



## Beacon Falls Board of Finance BUDGET WORKSHOP MARCH 14, 2019

(Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Tom Pratt, Marc Bronn, Steven Leeper, Kyle Brennan, Larry Hutvagner, Jim Carroll

Others Present: First Selectmen Chris Bielik, Selectmen Michael Krenesky, Erin Swartz, Finance Manager Natasha Nau. Shawn Styfco  
Jamie Gracy came in at 7:17 PM; Rob came in at 7:17 PM  
Peter Betkoski came in at 7:29 PM  
Lt. Eddie Rodriguez came in at 7:45 PM  
Citizen News.

2. Budget Workshop with Department Head – Discussion

a. EDC/ Sadie (7:00PM)

Sadie: We are requesting to maintain the current funding.

TP: Wanted to know if there was anything holding companies back from coming to Beacon Falls. Sadie: Not really, maybe just not having developmental land to build on.

MB: Any new business you are taking with new to Beacon Falls. Sadie: Yes I've talked with a few different companies looking into Beacon Falls.

There were no Capital Projects discussed with Sadie/EDC

Chris Bielik: Introduced our new Finance Manager to the Board of Finance, Natasha Nau.

Natasha Nau, Happy to be here, and gave a quick summary of her recent jobs positions and titles.

b. Public works (7:30 PM)

CB: Noted there was a sinkhole on Skokorate St. today and we will be looking for a long term fix on it.

Rob P: priorities I would say roads. Specifically Beacon Valley Rd. A lot of the overlay is coming up, water damage. If you reclaim it you would be reshaping the road. Possibly get 15 years out of it.  
TP: Asked about chip seal. Rob: you need to chip seal those about five years after they have been repaved. TP: We need a plan to get the roads done. What would be the next road? Rob: Skokorate would be the next one to attack. There is a sinkhole that just happened. Showed the board the pipe that broke and how bad it is. TP: Any price on what it would cost to run cameras down there? Rob: No I was just working on the repair today. TP: Let's see what the pipes look like in the next two weeks.  
Natasha: Explain about the street scan that is in the budget packet and how it works and how the study will prioritize the roads that need to be taken care of. ES: a source of funds that we have the West Rd steep grand that's ½ million dollars and it needs to be spent. CB: We would like to repurpose the grant and use it towards the Beacon Valley Rd.

Rob: noted about different Capital Projects he would like, mower, 2000 plow needs to be rebuilt just the blade, clay at field 3 we take care of it ourselves. Curbing machine, Tennis court repairs. Street sweeper, the state may enforce the streets are swept 4 times a year. We were looking for something older. Explained about the municipality cost sharing of equipment program and how it works well for us. About doing some upgrades to the transfer station. TP: The town voted to purchase a plow truck, I wanted to know about Rob's feelings, Erin finds the grant and then send them to the Department Head, and goes from there, we have two 550 trucks, and those are the workhorse when there are storms. Rob P: feeling that we shouldn't get rid of the bigger truck, and have a little one. If you look at that 40,000.00 you can't buy a big truck with it. Discussion about the plow truck contained.

TP: A few citizens have some comments, the walk along South Main St. why is the truck plowing the walkway, and aren't they killing the grass when they come off it?

Rob: It's a concrete curb and, the walkway is 8 feet wide.

LH: You have a potential situation if you don't plow it.

TP: The other comment is about the two trash cans are tipped sideways.

Rob: They will be straightening out.

TP: You spent about \$6,000.00 for speed limits signs, my recommendation to you I would strongly suggest to move it into a road repair fund or something. Try to use it for your roads.

CB: Speeders going down certain roads when we have two policemen on duty they can't be every, we get complaints all the time. It is a deterrent.

TP: With the weather changing, how does the vacation work for your department?

Rob: in the contract, they can take at any time? It's more of a curtsey thing and they know they shouldn't take time off during the winter.

LH: Do you have a 5-year plan on all of your equipment?

Rob: Yes we do have one.

TP: You guys are doing a great time.

NN: Put together a 10-year plan, there might be unknowns, roads, fleets, and everything.

c. Police (8:00 PM)

Eddie R: computers (tough books) for the vehicles the state police upgrades and we have to also, they are 10 years old. And the body cameras are a priority. MB: Do all towns have them? ER: Yes most towns have them and it helps you out. MB: for 18 thousand how many cameras is that? ER: It's only 6 cameras. ES: What about the data charges? ER: I believe its cover under one of the packages for the first 3 years. MB: Are they comfortable and lightweight? ER: Yes they are very comfortable to wear, it only comes on when light and sirens come on. NN: Any issues with them are turning them off? LR: There is a protocol for that and if they don't then it goes up to the commander. ER: We have 8 computers that are 10 years old.

ER: Capital improvements, Rob looked at our roof and we should have a couple more years. Body armor they last every 5 years, we got them all at the same time ES: You've purchased five of them this year already; there will be a transfer for them. NN: There is a grant coming up for them and see if we can put in an application for them. TP: speeding tickets in our town how does that work, how much does the Town of Beacon Falls get? ER: It's a very small amount we get. TP: Why don't we get a good portion of that money back to us we, are paying for a resident state trooper. They use our town but we get nothing for it. LH: There is a State program if you're not on the Resident Trooper program you get a check for a quarter of the money. TP: Ask if there were any more questions for Eddie. MB: How are the shifts do we have enough? ER: noted how the shifts worked. TP: How are all the vehicle's doing? Maybe in the Capital Plan, we should include that with Erin's plan. ER: Every two years would be the best to rotate them. CB: How many functional vehicles do we have right now? ER: There are 5 of them that we use.

TP: We will be sending you notice if dollar amounts need to be cut and we will give the department heads a chance to make that choice, after the email you will have 48 hours to make the cuts.

3. Set the date for a Special Meeting/March Business:

Motion to approve a Special Meeting on March 20, 2019, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall meeting room, Hutvagner/Leeper; no discussion; all ayes.

MK: there is nothing on the Community Center/Media in the Capital Plan this year can this be added to your next meeting agenda?

TP: We will put it on the March 20, 2019, agenda.

MK: I think it needs to be disbanded with all the things that need to be done with the town right now. There is no way to push it forward.

NN: Maybe add it to our 10-year plan.

4. Adjournment

Motion for adjourning tonight's meeting at 8:35 PM; Hutvagner/Bronn; no discussion; all ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joann Smith Overby  
Clerk Board of Finance