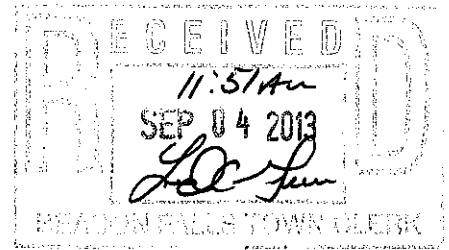


**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING
SEPTEMBER 3, 2013
MINUTES**



(Draft – Subject to Approval)

First Selectman Gerard F. Smith called the Public Hearing of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge to the Flag. Public Hearing was held at the Firehouse. Purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear and discuss the following:

- To consider the advisability of (1) Supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems and integration, emergency bypass and readiness provisions, and mechanical improvements for the Railroad Avenue, Pinesbridge Road, and West Road pump stations, and (2) Short-term measures to address interim phosphorous removal requirements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Affected property owners and voters of the Town of Beacon Falls, CT will be heard at the Public Hearing concerning the proposed projects.

PRESENT: First Selectman G. Smith, Selectman D. D'Amico and Selectman C. Bielik.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Approximately ninety (90) Residents including members of the Board of Finance, W.P.C.A., Land Use, Beacon Hose Company No. 1, other residents, Town Engineer J. Galligan and Dave Prickett, representative from Woodward & Curran.

Clerk read call for meeting. **R. Doiron made motion to accept call as read, 2nd J. Berge. All aye.**

First Selectman G. Smith turned Public Hearing over to D. Prickett who gave a history and update of project his firm has been working on with regard to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and its needs. He noted that project is almost 70% completed, with plans still being finalized. He noted the cost of the first Phase of the Capital Plan is \$600,000 which includes the SCADA gathering of information. This will provide remote monitoring of the pump stations which would enable the Plant's three (3) staff to allocate their time better at the treatment plant. He added the plant is forty (40) years old. An additional \$100,000 is needed to meet the phosphorous levels, noting that Beacon Falls has NOT been singled out, with a deadline of 5/1/2014 to have the phosphorous levels met according to recommended levels. The pump stations should be taken care of first. He also noted Town is trying to secure loans at the lowest interest rates along with applying for any available grant funds.

G. Smith then opened up the Hearing to discussion, comments and questions, adding this discussion only deals with the pump stations and the phosphorous removal requirements.

1. Kurt Hummel, 6 Patricia Terrace noted that currently there are less than 50% of residents tied into the sewer system and asked if there are any future plans to expand the sewer lines and allow more people to tie into the sewer system. He noted the plant does have the capacity to handle more than it currently does. G. Smith noted there are no major plans in the works at this time.
2. Eve Melninkaitis, 111 Highland Avenue noted there are certain areas in Town which have inadequate sewer pipes and this should be looked at and taken care of. G. Smith reminded residents that this Public Hearing will only discuss the pump stations and phosphorous removal. He added that when sewer lines might be replaced it would be in conjunction with road repairs, adding the cost of this large project could cost at least \$30,000,000.
3. Richard Minnick, 147 Cedar Lane noted he has been working on the update of the Town's Plan of Conservation & Development, adding the Town does have the capacity to expand the treatment plant. He is not opposed to the plant upgrades but he is concerned that no one seems to be watching this and does not want to see money spent without being monitored, adding he would not like to see overruns like what happened with the Depot Street Bridge. He noted that Board and Commission members are all volunteers and they need help to monitor all of this. He said the infiltration should be fixed with the major in-flows to be checked to see where this is coming from.
4. T. O'Connell, 78 Laurie Lane noted that currently the Town has three (3) pump stations located at West Road, Railroad Avenue and Pinesbridge Road and was told there are no plans to add any more pump stations.
5. Jeff Smith, Bonna Street, Chairman of the W.P.C.A. was told that approximately 78 to 80% of the project is completed, adding that manholes have been looked at to see where infiltration is coming from, and that the collection system has to be tightened up. It was noted our plant currently handles approximately 700,000 gallons per day and because the plant is 40 years old there are many times when the extra flow is difficult to keep up with and that it would be wise to spend the money at the treatment plant first.
6. Joseph Rodorigo, 42 Bonna Street asked what phosphorous levels are acceptable to the State and asking why should we fix this? D. Prickett noted the State expects projects to move forward as Towns would be subject to fines, etc. G. Smith asked if the Town does nothing, then what would be the liability of the Town?
7. John Gulleth, 122 Munson Road asked why the Town has to spend \$600,000 at this time and why not spread out the project over a period of time. D. Prickett noted the three (3) treatment plant staff should be spending more time at the plant than having to monitor the pump stations which need some mechanical upgrades.
8. William Mis, 5 Bonna Street asked when the \$600,000 budget was made. He was also told that this is PLC based.
9. Bob Spear, Chatfield Farms asked if the pump themselves are in good working order. It was noted the Pinesbridge pump was replaced three (3) years ago, Railroad Avenue was replaced five (5) years ago and the West Road pump was installed in 2000. Walter Opuszynski, Treatment Plant Superintendent noted there are back-ups for each pump during emergencies.

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10. J. Gullesh, Munson Road stressed the Town should apply for grant funds worried about any advantage of not applying for grant funding. D. Prickett noted an upcoming grant deadline is 9/13/14 with an application to be submitted. G. Smith noted that Woodard & Curran also serves as Grant Writer. Suggestion made to have someone like a "Clerk of the Works" to keep an eye on this, along with the Town's Engineer.
11. R. Minnick, Cedar Lane, noted the Plan of Conservation & Development addresses additional housing in the Town and that in-flow and infiltration should be studied to find out where water is coming from. Again, he added that mechanical improvements are necessary to keep the plant operating. He also stressed how to address the infiltration and how would the State buy into this, adding the W.P.C.A. has been conscientious in getting this project to move forward. G. Smith suggested having some type of workshop to address this.
12. J. Gullesh, Munson Road noted that the treatment plant has been in operation for forty (40) years and asked why a sewer usage fee has never been implemented, noting that the whole Town pays for the Treatment Plant's operations, not just the residents who are tied into the sewer system. He added that this is a lot of money and a sewer usage fee would help pay for all of this. G. Smith added that Town is trying to come up with a complete package by trying to get a low interest loan and funding from a USDA grant, adding the Town has to have a sewer usage fee to qualify for some of this funding. He added there are a lot of challenges in facing a \$16,000,000 total capital project cost. He added the Town has been proactive and that previous administrations have addressed the situation as well and that is unfair to say that this has not been addressed before.
13. R. Minnick noted proposals have been made before but it comes to budget time, the proposals are put aside. He also asked about the Contingency Fund build into the project, with D. Prickett noting 20 to 30% Contingency is reasonable and typical.
14. R. Slajda, 10 North Circle questioned heavy metals.
15. Judy Berge, 75 Laurie Lane, asked if the \$600,000 cost might be offset by grant funds received. G. Smith noted this will be voted on at the following Town Meeting, which would give approval to appropriate the \$700,000 total cost of both projects. He noted the cost could be more, but only \$700,000 would be appropriated and approved at this time.
16. Walter Opuszynski, Treatment Plant Superintendent, noted the State could give the Town \$50,000 in nitrogen credits and that this upgrade would reduce the nitrogen levels, adding the State will be reviewing the costs in 2014.
17. Carol Slajda, 10 North Circle asked about the cost of financing the project, with Town Finance Director M. Gomes noting it is approximately \$50,000, but because there are other short-term bonding projects, the projects would be bundled together which would reduce the cost.

With no other comments, **R. Doiron made motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:50 P.M. 2nd by R. Minnick. All aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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BEACON FALLS TOWN MEETING

Karen A. Wilson, Clerk for the Board of Selectmen -- Public Hearing
September 3, 2013.

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BEACON FALLS TOWN MEETING