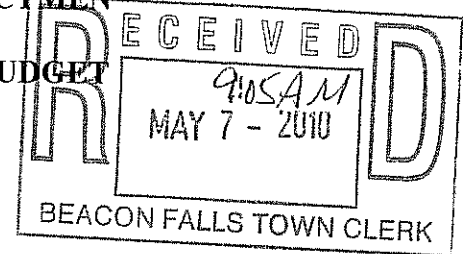


**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
VOTE ON 2010/2011 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
MAY 5, 2010
MINUTES
(Draft Copy – Subject to Revision)**



First Selectman S. Cable called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:3 P.M. Meeting was held at the Beacon Falls Senior Center.

ALSO PRESENT: Selectman M. Krenesky, Selectman D. Sorrentino, Board of Finance Members: W. Hopkinson, G. Smith, B. Ploss, L. Krepinevich and R. Doiron. Two (2) Registrars of Voters and their Deputies.

ALSO PRESENT: Approximately 200 + residents.

Those attending the Town Meeting had to sign in with the Registrars of Voters and were given a paper ballot once they were verified as voters.

Due to the large number of people attending the Town Meeting, **R. Doiron made motion to recess the Town Meeting and go the Fire House to reconvene the Meeting, 2nd by J. Betkoski. All voted aye. (voice vote)**

After everyone was assembled at the Fire House, First Selectman S. Cable called the Town Meeting back to order at 8:00 P.M. S. Cable remarked how nice it was to see so many people in attendance. She then explained that this Town Meeting was being held to vote on the 2010/2011 Municipal Operating Budget. She noted Referendum had been held on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 with the Regional School District No. 16 budget being passed. She also added the budget process is a very painful process, with notices first going out in December to all Departments, Boards and Commissions to submit their 2010/2011 budget requests and a five (5) year plan. The Board of Selectmen then reviews all of the budget requests and then meets jointly with the Board of Finance in several workshops, to meet with Department Heads to discuss their budget requests. A budget is then drafted and was presented at a Public Hearing on April 20, 2010 for the Public's review. It is at the Public Hearing when people have the right to ask questions and suggest possible budget cuts. After cuts were, budget is then presented for a vote at a Town Meeting.

Temporary Clerk read call of Town Meeting. **E. Grace made motion to accept call as read, 2nd by E. Melninkaitis. All aye.**

Jeremy Rodorigo made motion to appoint K. Wilson to serve as Permanent Clerk for this Town Meeting, 2nd by D. Bousquet. With no other nominations three (3) times, K. Wilson will serve as Clerk for this Town Meeting. **All aye.**

Jeremy Rodorigo made motion to appoint First Selectman S. Cable to serve as Permanent Moderator for this Special Town Meeting, 2nd by D. Bousquet. With no other nominations, S. Cable will serve as Moderator for this Town Meeting. **All aye.**

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L. D'Amico made motion that vote be by paper ballot, 2nd by E. Melninkaitis. Vote by secret ballot: All in favor. None opposed. (done via voice vote)

S. Cable explained that each person would be checked from Voters List and Property Owner List. One ballot per person. Paper was explained: vote either yes or no, do not cut referred to not actually cutting the paper ballot.

L. D'Amico asked if any time would be allowed for comments, with S. Cable noting a person could speak for one (1) minute on the overall budget with no comments allowed for each budget line item.

E. Grace made motion to vote yes to accept the proposed 2010/2011 Municipal Operating Budget, 2nd by C. Bielik.

Discussion.

1. **L. D'Amico**, 57 Maple Avenue, complimented the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance for all of the hard work they did to prepare this budget, but he added he has difficulty with the overall budget, objecting to the 8.6% budget increase. He said in these difficult economic times, a budget increase at this time would be very detrimental to everyone. He said this budget is high and asked the people to reject this budget.
2. **B. Harte**, 86 Dorchester Court, noted he is a Police Officer and a Town resident. He felt the over one million dollar budget increase is too much of an increase for people to pay for. He said he went over the budget and found seventy-four (74) areas which had at least a 20% increase, adding this is a numbers game and the Town has played a role in continuing to keep budget expenses in the budget for non-important expenses. He urged everyone to vote no on this budget with an over \$1,000,000 (one million) dollar increase.
3. **E. Grace**, 47 Cedar Lane, added the Town budget is controlled by the Regional School District No. 16 Board of Education. That budget was voted on and passed at the May 4, 2010 Referendum. He added that we want to keep ourselves safe with the Police Department, we want safe roads and we want a safe place for our children to go to. He added the sports programs and summer programs are a vital part of this Community.

S. Cable noted voting down the Town budget has no effect on the School Budget passed at the May 4, 2010 referendum. The school budget would increase mil rate by 1.2 mills, the Town Budget as presented would be a .50 mil increase. Total mil increase would be 1.70 mils.

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4. **L. D'Amico** referred to page 16 of the proposed budget, noting cost of Special Projects was \$1,442,706 which was much too high. S. Cable pointed out that next column of the budget proposal indicates the Selectmen approved \$176,506 of those special projects expenses, adding the percentages listed are very confusing.
5. **Susan Spear**, Chatfield Farms, noted the Town is growing and with the new homes being built, the mil rate should be going down.
6. **John Blesse**, 10 Terese Road, stated Town has no control over the School Board of Education. He noted that Prospect Mayor had requested a breakdown of student enrollment back in October 2009 and knew then that Prospect's share of the School Budget would decrease. He noted Prospect's School Budget increase amounted to \$12,500. In Beacon Falls, this increase because of the student population shift amounted to \$933,000. He felt Town should have gotten this information back in October and should have started preparing for this. He also said that people only get one (1) tax bill in July, not separate bills for the Town and School Budgets. He urged people to get more control over the Board of Education.

W. Hopkinson made motion to vote the question, 2nd by G. Smith. M. Krenesky felt there is no need to vote on voting on the question, since motion to vote was previously made. W. Hopkinson and G. Smith then rescinded their motions.

All voted aye (verbal vote) to vote on original motion: vote yes to approve the 2010/2011 Municipal Budget, with zero (0) no votes. Motion passed.

Registrars of Voters then continued to check people on the Voter List and distribute paper ballots.

Voting closed at 8:55 P.M. with count made by Registrars of Voters and their Deputies.

At 9:05 P.M. result of paper ballot vote was read by Moderator S. Cable. The results were:

**83 YES VOTES TO PASS THE BUDGET
139 NO VOTES AGAINST THE BUDGET**

Budget rejected.

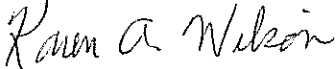
S. Cable noted Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance will again review the budget and make drastic cuts to that budget.

L. D'Amico made motion to adjourn the Town Meeting at 9:10 P.M. 2nd by J. Dowdell. All aye. (verbal vote)

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Respectfully Submitted,



Karen A. Wilson

Clerk for the Board of Selectmen, Town Meeting, May 5, 2010.

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