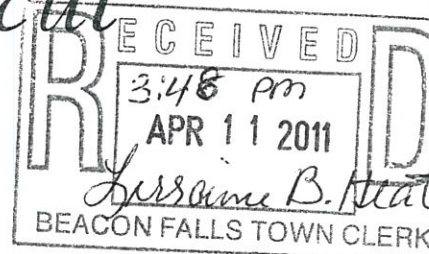


Town of BEACON FALLS  
*Connecticut*

Board of Finance



**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS  
JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE  
BOARD OF SELECTMAN MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday April 5, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER**

S. Cable called the joint meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Present: L. Krepinevich, B. Ploss, R. Doiron, C. Bielik (W. Hopkinson arrived at 7:30)  
First Selectman S. Cable and Selectmen D. Sorrentino and M. Krenesky and approximately 5 town residents.

S. Cable explained that this is a work shop but she would open the meeting up to Public Comment noting that should anyone have any suggestions or recommendations, they would be open to them.

D. Scott - noted that he believes that that only reason that the roads were shot down during the vote was because they brought in the "monstrous" machine and that if it wasn't for the machine, he believes the town would have voted for the roads.

D. Bousquet noted that he heard a rumor the Fire Department, Police Department and Town Hall will be shut down on Fridays. S. Cable responded that it is a rumor and has not yet been discussed.

D. Scott asked if the sign at the Town Garage (closed due to budget restraints) was authorized by the Selectmen. S. Cable will look into this but it was only authorized to say it will not be open until July when money becomes available in that line item.

The effect of removing trash pick-ups from the budget was discussed.

S. Cable suggested that the revenues should be reviewed at the beginning of the meeting noting that revenues are down drastically. There is no building going on and the state has had serious cuts. The ambulance revenue from the Fire Department will also be 0 as a result of the Fire Department hiring a new person.

Tax Collections were discussed. D. Scott noted that they used to put a notice in the paper to get them to pay their taxes. S. Cable noted that they are working on a system to collect taxes noting that there are four or five tax auctions coming up.

M. Krenesky asked about the quarterly report of back taxes that he requested. It was noted that this report will be provided next month.

The Elderly Tax relief was discussed. M. Gomes noted that it's been cut back each year and now they are not going to give us anything. At this point, it's unknown as to what will be put back in. M. Gomes noted that they budgeted what they think they are going to get.

A discussion took place regarding the Pequot Grant.

M. Gomes noted that he is making line items to mirror how the state is trying to fund programs.

Commercial Vehicles were discussed.

It was noted that the reimbursement money comes to -\$155,079 (most conservative, most likely scenario).

It was noted that \$65,000 of the -\$155,079 is from the ambulance re-imburement. The *Fire Department new hire* was discussed and it was suggested that the Fire Department be present to explain the position.

It was noted that fees are down because of conveyance tax, P&Z and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Page 17 was reviewed. It was noted that it looked grim. Interest rates are awful. Telecom property tax has dropped due to depreciation.

Mystic Tank Lines were discussed. M. Gomes will look into it.

Page 5 - Town Clerk overtime was taken out - % should be 0. Training will also be 0. It was noted that the Town Clerk asked that his micro-film be funded. The line item was increased but not to the full request.

Page 6 - S. Cable noted that they have gone to the Unions for give-backs - they have asked the unions to take a wage freeze and to pay more for their medical and to help them out. S. Cable noted that to date, there has not been any comments and no one has answered her requests..

S. Cable noted that if they stay with their current insurance there will be a 15% increase. She noted that they can change insurance to Aenta (with the same level of insurance) and save \$25k. A lengthy discussion continued.

Fire Department Life Insurance was discussed. It was noted that bits and pieces of this budget had been in several different line items. It is now in one line item for \$13,400.

A discussion continued on clothing allowance.

Page 7 - It was noted that there are major increases here. Lengthy discussions continued regarding EDC Consultants for marketing.

Page 9 was reviewed.

Page 10 - A lengthy discussion continued regarding the Fire Department, ladder truck, and heating fuel. It was noted that one of the fire trucks they are looking at will not fit through the current garage doors.

Contingency was discussed.

Emergency Services was discussed; pagers, ambulance, tires. Also discussed was the current condition of this year's budget.

B. Ploss noted that he would like a full accounting of contingency.

Page 11 - It was noted that the Police Department commented that there was not enough money in the gas line item account. A lengthy discussion continued.

A discussion on a program to cut back on street lighting as a way of saving money took place. M. Gomes explained programs where street lights go off at midnight and they also use different types of bulbs.

Page 12 - Street cleaning and road basins were discussed. A lengthy discussion on street sweeping took place; how or when the money is or would be spent. A lengthy discussion regarding snow removal and catch basin maintenance and street sweeping took place. S. Cable noted that they did find money to sweep the roads for this year. R. Doiron noted that if there is a line item reflecting zero and yet the roads are still going to be swept, then the money should be in the correct line item. R. Doiron wanted to know what line item the money for street sweeping came out of and then take a look at that line item to see if it should be lowered. It was noted that street sweeping is coming out of town aid roads.

Page 13 - The library staffing was reviewed. S. Cable noted that she has received phone calls requesting that the town keep the trash pick-ups and get rid of some employees. A discussion continued regarding how many employees have been added to the town over the past 5 years. It was noted that the town would save more by getting rid of the trash pick-up rather than employees.

A lengthy discussion continued regarding trash pick-up and the cost of it. It was noted that it's cheaper for the town to pick up the trash out of taxes than it is for each homeowner to have it picked up individually.

D. Scott noted that he was surprised to see a new telephone system going into the Town Hall so that "the employees don't have to answer the phone". M. Krenesky responded that the new phone system will be updating a 1970's phone system and additionally saving the town approximately \$9,000 per year.

Page 14 - A \$40,000 lawn mower was discussed. S. Cable noted to J. Rodrigo that she spoke to every member of Public Works employees and each one of them said that they did not need a \$40,000 lawn mower. A lengthy discussion continued. J. Dowdell noted that he would have an ethics issue if the money for the lawn mower were to come out of a line item that didn't include the item originally. It was noted that the \$40,000 purchase would have to go before a town vote for approval should they decide to go forward with that. The lawnmower discussion continued.

It was noted that the numbers for the mini-bus has changed as a result of this line item being underfunded for the last several years.

Page 15 - A discussion regarding the bonds took place and it was noted that due to a formula, the line item had to go up.

Page 16 - Special Projects - D. Scott asked about the house on Wolfe Ave. It was noted that they put in for a \$10k building study.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding how much money has been already taken out of the budget.

It was determined that the money to fix the accounting software was removed from the budget.

Vehicle replacement was discussed. D. Scott asked what happened to the program of putting money away each year for vehicle replacement. It was explained that if the money wasn't used, then it would have to be explained. It was also not acceptable to the taxpayers. The discussion continued.

The discussion went back to Fire Department equipment and the details involved with purchasing and housing a new ladder truck.

They decided to put the BOE in at \$104,000.

It was noted that they have to be able to explain this budget to the taxpayers. A lengthy discussion took place as to what and where the budget has been increased.

It was confirmed that the BOF and BOS will meet again on April 7th to discuss the presentation of the budget.

B. P loss motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 P.M. R. Doiron 2nd the motion. All voted aye,

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Classey  
Clerk for the Board of Finance

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren Classey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

APR 11 2011