

**Beacon Falls Board of Finance
10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403**



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF FINANCE
With the Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting – Work Shop
April 8, 2014
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Alliance

Chairman Joe Dowdell called the workshop for the Board of Finance and for the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:30 P.M.

Board of Finance Members Present: Joe Dowdell, Jack Levine, Robert Doiron, Marc Bronn, and Joe Rodorigo.

Board of Selectmen Members Present: First Selectman Chris Bielick, Selectman Peter Betkowski, and Selectman Dominick Sorrentino

Others Present: Jim Trzaski and Brian DeGeorge from the Fire Department, Rob Pruzinsky from Public Works, Walter Opuszynski from the Waste Water Treatment Plant, Dave Pricket from Woodard & Curran.

Not Present: Brian Ploss

Motion to recess the meeting at 6:31 P.M. and resume when the interview for the new Finance Manager position is complete: **Rodorigo/Doiron**; no discussion; all ayes.

2. Budget Discussions

The budget workshop resumed at 6:50 P.M. by Chairman Joe Dowdell.

C. Bielick started with a recap from the last workshop. The mini typos in some of the numbers that were found at the last workshop were corrected. Those typos did not impact the actual numbers. There were a few minor changes from the last workshop. There was an additional line item under Emergency Services for Air Packs. That was a department requested that should be a recurring each year in their budget.

J. Trzaski, who will be the new Fire Chief in Beacon Falls, indicated that the air packs were received through a federal grant approximately 2 to 3 years ago. According to D.O.T. regulations, the bottles need to have a hole drilled into them and thrown away every 10 years. Instead of having a one-time cost of replacing them, they are proposing that every year they are going to discard 5 bottles and replace 5 bottles. This will start in a couple years and would need to have a line item in their department each year. J. Dowdell asked if it was just the bottles that need to be replaced. J. Trzaski indicated yes, just the bottles and not the packs. The air packs do have to be tested each and every year. There is no separate line item mandated for testing from maintenance. There is annual mandated testing of the equipment and they will propose next year to have a line item to represent this annual cost to show a difference between mandated testing and regular annual testing of the equipment.

C. Bielik indicated that there was a minor administrative change in the proposed budget. Under line item 10-90-44-1413, Fire Prevention & Safety has been mislabeled for years as Personnel Insurance. This line item has always been used for fire prevention and safety, and now will be correctly stated in the line item description.

C. Bielik indicated that a line item was left out from the proposed budget under Senior Citizens Center. The line item is now added as Senior Activities, which was discussed at the last workshop.

C. Bielik noted that under Refunds, there is a line item for Region #16 Surplus. We have been getting a refund from Region #16 every year and not been including this in the budget. The refund comes in the form of a lessened payment one month, not money we pay ahead and get back to us. M. Bronn asked if it is included in Region #16 budget and wanted to make sure that we are doubling this amount in our budget. C. Bielik indicated that he doesn't believe so and J. Rodorigo agreed based on explanations received. It was listed in Other Finance Sources and now has it on its own line item.

After discussing the fact that we do not know how much the amount of the refund will be from Region 16, and that that number may and will probably be different each year, it may be best to remove the line item from Refunds. This would be the conservative way of looking at the adjustment of the mill rate.

Motion to zero out the line item under Refunds, 10-80-04-4155, Region #16 Surplus to \$0.00: Levine/Bronn; no discussion; all ayes.

C. Bielik introduced Rob Pruzinsky, the new Public Works Foreman, to discuss the new Special Projects line items for the Public Works department – waste oil furnace, reframe truck #5, reframe truck #6, and curb repair & replacements. R. Pruzinsky started with the waste oil furnace by indicating that they are way over based on the bills for the propane furnace. There was a \$6,000 budget for heating and they are at \$8,000 and growing. The oil furnace was converted to a propane furnace and is used to heat the big garage. The furnace is not efficient with the way that it was set up. R. Doiron asked when it was done and R. Pruzinsky wasn't sure, maybe last summer. J. Rodorigo indicated that it isn't very old; that the furnace was put in during the last administration and the new furnace was converted from an old oil-fired furnace to a propane-fired one.

Being a propane system, they went through their heating budget by mid-January. J. Dowdell asked if it was converted to waste oil and R. Pruzinsky indicated no since it won't be the primary source of heat in the garage. M. Bronn asked if the price was installed and R. Pruzinsky indicated yes.

R. Pruzinsky next addressed the reframing of truck #5 and #6. He passed around some pictures showing the damage from the salt to the trucks. M. Bronn asked the age of the trucks and R. Pruzinsky indicated that they are 2000 with a life expectancy of 15-20 years. There are 3 in the fleet – 1 is a 1997, 1 is a 2000, and 1 is a 2001. M. Bronn asked about additional life we would get if we do the reframing. R. Pruzinsky indicated 5 additional years and if it isn't done maybe a year or two of life. The fuel tanks need to be replaced and there was rust jacking on the hoist. M. Bronn asked if the trucks would pass inspection and R. Pruzinsky indicated that we are on the borderline. R. Pruzinsky indicated that a new truck for the size we have would be \$185,000 to \$195,000. C. Bielik noted that if we go and approve for what's in the proposed budget plus vote for the truck repairs on #5 and #6, we will get 3 new/reconditioned trucks that we should get 5 to 7 years more. M. Bronn and R. Doiron asked how the motor on the trucks are and R. Pruzinsky indicated that they need repairs – new clutch, brake system, etc. M. Bronn asked if there was money in their budget for the repairs and R. Pruzinsky indicated that they are left with approximately \$17,000 for repairs.

R. Pruzinsky next addressed the curb repair & replacement. They received some money from FEMA for 1,800 ft. of curbing that was repaired. There were some roads not accepted by FEMA, which is about 1,000 ft. from this year. The cost is approximately \$15.00 to \$16.00 per foot.

C. Bielik next introduced Dave Pricket from Woodard & Curran and Walter Opuszynski, the manager at the waste water treatment plant. Woodard & Curran is the firm that has been helping us for years with the waste water treatment plant. W. Opuszynski started with the fact they are trying to get a fourth person in waste water treatment plant for the time of the upgrades and a ½ person when the upgrade is completed. D. Pricket indicated that our treatment plant is one of the state's most understaffed plants in Connecticut. Generally, the minimum number of operators is 4. The plant is 44 years old and hasn't had a lot of attention, needing significant mechanical needs and replacement work during the year. D. Pricket indicated that they are working with C. Bielik and WPCA to pursue grants and low-interest loans for the upcoming plant upgrades. There are certain reevaluation criteria that the DEP and Rural Development use. If there is a perception that the asset is being underfunded, there are 2 things that would relate to the town – 1 is lower grant funds and 1 is the interest rates. M. Bronn indicated that if an additional person is added to the department, the budget could be higher than the proposed budget by the department. D. Pricket indicated that the 2 primary increases were adding another staff member at a mid-level range and increase of the proposed allocation for replacement of equipment.

3. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the workshop for the Board of Selectmen and reconvene under the Board of Finance regular monthly meeting at 7:30 P.M.: **Betkowski/Sorrentino**; no discussion; all ayes.

Motion to adjourn the workshop for the Board of Finance and reconvene under the Board of Finance regular monthly meeting at 7:30 P.M.: **Rodorigo/Levine**; no discussion; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Board of Finance, Clerk

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