Ledger detail on the Mandatory Vehicle & Equipment Testing and Vehicle Repairs line item for the last 2 years, so the Board could see what was paid out of those line items. **J. Rodorigo made a motion to approve the transfer. S. Leeper seconded the motion. All ayes.**

The second transfer from the Fire Department is for \$4559.00 from Service Award 10.90.44.1500 to Equipment Maintenance 10.90.44.1466. There is a purchase order attached to this request. **At 7:25 PM, J. Rodorigo made a motion for a 5 minute recess to obtain the Purchase Order. T. Pratt seconded the recess. All ayes. At 7:30 PM, J. Rodorigo made a motion to call the meeting back to session. T. Pratt seconded this motion. All ayes.**

C. Bielik explained that the Purchase Order is for portable batteries for \$1,536.00. The Equipment Maintenance line is already over budget. There will be no further expenditures from Service Award line this year. The \$4,559 will give the Fire Department funds in the Equipment Maintenance line through the end of the year. M. Krenesky cautioned transferring funds in excess of what is currently needed. **J. Rodorigo made a motion to approve the transfer. S. Leeper seconded. All ayes.**

- b. **Update on Other Issues:** Regarding fuel cell energy plant project, the contract is in its 3rd revision of language. When C. Bielik receives the latest revisions of the language, he will staff it out for review by Attorney Stanek, by CIRMA and the Finance Manager. J. Rodorigo noted that contract in its current form has lots of problems. J. Rodorigo asked who reviews the numbers on

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the contract, as this one of the single largest financial decision this Town will ever make. He suggested that the Town talk to an outside attorney with expertise in this area. M. Bronn asked about the scope of this project and future expansion. C. Bielik explained that the project is roughly 1/3 of the size of first fuel cell energy project. The project in Beacon Falls is shovel ready. The first project was much larger, but the last round of green energy bidding included all forms of green energy over 3 states. This round of bidding is for Connecticut only and for fuel cell plants only.

J. Rodorigo's concern is that the tax stabilization agreement must be renegotiated with each expansion of the plant. C. Bielik noted that at some point in the future, if there is a new offering from the State of CT, at that point the developers would need to come back and renegotiate the tax stabilization agreement. He noted that a new RFP would be needed to expand the plant and with the new RFP, there would be a new contract.

C. Bielik noted that the new language is being drafted and it is forthcoming. J. Rodorigo wants to make sure that we understand the language in a manner that is easily explainable. C. Bielik noted that the agreement does not impact the Eversource infrastructure needed to build the plant, which will be taxed at our normal rate. The tax stabilization schedule is for the plant itself and what is inside the fence line.

C. Bielik noted that the developer needs to come in with a competitive RFP to win the bid and they need an agreement that gives them the best chance to win. Locking in language that is too restrictive, may restrict future building.

M. Bronn asked the value of the project and an estimated assessment is \$185M. The developer will most likely sell it and then it becomes an annuity. J. Rodorigo noted we will wait for 3rd variation of the language. M. Bronn asked when the project can move forward and C. Bielik noted that if Beacon Falls is elected, work can begin this summer, as all preliminary work has all been completed.

T. Broesler noted that the important thing to note about the tax stabilization agreement is that there is a steady increase for the first 13 years with 6-7% increases early on. M. Bronn stated that this is a sizable project and the Town should be a partner.

- c. This item can be removed from the agenda. The Town Clerk is not going to take a paid position. He will serve out his term as an elected official. The Tax Collector will take a paid position and stay on through her term of 11/2019. She will earn her salary of \$12,000 and also earn an hourly rate as a 25 hours per week – paid employee. When her term is up, the Town will interview and hire a tax collector for the position.

8. Budget Discussion

The Public Hearing on the budget is Thursday, April 12th at 7:00 PM at Laurel Ledge. The Board of Finance is ready for the presentation.

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There are no changes to the budget. Region 16's proposed budgeted expenses for the Town are \$13,400 less than our budgeted number. If the Region 16 Budget is approved at the proposed number, the Town will then reduce the Revenue amount being taken from Undesignated Fund Balance by \$13,400, in order to balance the budget.

There was no 9. Old Business or 10. Action Items discussed.

11. New Business

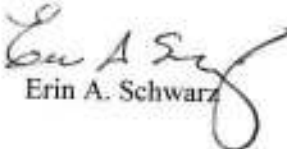
- a. Purchasing Policy – For next month, the Finance Policy Manual will be updated to include information on insurance and licensing requirements for Town vendor.
- b. M. Bronn asked about the Fire Department's need for equipment on the new aerial ladder truck – Truck #6. The old Truck #1 has been stripped of detachable equipment, but hoses and radios are needed for the new vehicle which were not budgeted. The Fire Department will be selling Engine #1, which will provide some of the funds, but what other funds are needed. Does the 2018-2019 budget reflect what will be needed for this truck next year? The Board of Finance would like to invite the Fire Chief to their next regular meeting to discuss budget needs for Truck #6.
- c. M. Krenesky brought up an issue facing the Board of Selectman on the Board & Commissions clerks pay rates. J. Rodorigo stated that the Board of Selectman set the salary schedule and it is their jurisdiction to do so. The Boards and Commissions do not have the authority to set the clerk pay rates. J. Rodorigo also stated that anyone who receives a check from the Town of Beacon Falls is at the subject and pleasure of the First Selectman. This is the statute under our form of government that the authority rests with the First Selectman. If someone is unhappy with their pay rate, they can choose not to work for the Town.

12. Public Comment - None

13. Executive Session – Not Needed

14. Adjournment: M. Bronn called for adjournment of the meeting at 8:05 PM. **J. Rodorigo made a motion to adjourn and T. Pratt seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Respectfully Submitted,


Erin A. Schwarz



Town of BEACON FALLS
Connecticut

M.A. HOLLOWAY
Tax Collector

*Beacon Falls Taxpayers
keep their town
GOING and GROWING!*

February 15, 2018

To: Board of Selectmen
Board of Finance
Planning & Zoning Commission
Economic Development Commission
Inlands Wetlands Commission
Open Space & Land Use Committee

First Selectman
Chairman
Chairman
Chairman
Administration
Michael Opuszynski

Christopher Bielik
Marc Bronn
Kevin McDuffie
John W. Betkoski III
David Keating
Chairperson

Re: Casimer A. Elnick
119 & 123 Beacon Valley Rd.

Hickory Builders
108 Beacon Valley Rd.

Jones & Valois
South Main St.

I am sending this letter in the hopes that a solution can be found.

The above properties are assessed each year inflating our General Ledger numbers, with absolutely no expectation of ever collecting the tax dollars, thus giving the Town an inaccurate collectible figure to base their budget numbers on. \$3,395.08 was assessed in the current G/L year 2016 for all above certainly not a high number; however, the delinquent figure for all years has been inflated to \$113,563.17 due to interest. It is a futile tax effort on both the Assessor and myself to have to keep projecting these numbers.

119 & 123 Beacon Valley Rd. has a brook running thru it, 108 Beacon Valley Rd. is unbuildable, and the problem with South Main St area is unknown to me. Casimer A. Elnick and Ralph Randall of Hickory Builders are deceased with no known relatives as far as I can conclude.

I have enclosed maps of the areas in question to familiarize you with the locations.

Very Truly Yours,

Mary Anne Holloway
Tax Collector

Cc: June Chadderton, Assessor

