



Town of BEACON FALLS
Connecticut

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MEETING
Notice of Referendum re: 2011/2011 Municipal Budget
April 27, 2011
MINUTES
(Draft Copy-Subject to Revision)**

S. Cable called the Town Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: First Selectmen S. Cable, Selectman D. Sorrentino, Selectman M. Krenesky, Finance Board Members C. Bielick, W. Hopkinson, B. Ploss, R. Doiron, J. Dowdell and approximately 30 town residents.

The Temporary Clerk (Lauren Classey) read the call.

F. Smith, 4 Patricia Terrace motioned to accept the call. S. Dowdell, 32 Wolfe Ave., 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

M. Krenesky motioned to nominate L. Classey as the permanent clerk for this meeting. R. Doiron 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

S. Cable asked if there were any other nominations 3 times.

Lauren Classey will be the permanent clerk of this meeting.

M. Krenesky motioned to nominate S. Cable as the Permanent Moderator for this meeting. C. Bielick 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

L. Classey asked if there were any other nominations 3 times.

Nominations closed: 1 ballot for S. Cable. S. Cable will be Permanent Moderator for this meeting. All voted aye.

S. Cable began the meeting for thanking everyone for coming out to the meeting. She then explained that there will be a change to the agenda as a result of a petition containing 281 certified names requesting that the vote for the 2011/2012 budget go to a referendum.

At this meeting, they will vote to go to adjournment to referendum on May 3rd.

W. Classey, Wolfe Ave. asked if the signatures on the petition were attested to. He asked if anyone could sign the petition and how they were verified. He noted that the petition was just sitting around on the counter at the Dan Mart noting that anyone could come in and sign it. He noted that someone from Naugatuck could come in and sign his name pointing out that this could happen if it was just on the counter.

K. Novak explained that the Town Clerk's office checks the names against a voters list of anyone assessed for \$1000 or more. At the bottom of the form, the person who submitted the petition attests that these signatures are legitimate. He noted that they do not police this as that is the job of the Secretary of State. He noted if there are any complaints regarding this, they need to be directed to the Secretary of State.

W. Classey asked who witnessed the signatures.

K. Novak answered that the person that signed the bottom of the form attested to witnessing the signatures.

S. Cable noted that by law the person who attests to the signature had to witness the signature.

W. Classey pointed out again that the petition was sitting at Dan Mart and anyone could have signed it.

S. Cable noted that the names were confirmed that they were property owners or registered voters. If there is a complaint that there was not a witness to the signatures then it would have to be lodged with the Secretary of State's office for an investigation and we are told it would take 3 to 6 months. She noted that you could only hope that the person who brought the petition in witnessed every signature.

S. Cable noted that W. Classey's point was taken. She noted that this was a valid point and that people who go around with petitions are supposed to witness every signature.

C. Sullivan, Pond Spring Village, noted that the phone bill at the Senior Center was very high and asked how that could possibly be. **S. Cable** noted that they are not answering questions on the budget but as a courtesy she will. She noted that is 2 phone lines and was for the internet and was not all spent. The new budget will reflect the adjustment.

S. Cable noted that they are supposed to act on the referendum but the BOS and BOF noted that they will answer any questions regarding the budget.

R. Spears, 14 Lake View Dr., asked about the 2 million in unpaid taxes. S. Cable noted that there are 6 properties going up for a tax sale on June 23rd and that the owed taxes are the first debt to be paid to the town. The 6 properties result in \$140,000. She noted that we now have a very aggressive program that they are initiating right now and that they were very conservative with what they budgeted for.

H. Daniels, Pines Bridge Road, asked when the town gets the money from the tax sale.

S. Cable noted that they get the money within 10 days.

E. Groth asked if the budget doesn't pass what would be the next step.

S. Cable noted that they do not have any idea at this point. They will sit down and look at the budget and see what they could cut. She noted that they asked the unions for concessions and at this point have not received any. She noted that they had a meeting today as to what they are going to do and they are in negotiations. She noted that most likely there will be extensive furloughs and layoffs.

B. Mariano, asked about the sewer plant reserve noting that they took \$100,000 out of this line item for a one time equipment replacement. He noted that the equipment replacement line went down again this year by about \$15,000. He asked if it was actually a onetime replacement.

S. Cable noted that expense was for one particular thing. She noted that we have mandates from the state and the state is saying that we have to turn over a nitrogen and phosphate services which is very costly.

B. Mariano noted that he thought the bond package that was just voted on was meant to cover that.

S. Cable noted that the bond money was to cover the materials to start doing that noting that this is a very long process and she would be happy to walk him through the process.

B. Mariano suggested that the bond package did not cover all that they needed.

S. Cable explained that the bond package covered the clarifier that is supposed to go in to do these items noting that there are other things connected with the wastewater treatment plant and that there are continual changes. S. Cable noted that they also have sewer lines that need to be addressed and a grinder pump that has to be taken care of. She noted that it is never a onetime thing but ongoing.

J. Pavlik, 21 Fieldstone Lane, pointed out that Prospect came in with a slight decrease in the budget and asked for help in understanding how Prospect could come in at a slight decrease.

S. Cable noted that each town is unique and that Prospect was able to do that because they were able to pay off the bond last year and one of the businesses in town received a huge tax benefit. S. Cable noted that an example would be that we have garbage pick-up and Prospect doesn't.

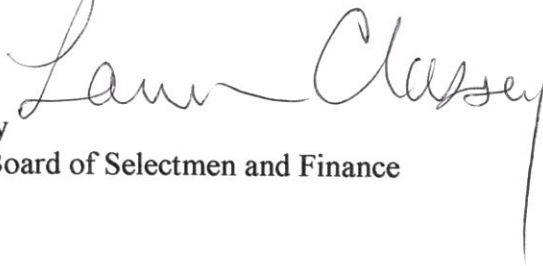
D. Sorrentino motioned that they adjourn this town meeting to a referendum on Tuesday May 3rd from 6 to 8. The question will be "should the proposed 2011/2012 town operating budget in the amount of \$5,878,429 be adopted?". M. Krenesky 2nd the motion.

Discussion: It was noted that there will be two separate ballots, 2 separate machines and 2 separate moderators.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Classey
Clerk for the Board of Selectmen and Finance