



BEACON FALLS BOARD OF FINANCE
Monthly Meeting
May 22, 2018
Minutes
(Subject to Revision)

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

Board Members Present: Marc Bronn, Joe Rorigo, Steven Leeper, Tom Pratt, Jim Carroll

Brian Ploss Absent

Others Present: Erin Schwartz, Finance Department, Tom Broesler, Finance Manager.
Selectmen Chris Bielik, Selectmen Mike Krenesky,

Marc Bronn called the meeting to order at 7:07PM

Motion to move agenda item 9 Budget Discussion to agenda item #2; Pratt/Leeper; No discussion; all ayes.

2. Budget Discussion – Board of Finance to vote on sending the Municipal budget and Capital project to vote and by a method of voting for Fiscal Year 2018/2019

Bielik: made some changes to the budget, on contract negotiation saving of \$3,700.00, public works contacted employee expensive came in at 2% instead of 2.5%. Also, the payment if they don't take medical insurance, down net savings \$1,000.00.

Bronn: with the new state budget and the few changes we made we have a zero impact budget.

Carroll: I have a question. When we did the budget the \$275,000.00 take care of the one-time non-recurring capital cost, and being transferred from the unassigned balance. For the past two years every time we had a town meeting and talked about it, both Chris and Joe told the taxpayers, that don't worry about it because it doesn't affect your mil rate. Yes, it will affect the mil rate the mil rate should be coming down.

Bielik: It was a discussion, with Tom and Joe, proposal, When we originally crafted this budget we didn't think we were going to get money back from our municipal aid

package, you can make an argument that the one time good deal that the government gave back to us in an election year, we can think of the money as a one-time revenue. Because we are probably only getting it this one time. The amount will go down next year if we go for a big mil rate decrease now next year what happens next year when the amount come in lower. And we increase the tax expenses, it more prudent to back it off from 98 1/2 to 98%. If we have to make up expensive for next year and make up for the mil rate decrease this year it will hit us twice as hard next year to bring it back up. Spend the money on the budget and keep the mil rate flat and keeping the rainy day solvent. Based on FEMA work we are looking at six figures for a cleanup cost. Eventually, when we get the money back from FEMA at 80%, we have to pay it up front.

Bronn: What is the unassigned fund balance today? Broesler: it'at \$400,000.00. Bronn: Our surplus for 2018 is projected to be a deficit. So we will have a \$400,000.00 cushion for next year. Are there any big capital projects for next year? Bielik: Ambulance and a car for the Fire Department, the Ecar.

Rodorigo: Discussion that was made about the new money from the state funding was done when I wasn't here. About taking the Cap list and using the money for the state money, I didn't make that decision I read it in the minutes. So I didn't want to come in yesterday and go against what you guys decided to do. And I agree with one-time revenue and one-time balance. And we know we are going out to bond so we are going to need money to capitalize the bond next year, the roads, vehicle, etc. You also have a couple of projects that are approved, but not funded our amount is \$3 million dollars, Beacon Valley Road, covert at Lopus Road. And we also learned the bridge at Skokorat Rd is deteriorating and needs to be reinforced, and we don't even have engineering numbers on that yet. But based on the covert on Lopus our cost is 2 million, what do you think the cost of the bridge is going to be? These are some are big ticket items you will need to front money for. This cleanup will be well over \$100,000.00 and if we do everything right we get 80% back. When they did superstorm Sandy we missed out on \$190,000.00 from FEMA because the paperwork wasn't done on times and correct. And they may not fund everything. I know \$400,000.00 isn't a lot of money and leaving some money in the account is a very prudent thing to do. The big battle was over 3/10ths of a mil rate. The town operating balance went up \$90,000.00; you don't do better than that. And we lost with a 3/10th of a mil rate. What going to happen next year, if you give them ½ mil plus what needs to done.

Carroll: we have been telling the taxpayers we could use the unassigned fund balance, and it wouldn't change the rate. And last year the mil rate went up 3 mils. Rodorigo: If you do the adjustment based on the grand list it went up to 1.2mils.

Bielik: it's a very easy argument with the \$400,000.00 is one-time revenue so with putting the funding in the balance, we are using it for one-time revenue and one-time expense. I am basing it on past history.

Motion to bring this budget to the public for a vote at a town meeting; Rodorigo/Bronn; no discussion; 4 Ayes, 1 nay

Motion to move the fund transfer of \$19,900.00 Move it up on the agenda to item 3 and to take no action on it now. Rodorigo/Pratt; See below: all ayes.

3. Budget transfer for disaster clean up
 1. Budget transfer for storm
 2. Budget transfer for grappling hook

Bielik: It's preliminary to not make a motion to vote on the transfer right now. Bronn: what about the grabbling hook? Bielik: he has money in his budget right now, and maybe requesting a fund balance transfer later. We don't need to take any action on this right now, Bronn: will this impend the storm clean up? Bielik: Rob said it has an 8 week lead time so we don't have to make decisions tonight. Rodorigo: we can spend all the money if we need to in an emergency situation for the cleanup.

Motion to the tax incentive application to item number 3 from 4 Bronn/Carroll: no discussion; all ayes.

4. Tax Incentive Applicant presentation :

Golden Rod Industry at the industrial park, we are in the process of putting on an addition to our building we have several projects new capabilities, and cash is strapped with a growing business. \$300,000.00 worth of machinery going straight to the grand list. So this program helps us, we can add new employees. Bronn: What is your timetable for your first project. Golden Rod: We broke ground on it. Bronn: Any completion date on it? GoldenRod: Four to Six weeks.

Motion to approve the application submitted by Golden Rod for Tax Incentive; Bronn/Rodorigo: no discussion; All ayes.

Mario Trepca, LLC 49 Main St, Seymour CT. I own 2 real estate in Beacon falls 113/115 South Main St. I've invested about 300,000.00, I'm talking with a physical therapist it will employ 10-12 people. Also talking with a lady who wants to open a wholesale bakery. We signed a contract to have the parking lot paved. And by the time the property is about \$450,000.00.

Rodorigo: Mario and I have a business relationship I have to abstain from this conversation.

Bronn; with a tax incentive will it give you the ability to lower your rent for your tenants? Mario: yes it will

Motion to approve the tax extensive Carroll/Pratt; no discussion; 4 approval, 1 abstain.

5. Public Comment:

Chairman Marc Bronn asked three times if there were any members of the public present to make a comment at this time. None

6. Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting:

Motion to accept the minutes from the previous meetings held on April 10, 2018: Pratt/Leeper; no discussion; 4ayes, 1 abstain

7. Correspondence/Payment of Bills:

- a. Board of Finance Clerk's Invoice,
Motion to approve and pay the clerk \$51.00 for the invoice as submitted for the BOF meeting April 12, 2018, Leeper/Pratt;no discussion; all ayes.

Joseph Rodorigo left the meeting at 7:20 P.M.

- b. Other Invoices: - NONE

- c. Other Correspondence- None

8. Reports:

- a. Ambulance Service Report-

Pratt; Ambulance Service Report- Pratt: This past month we had to refund \$2,419.95, some of the requests go back from 2014. We are doing ok, the balance is holding, the insurance companies are paying their debts.

- b. Town Treasurer's Report-Bronn: Save for next month's meeting.

- c. Town Clerk's Report- Bronn: Save for next month's meeting.

- d. Tax Collector's Report-Bronn: Save for next month's meeting

- e. Liaison Update- This will be removed from the agenda going forward.

Bronn:

- 9. Finance Manager's Report:**Bronn: Tom, you did great for us while you were here and congratulations and good luck with your future.

10. First Selectman's Report:

- a. Proposed Budget Transfer-

Motion to approve the four transfers, First one for \$825.00 from Telephone line # 10.30.45.1130 into- Misc. Exp. Line # 10.90.11.20 for \$825.00. Second one for \$155.00 from Veteran'sFunerals line # 10.90.63.1400 into Health District line # 10.90.63.1735 for \$155.00. Third one for \$317.00 from Electricity & Waterline # 10.90.79.1121 into Heating Oil line # 10.90.79.1120 for \$317.00. Fourth one for \$500.00 from Contingency line # 10.90.83.1170 into Assessor computer support line # 10.90.15.1060 for \$500.00. Motion to approve all transfers; Leeper/Pratt;*no discussion*; all ayes

Bronn: What is the status of Tom B. replacement position.

Bielik: we used our HR people to do this. They took charge of the receipt of all applications. We posted the position on the town website; we also posted it on the GFOA website and CCM website. The closing period will be this weekend. I want to see the top 3 candidates and hope the interviews will start. The Board of Selectmen, HR and one Board of Finance will sit in on the interviews. Thinking the interviews will be June 6, 2018.

b. Update on O&G property- Bielik: I had a meeting with O&G on the property and gave them out proposal, and I am waiting for a date for a follow-up meeting.

Pratt: How is the phone upgrades going at the Police Station?

Schwartz: They are going well, a little echo, and when the internet goes down, the phones go down, so we need a backup for that. There is some money left in the budget so they are looking as to what can be done. And the security system is installed.

11. Old Business:None at this time.

12. Action Items:None at this time.

13. New Business:None at this time.

14. Public Comments:

Chairman Marc Bronn asked three times if there were any members of the public present to make a comment at this time.

15. Executive Session (If needed) Bronn: Stated none was needed.

16. Adjournment:Pratt/Leeper/Pratt,*no discussion*; all ayes. 7:52 P.M.

The next Board of Finance meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 12, 2018, starting at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joann Smith Overby
Clerk, Board of Finance

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