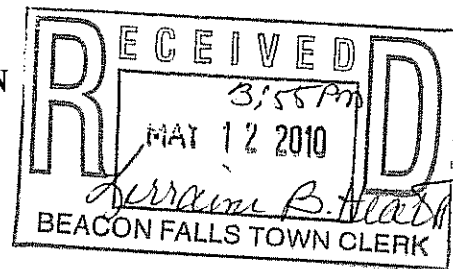


BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 11, 2010
MINUTES
(Draft – Subject to Revision)



First Selectman S. Cable called the Special Meeting of the Beacon Falls Board of Selectmen to order at 4:09 P.M.

PRESENT: First Selectman S. Cable, Selectmen D. Sorrentino and M. Krenesky.

OTHERS PRESENT: W. Mariano, E. Groth, J. Blesse, J. Dowdell, S. Dowdell.

S. Cable noted purpose of this Special Meeting is to discuss the Town of Beacon Falls 2010/2011 Municipal Budget.

S. Cable voiced concerns about the many people who attended the Town Meeting held on May 5, 2010 to vote on the Municipal Budget, who did not attend the Public Hearing held on April 20, 2010. She noted residents were not specific on what amount they wanted cut from the budget; either the \$366,000 budget increase or the \$1,000,000 increase in the School Budget.

S. Cable noted the Town did not know the exact impact the School Budget would have on the budget, adding that she has tried to get the State to release some frozen funds and has written to the Board of Education expressing the Town's concern at the high budget increase.

S. Cable noted that a NO vote on the budget does not tell the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance in which direction to go with the budget.

S. Cable noted she had reviewed suggested budget cuts proposed by Selectman Krenesky, adding she wondered Selectman Krenesky did not bring up his proposed cuts at the April 20, 2010 Public Hearing. M. Krenesky said he had made an agreement with the Board of Finance Chair not to speak at the Public Hearing. S. Cable asked M. Krenesky why he referred to his suggested budgets as 'his' budget, when in fact; the Board of Selectmen should be working together as a team. M. Krenesky agreed the BOS does work as a team and that was not his intention.

Possible budget cuts proposed by M. Krenesky were reviewed and discussed

- Reduce Selectman's Expenses from \$2,000 to \$1,500
- Remove \$12,500 expense for Town Hall new telephone system
- Remove \$60,000 from Public Works for chip sealing
- Misc. other cuts, which come to a total of approximately \$100,000 in budget Cuts.

D. Sorrentino said he has no suggestions on what to cut from the budget because he feels this is a 'bare bones' budget and there is nothing substantial to cut. He noted the School

**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 11, 2010
MINUTES
(Draft – Subject to Revision)**

Budget recently passed which carried with it a 1.2 mil increase to the Town of Beacon Falls. S. Cable felt that M. Krenesky's cuts are a feeble attempt to reduce the budget by nickel and dimes.

Possible budget cuts and suggestions proposed by S. Cable:

- She felt taxpayers might be interested in some major, drastic cut, such as eliminating trash pick-up, for a savings of \$290,000. She then noted ADS had extended its contract with the Town for one (1) more year, and it would take a lot of time, expense and effort to void that already signed contract.
- Some cuts could be made for Minibus Service, possibly eliminating the second driver, and to only use the bus once a week for medical appointments and shopping.
- There would be no way to increase current Library staff of three (3) to a work week of thirty-five (35) hours each per week.
- She had also talked to the Unions about possibility of having a one (1) day a week furlough for all Town Employees by closing the Town Hall and other Departments on Friday. She is waiting for a response from the Union Representative at this time.
- Possibly cut the midnight shift at the Police Department.
- Cut overtime for Police Department. Currently, Town pays for overtime for Police personnel who work the Fireman's Carnival, Duck Race and Riverfest.
- Stop the Summer Recreation Program.

S. Cable then asked other Selectmen what they wanted to do, asking the Board if they were comfortable with cutting \$1,000,000 (School budget increase) and the \$366,000 (Town budget increase) from the Town's Municipal Budget. M. Krenesky said you cannot include the School Budget increase with the Town's Municipal Operating Budget.

M. Krenesky also reminded Board that the Town is looking at Bond Packages that could be in the millions of dollars, sometime in the future. S. Cable noted there are many factors which affect a bond. It is a lengthy process which does carry a lot less impact to the taxpayers. S. Cable then added that M. Krenesky, while serving as a member of the Board of Education, never said no to anything.

S. Cable felt people were worked up by the time they came to the May 5, 2010 Town Meeting to vote on the 2010/2011 Municipal Budget, already realizing that both the Federal and State Governments are in a mess. She felt people did not have all of the information they needed to vote at the Town Meeting, especially when most of those in attendance did not attend the prior Public Hearing on the budget. This is the reason she would like to hold another Public Hearing, adding it would be very difficult to come with \$1,000,000 in budget cuts to offset the School Budget increase M. Krenesky agreed it is not up to the Town's budget to make up the \$1,000,000 dollar School Budget increase.

MAY 11 2010

BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 11, 2010
MINUTES
(Draft – Subject to Revision)

S. Cable pointed out that last year's budget had a one half mil decrease and this years Municipal Budget as proposed, would indicate a one half mil increase.

S. Cable again asked M. Krenesky why he did not present his proposed budget cuts at the April 20, 2010 Public Hearing.

The Board of Selectmen expressed their thoughts again:

- D. Sorrentino does not want to see any budget cuts
- M. Krenesky felt \$0.00 to \$100,000 could be cut from the proposed budget.
- S. Cable asked how to get the people to understand the cuts, and asked if a Referendum would help to pass the budget. M. Krenesky felt the way to go is to hold a Referendum, suggesting there is a possibility of reducing the number of hours of the referendum from 12:00 Noon to 8:00 P.M. rather than from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
- M. Krenesky also noted the budget is not a large increase, adding the idea of furloughs, lay-offs and four (4) day work weeks, are Management decision, and if this the case, then the Town 'is in deep trouble'.
- M. Krenesky also felt it is not a good idea to start turning off street lights.
- D. Sorrentino again noted he cannot see laying off Town employees. While he can certainly identify with the Public, there are no easy solutions.
- S. Cable said she has concerns about how the budget is presented. The use of % seems to add to the confusion, adding people should get as much information as possible, so people realize what the monies are really being spent on. She noted her review of other Towns' budgets indicate they are presented very simply.

Board also felt the Town should have tried to get its budget passed before the School Budget was voting on.

S. Cable responded to D. Sorrentino that she has not received further information with regard to medical insurance, adding there are negotiations going on between the three (3) Town Unions with regard to an increase in employee's co-pay for their medical insurance.

D. Sorrentino asked if the only way to say NO to the budget is by voting no.

S. Cable mentioned possibility of tapping into the Wastewater Account in the amount of \$189,00 for equipment replacement. D. Sorrentino had concerns about this amount of money leaving that account very low in funds, and was worried if some big problems were to come up, there would not be enough money to cover a large expense.

MAY 12 2010

**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 11, 2010
MINUTES
(Draft – Subject to Revision)**

S. Cable also noted a sewer use fee could be charged, since currently the Town does not charge this fee. S. Cable noted that without any new sewer projects coming in, the Wastewater Account will continue to decrease in funds.

M. Krenesky made motion to suggest budget cuts to cover the \$366,000 Municipal Budget Increase for 2010/2011, by reviewing budget to make proper cuts, 2nd by D. Sorrentino. All aye.

Discussion of Fireworks, with suggestion made to ask for corporate donations to continue to have the event. S. Cable felt it is unfair to keep asking local businesses for donations for so many events,

D. Sorrentino made motion to present the following budget cut suggestions to the Board of Finance at its May 11, 2010 meeting, 2nd by M. Krenesky.

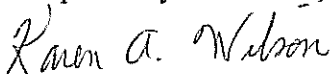
- **Cut \$60,000 from chip sealing – Public Works**
- **Cut \$12,500 from Town Hall Phone System**
- **Fireworks – no Fireworks/Family Day (beginning 2011)**

All aye. Total proposed budget cuts - approximately \$80,000.

S. Cable would like to schedule a Public Hearing on the Budget sometime during the week of May 17, 2010.

With no other business, **D. Sorrentino made motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's Special Meeting at 4:55 P.M. 2nd by M. Krenesky. All aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen A. Wilson

Clerk, for the Board of Selectmen, Special Meeting – May 11, 2010.

MAY 12 2010