

if the taxpayers want the budget cut then they are going to have to feel some pain. He noted that here we are tonight looking at cuts in children's programs, elderly programs, etc. He noted that it seems like these cuts were specifically designed to generate some pain to the town so that you would regret asking for cuts. At this point, several members of the Board of Finance began to respond. W. Hopkinson said that she would like to speak directly to that comment as she is responsible for the Board of Finance. Ed Groth interjected that there were comments made and he did not say "everyone" and he continued with his suggestions. He noted that he believes cuts could be made without inducing so much pain on the town, i.e., Public Works had many items cut but there was no reduction in head count. He noted that you now have the same amount of people with much less work. S. Cable noted that how do you get people out to vote and pay attention. She noted that they made a lot of cuts not because they wanted to punish people because they wanted to let people know what we put into in time and effort into a budget to make people understand what it takes to they become aware and come and learn about and talk about the budget. She noted that is the goal, not to beat people up because in the long run they are hurting themselves. She noted that they worked so hard to get some of these programs established and if they that this budget does not affect the Boards then something is wrong. W. Hopkinson noted in respect to Ed Groth's comments that it was certainly never the intention or spirit of the Board of Finance. She noted that if that is the person she has become then she will resign today. Ed Groth responded by saying he is not referring to everyone and W. Hopkinson reminded him that his is addressing the entire Board and she wants to respond personally and publically on their behalf. She noted that they are very avid users of the Library, her kids play baseball in the sports program and they use a multitude of services in Beacon Falls and she loves this town. She noted that his is killing her. G. Smith echoed W. Hopkinson's sentiments.

Ed Groth continued regarding the areas of where the cuts were made. S. Cable interjected that these were the concerns and cuts that they heard over and over at the meetings. She noted that it was not fair to take away from the seniors and not the kids. They tried to make a balance all the way across. S. Cable noted that they have people here tonight who are giving their input of which the Boards will sit and talk about and noted that yes we got people's attention a little bit.

R. Doiron also responded that he does not believe any member from either the BOF or BOS that was not frustrated after they heard the budget was shot down. He noted that they have put in so much time and effort into creating the budget that was defeated that when they got to the meeting to try and figure out what they were going to do they were very upset. He noted that maybe some comments may have been made and maybe directed at the general public who were at that meeting but it would have been really out of frustration of the work and energy that was put into that budget. He also commented that he and D. Sorrentino voted against making anymore cuts because he they thought the budget was already too low. He noted that everyone at the town meeting held at the Fire House that stood up spoke against the budget, what was wrong with it, where we should be cutting and they did not want a budget increase. He noted that he feels very badly that there are people out there that think they were out to cause harm to any member of the Town of Beacon Falls.

John Blessy, 10 Theresa Road - referred to a commercial regarding people sitting around trying to cut a budget - He noted that the Town of Beacon Falls budget for this municipal year is not the issue or the problem and noted that the taxpayers spoke very adamantly about this at the Fire House. He noted at this point he is hoping that all will learn a lesson because he noted that 70% of our tax dollars is from the school budget and noted that very few people showed up to vote for the school budget vote. The Town of Beacon Falls voted no and Prospect voted yes because it was a \$12,500 increase. He noted that there are today regional school systems in the state of CT that say if both towns do not agree to the school budget then go back to the drawing board. He noted that we are never going to win this battle in that Beacon Falls population is growing and Prospects is not. He noted that next year's population shift depending on who you want to listen to is going to be another \$240,000. He noted that based on this, we will be back in the same situation next year. He also noted that it is not S. Cable's fault, nor the BOS or BOF's fault and it is very frustration. He noted that you cannot have it all for nothing. He noted that you cannot sit at home and watch your 9 televisions sets and say I want it all but I don't want to pay anymore. He noted that we either need to bring in more businesses or more tax revenues in or taxes are going to continue to escalate. He noted it's not a Democrat or Republican issue. He noted we have to sacrifice when times are bad or when times are good because this is not going to go away. He noted again that depending who you want to listen to it's going to be another \$240,000 next year because the population shift is here.

Bob Spear, 14 Lakeview Rise - noted that the contingency has gone up another \$20,000 and he would like that to be eliminated and some of the things that have been deducted can be added on with the additionally \$20,000 from contingency. He noted that we didn't use the \$60,000 that was put in last year and now it's gone up to \$80,000. He thinks it should stay at the \$60,000 and use the \$20,000 to offset some of the cuts made here tonight.

S. Cable announced that the BOF and BOS are going to begin their workshop and that the public is welcome to stay but the meeting is no longer open to public comments.

M. Krenesky motioned to take a 5 minute recess at 8:05. G. Smith 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

8:15 the joint meeting resumed.

S. Cable noted that they cannot do anything with the employees at this time because everything is still pending. She noted that in lieu of closing on Fridays, they can ask the employees to give up their pay raises. She believes that would be a place that the employees can meet them (less than half) way and it won't be as drastic.

S. Cable suggested that they could cut the senior abatement in half and save some money there. She noted that she is just tossing that out there for now.

M. Krenesky responded by saying that his issue with cutting the abatement is that there are senior citizens out there that are having difficulty paying their taxes and the abatement was put in place to give them a break. If they can't pay their taxes then would we just add them to the list of "owed back taxes". He noted that he thinks this would be robbing Peter to pay Paul. S. Cable noted to go further with that, they can change the ordinance to make it easier for people to apply for the abatement.

G. Smith noted that what he heard at the Public Hearing that what he heard was that the public wanted a 0% increase and that's why they went to zero because they were knocked down twice. He noted that if we don't get this budget passed, we are going to end up at zero anyway. His recommendation that we take the cuts that we know along with the requests of the cuts that we asked the Police Department for, then revert back to the original budget with the revised numbers and take it to the public. He noted that all indications are that this budget is not going to fly because everybody got touched. He noted that if it gets shot down we will then be at zero but if we go back with what we originally agreed was the right number to do what we needed to do, we may come back with a tolerable number. He also noted that our biggest number is the school budget.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the cuts and the numbers including the \$60,000 that was cut from the medical insurance. After much discussion, R. Doiron and D. Sorrentino agreed with G. Smith recommendation.

The discussion continued and S. Cable noted that she does not think the cuts should be as drastic but they should go back with a lower number then the last voted on budget.

B. Ploss asked that if we go back to the original budget with the number changes will it be over what we recommended the second time.

W. Hopkinson began reviewing new proposed budget cuts. She noted that the last budget we had was \$282,625 and would begin from there.

* \$60,000 will be cut in Medical Benefits (S. Cable wanted it noted that this is not an employee concession)

* \$10,000 will be taken out of Legal/Town Council Professional Fees

* S. Cable wanted to make sure that the Police Clerk was listed as 30 hours

* The Librarian hours will not be increased to 35 hours (keep it at 30 hours)

* Bulky Waste will be cut in half - \$14,500

*\$5,000 will be cut from Fire Works (fireworks will be held in 2010 but not in 2011)

*\$1,000 will be cut from Settling Pond

S. Cable commented to both Boards that the summer program is \$10,500 and supplies for this program is \$2,500 this would equal \$13,000 and she suggests that be cut out. The sports subsidies should also be cut out for \$3,400. She recommends that one or the other be cut but keep the summer concerts intact.

R. Doiron asked how many people participate in the summer program. He noted that it works out to be approximately \$125 for kid plus the families \$75.00 out of pocket and could be quite expensive especially if you have more than one child. He noted that if the sports subsidy is spread across the taxpayers it works out to be approximately .27 cents per taxpayer. He noted that he is not in favor of cutting the sports programs.

M. Krenesky suggested that we go back to the town with a lower number than the last budget and he suggested it end up being a 3% increase. He noted that his interpretation of the public's response was not that they were looking for a 0% increase but maybe a 2 - 3% increase.

D. Sorrentino noted that he still does not think the budget is funded properly to run the own. He noted that he would like to see a wage freeze as he does not want to see any employees furloughed. He suggested that they present a budget that is maybe \$40,000 lower than the last one presented.

It was noted that contingency isn't generally spent until the end of the year.

After above reductions, the budget is down to a 5.2% increase. S. Cable and L. Krepinevich voiced their opinion that it is still too high.

W. Hopkinson noted that it would be a good thing if the offset in revenue could be shown when presenting the budget.

*\$50,000 from Police should still be cut. S. Cable suggests that they stagger their shifts to have midnight coverage. It was also noted that we have a regional agreement with Prospect that will help with private duty only. Normal course of business will still be Beacon Falls Police.

We are now at a 4.5% increase with cutting the Police.

*Line painting will be kept in the budget but Street Sweeping will be cut out

A discussion of chip sealing took place. R. Doiron voiced his concern about cutting funds that support the infrastructure of the Town and looking at the maintenance from a logical standpoint. He re-iterated that there should be a revolving maintenance schedule on all town roads so that we are never in a position where we have to deviate from the formula as it will cost a fortune to fix in the long run. He noted that he is not in favor of cutting anything that affects the infrastructure. D. Sorrentino noted that R. Doiron made a very good point that if we deviate from the schedule of maintenance for the roads it will cost us in the long run. M. Krenesky asked if he has seen a schedule and noted that he

has never seen a schedule. It was noted that the schedule they were referring to was in theory.

B. Ploss re-iterated that E. Bea said that he could live with \$30,000 for chip sealing.

*It was decided that the chip sealing will stay at \$30,000

*\$1,000 for clothing allowance will be removed

The budget is now at a 4% increase.

W. Hopkinson confirmed that S. Cable will investigate all possible options that were discussed and will hopefully come back with some answers to all the questions.

The elderly abatement was brought up again and B. Ploss noted that he was against cutting that. It was noted that those are the people that need it the most. W. Hopkinson asked what the qualifications are to receive this tax relief. S. Cable explained that you have to be a senior citizen and a resident for 1 year and you have to make less than \$75,000 per year. Of the 299 that applied, 115 residents make \$50,000 or less and 133 make between \$50,000 and \$75,000 per year. It was noted that the amount of the tax credit can be changed by the Selectmen however the qualifications to be eligible can only be changed in an updated ordinance.

Parks and Rec - \$1,300 will kept in the budget for sports subsidies.

G. Smith summarized that after the last budget failed, they had decided to go to 0% increase because we did not know where the public wanted to go and now we are at 4%. In the very beginning we were close to 8% we then cut to 7% and after reducing the budget by the reduction in employee benefits insurance costs it will bring us to 6.8% and we maintain just about everything we had in the budget. G. Smith asked why we can't see if 6.8% will be approved as he noted that he's not comfortable with some of the cuts that were made. S. Cable noted that she does not feel as bad about the cuts we made and also noted that she felt bad about going to 0%. S. Cable noted that due to all the comments that were made, she believes that 4% is more than fair.

S. Cable motioned to go to a paper ballot vote on June 16th with a municipal budget of \$5,694,103, a 4% increase. M. Krenesky 2nd the motion for the purpose of discussion.

M. Krenesky questioned the point of order and who is supposed to be voting on this motion as this is a joint meeting and it is usually the BOF who recommends this to the BOS. S. Cable noted that they could do vote both ways but mentioned that this meeting was posted as a joint meeting.

All those in favor of this motion were asked to raise their hands. S. Cable, M. Krenesky and W. Hopkinson voted in favor of the motion. R. Doiron, G. Smith and D. Sorrentino voted against the motion. L. Krepinevich and B. Ploss abstained.

The vote for the motion was a tie. M. Krenesky noted that we have two Boards here who the public expects to make a decision. He noted with all due respect to his Republican comrades, abstaining on these votes is not what the public expects out of these two committees. He noted that if he is putting the two who abstained on the spot then he apologizes but he thinks that we should be making firm decisions and it should be yes or no.

S. Cable announced that she was going to call the Town Attorney to check on this situation.

W. Hopkinson motioned to go into recess at 9:20 P.M. B.Ploss 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

W. Hopkinson motioned to reconvene at 9:35 P.M. G.Smith 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

S. Cable returned stating that there should be two votes, one for the BOF then one from the BOS.

W. Hopkinson motioned to present the proposed budget of \$5,694,103 to a paper ballot vote on June 16, 2010. G. Smith 2nd the motion for the purpose of discussion.

G. Smith noted that we are voting on the same number that we just voted on.

All those in favor were asked to raise their hands. W. Hopkinson voted aye. L. Krepinevich, B. Ploss, G. Smith and R. Doiron opposed the motion.

M. Krenesky asked if the BOF is going to make a recommendation to the BOS for a 2010 municipal budget. He noted that at this point they continue to make a motion on a budget they want to recommend or they can say that they are not making any recommendations to the BOS leaving it up to the BOS to do what they want to do. Either way it is up to the BOS to make the final decision.

The items that were cut were reviewed and W. Hopkinson asked the thought process of what should be done next.

L. Krepinevich noted that he believes the budget should be cut more.

B. Ploss noted that he believes that 4% is too high and does not think it will pass.

R. Doiron's position is that we have already cut too much. His thought process is that by cutting these things out now will cost us more next year and will have to go up more next year.

L. Krepinevich agrees with R. Dorion but noted that it is not their budget, it is the Town's budget. He noted that we can make all the common sense in the world but if the towns people want less then it is up to them to give them less because that is who they are representing.

R. Doiron noted that he takes exception with that because at some point it becomes a matter of conscience.

B. Ploss agrees with the original budget. He noted that the problem is that they heard cut, cut, cut from the people. He noted that no one actually asked the budget to be cut to a specific amount and then we will rally the troops and get it passed. He asked what number are they shooting for.

L. Krepinevich noted that 7% was too high, 0% was too low and he thinks they should meet somewhere in the middle. He asked how much more would need to be cut to bring the budget to 3%.

R. Doiron suggested that we assume we go back to the last budget minus a few things discussed and then if the budget does not pass, we go back to 0 (last year's budget). He noted that then the people are making the decision of what to cut because we have already cut it, it's already been cut to 0.

W. Hopkinson noted to bring the budget to a 3% increase they would have to cut another \$57,000. R. Doiron pointed out that probably relates to \$5.00 per household. He asked if it was worth the Board arguing about \$5.00.

L. Krepinevich noted that again, we are not talking about how anyone feels personally but how the town as a whole feels because that is who they are representing.

W. Hopkinson asked for concrete examples, i.e., if 4% is too high and they want to cut it to 3%, she would like suggestions as to where they would like to cut. She noted that she has cut as far as she could.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding possibilities of what else could be cut including Bulky Waste and Parks and Rec. It was noted that the Public at tonight's meeting was still mixed. The conversation continued on percentages and whether we can go with 6.8%, 4% and if it doesn't pass, we revert to 0%.

W. Hopkinson believes that 4% is worth taking it to a vote because the next step will be 0%. She is also being optimistic that it will pass. G. Smith noted that he is optimistic that 6.8% will pass. He noted that by using the correct insurance number for the

employees and the police cut, he is comfortable with the 6.8%. R. Doiron noted that he is comfortable with 6.8%.

R. Doiron noted that he understands W. Hopkinson's predicament and that the percentage should be somewhere between 3% and 6.8%.

G. Smith asked that W. Hopkinson make the motion for a 4% budget again.

W. Hopkinson motioned to present the proposed budget of \$5,694,103 to a paper ballot vote on June 16, 2010. G. Smith 2nd the motion. All voted aye. The motion passed.

S. Cable motioned to take the budget of \$5,694,103 to a paper ballot vote on June 16, 2010 at Woodland High School. M. Krenesky 2nd the motion. Discussion: do they want "no, too high or no, too low?". The answer was no. All voted aye. The motion passed.

M. Gomes will have the number ready to the town hall.

S. Cable recommended that a motion be made to adjourn the meeting and suggested that they motion to conduct the items on the BOF regular meeting agenda immediately following the budget vote on June 16, 2010.

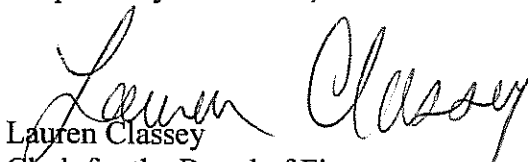
G. Smith motioned to reconvene the Regular BOF meeting at 10:05 P.M. R. Doiron 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

W. Hopkinson motioned to conduct the items on the agenda at a BOF Special Meeting immediately following the June 16, 2010 budget vote. R. Doiron 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

G. Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 P.M. R. Doiron 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,


Lauren Classey
Clerk for the Board of Finance