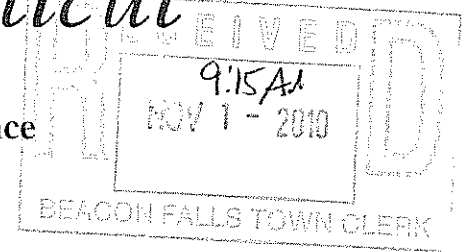


Town of BEACON FALLS
Connecticut

Board of Finance



**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS
BOARD OF FINANCE/BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday October 25, 2010
Preparation for Informational Public Hearing for Bond
Package**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman W. Hopkinson called the Special meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

Present: Board of Finance: C. Bielik, G. Smith, B. Ploss, R. Doiron, Board of Selectmen: S. Cable, M. Krenesky, D. Sorrentino, Fire Department; M. Pratt, J. Rodrigo

W. Hopkinson noted that because there will be no voting at the presentation meeting, that no appointments will need to be made. The meeting will be opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, the call will be read and W. Hopkinson will give a brief presentation of how the meeting will be run. It will be made very clear that this is an informational only meeting. The meeting will then be turned over to Department Heads to explain their requests. Each Department will present and explain their request. After all items have been presented, members of the public will be allowed to ask questions and make comments, each will be allowed 2 minutes for the first time around.

Fuel Tank Removal was discussed. M. Pratt handed out new prices (he noted that he thought the quotes from Navis and Young were too high) which total \$57,498 to complete the job. (The information provided by M. Pratt was reviewed). W. Hopkinson will have M. Gomes update the project sheet to reflect the changed from \$125, 000 to \$65,000 for fuel tank removal. The information that M. Pratt provided included 3 different vendors all approved by Beacon Falls and DEP approved. W. Hopkinson wanted to know who would keep tract of road fuel; M. Pratt noted that he will take full responsibility of this fuel as long as he is the Fire Chief.

1. Fuel Tank Removal - This will be presented by M. Pratt

2. W. Hopkinson asked M. Pratt to put a sign in front of the Fire House all day Tuesday October 26, 2010 stating that there will be an information meeting at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the bond package. M. Pratt said that he would do that.

3. It was decided that the documents containing information for each project does not need to be distributed to the public as each Department Head will explain each.

4. Matthies Park - Joe Rodrigo will present Matthies Park. W. Hopkinson wanted to be sure that when Matthies is presented, it is made clear that some of the items on the Matthies list have to be done. There are issues with the slues canals that if not taken care of will create more problems therefore some work must take place at Matthies.

5. Ladder Truck - Jeremy Rodrigo will present the Ladder Truck

6. Air Packs were discussed. The Board of Finance wanted to be sure that what they were asking for was all that they needed. Jeremy Rodrigo will present on the Air Packs

(W. Hopkinson will have M. Gomes put the Bond Package outline in order of how it will be presented grouping the Fire Department items together).

7. Ambulance - Jeremy Rodrigo will be presenting the ambulance

8. Road Projects - E. Bea (road Foreman) will be presenting on the roads. (the STEAP grant was discussed and it was noted that we did receive the grant and it will off-set the monies needed and that should be mentioned or explained). (If Jim Gallagan is at the meeting, he may be able to discuss the roads as well).

9. Pay Loader - E. Bea will present the pay loader (a discussion took place regarding a side load bucket and it was noted that if we are purchasing a new pay loader, a side load bucket should be included).

10. Sewer Plant - B. Fitzpatrick will present the Sewer Project. A question regarding phosphor was raised. B. Fitzpatrick was called and D. Sorrentino relayed his message to the meeting that we will not have any idea what the state will require him to do regarding the phosphor issue. The question regarding the phosphor cannot be answered until we know what the State will require.

A question was raised as to whether or not anyone thought the Board of Finance should speak regarding any of the above items. C. Bielik explained that he thought this should be a public hearing and comment session and that the Department heads should answer all questions. When the bond package goes before an actual vote might be a better time for the Board of Finance to weigh in. G. Smith noted that if he should decide to speak, he will recues himself from the Board of Finance and speak as a member of the public. G. Smith noted that if he decides to speak (and he has not made the decision yet but it will be based on information he still needs to get) he will let W. Hopkinson know that he will be speaking and what subject he will be speaking on. G. Smith did note that one of the

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issues that he is concerned about is the road analysis. He noted that the documentation that was received from Navis and Young states on in the first paragraph that the information is based on "physical inspection and review of the 1999 Capital Improvements Plan". He notes that he is unclear as to whether or not the roads have been physically looked at and evaluated since 1999. He questions if this statement means that the town Foreman physically inspected the roads (because he noted that is what needs to be done) or are these numbers based on a 1999 plan - he questions why a 1999 plan would be referenced if it wasn't used. G. Smith noted that as the Board of Finance, they are the "watchdogs" of the town's finances and he believes that there is a lot of information that is "not" included in this package. He also noted that it is difficult to ask the right questions if you do not know the questions to ask. A discussion continued regarding this subject with G. Smith noting that there are still a lot of unanswered questions. R. Doiron noted that if he was the Road Foreman, he would know if this list is accurate and the condition of each road. Again, it was noted that the general public will not know which questions to ask. A discussion continued on whether or not to list the roads that are in the package and it was noted that all should be prepared to answer the question or defer it to the Road Foreman.

B. Ploss brought up the question as to whether or not this is the complete "wish" list. M. Pratt noted that the Fire House still needs a new roof and M. Krenesky noted that last week Public Works told him of a new dump truck that they will want next year. W. Hopkinson noted that she will defer these to the Board of Selectmen. M. Krenesky noted that he keeps hearing from people outside of these meetings that they want to know what the "next" bond package will include or how many more bond packages will we be looking into. W. Hopkinson noted that as the Board of Finance, they do not know the needs of every department until it is presented to them. M. Krenesky brought up the new school project and the expenses coming and wanted to be clear that this is the kind of the information that the public needs to be educated on; that we are not making a decision on just one year and that the expenses do not stop here; the public needs to know where we are heading. M. Pratt noted that on behalf of the Fire Department, if they get what they are asking for, they will be in good shape for a while.

B. Ploss explained that the reason he voted no on the motion to bring the bond package before the town for discussion was because he doesn't believe that the list is correct. W. Hopkinson noted that she did not know that B. Ploss voted no on this issue. B. Ploss noted that he doesn't feel comfortable with this list.

W. Hopkinson noted to the members of the Board of Finance that when her term as Chairman of the Board of Finance is over (sometime in the next few weeks or so), she will be stepping down from the position. She noted that if the Board of Finance is not together on presenting this package, it is a problem. W. Hopkinson explained that her function as Chairman of the Board of Finance is very time consuming and she puts a lot of time and effort into it. She noted that it was a very difficult budget process and now presenting a bond package without the support of the Board as a whole is also very difficult. (W. Hopkinson noted that in the past, the Board as a whole has been supportive but at this point, she does not feel that they are together on this issue - she noted that she

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does not want to be in the position to be "hung out to dry". A discussion continued regarding this issue. G. Smith noted that he was clear on where he stood and what he supported on the bond package which was anything that was mandated. B. Ploss noted that just because he voted "no" does not mean that he does not support the Board on this issue he just believes the list is incomplete. W. Hopkinson noted then that we should not be presenting this to the public at this point.

M. Krenesky asked what the Board of Finance would feel comfortable presenting. It was noted that there will always be more to add to the list and this is what we have to do at this point. C. Bielik noted that we can only trust what the Departments are telling us they need. C. Bielik noted that we have to deal with the short term issues at this time. B. Ploss noted that he believes that they will be more effective in getting what they want in the "first go-around" rather than two years down the road asking for more. C. Bielik noted that he does not believe they will get all that's on this list as it stands and noted that whatever does not make this package will have to go on the next package anyway. He noted this will be a continually rolling process.

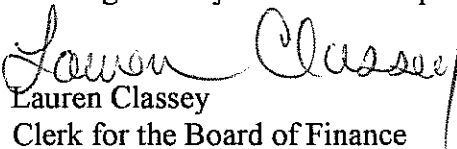
G. Smith, as the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Finance noted for the record that when W. Hopkinson stepped down as Chairman of the Board, he will not seek the Chairmanship. He also noted that his issue relating to the bond package is that he has a problem supporting anything at this time that is not mandated. He noted that his position was very clear on this. G. Smith also noted that it is healthy for everyone on a Board of Finance to disagree on some issues. It was noted that most members of the Board of Finance do not support everything on the list and it was re-iterated that this upcoming meeting is to present it to the town for informational purposes only.

W. Hopkinson noted that she does not want the public to think that the Board of Finance supports everything on the list nor does she want to have to go over the item members of the Board of Finance may or may not support. G. Smith agreed.

R. Doiron motioned to adjourn the meeting. G. Smith 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.


Lauren Classey
Clerk for the Board of Finance

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