



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MUNICIPAL 2012/2013 BUDGET VOTE
(Draft – subject to revision)**

May 1, 2012

G. Smith called the budget vote meeting to order at 7:07 P.M. Present: Selectmen C. Bielik and D. D'Amico and approximately 200 members of the public.

G. Smith began with the Pledge to the Flag and then asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence for the recent tragic death of William J. Baer, Jr., a resident of the Town of Beacon Falls.

After a moment of silence, the meeting continued and the Clerk, L. Classey read the call.

L. D'Amico motioned to accept the call. D. Scott 2nd the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

C. Bielik motioned to nominate L. Classey as permanent clerk. D. D'Amico 2nd the motion. All voted in favor.

One ballot was cast for the clerk.

D. D'Amico motioned to nominate G. Smith as permanent moderator. D. Scott 2nd the motion. The Clerk asked 3 times if

there were any other nominations. With no further nominations, the clerk cast one ballot for the moderator, G. Smith.

D. Scott motioned that the method of voting be done by paper ballot. S. Cable 2nd the motion. All voted aye in favor.

L. D'Amico moved that the proposed budget be carried to a town vote. D. Scott 2nd the motion.

A discussion took place with members of the public being concerned about the motions being made and the legality of the motion to go to a vote. Several lengthy discussions continued with regard to whether to motion was to vote or postpone the vote or method of voting.

After discussion and confusion from the public, G. Smith asked the public if they wanted to go to a vote this evening. An overwhelming majority of the public said yes therefore G. Smith opened the floor for discussion.

J. Levine, BOF, explained that he serves on the BOF and knows that everyone will agree that these are very difficult economic times and that it is always hard to pay taxes. He explained that there are many needs of the town that need to be taken care of noting that he is not in any way disparaging anything that was done in the past but the reality is that roads need to be taken care of, the sewer plant needs to be looked into, emergency vehicles are needed, etc. He noted that the BOF and BOS put together the lowest possible budget that they could and packaged most of the capital projects in a 10 year low interest loan. The timing of the budget vote coming before the loan vote is unfortunate but couldn't be avoided. He explained that these are not scare tactics but if this budget is voted down then they would have to take \$200,000 from the already very low fund balance to pay for the already committed invoices (Blackberry Hill

and the Streetscape). He asked everyone to please support this budget and then to please support the loan when it comes before a town vote.

G. Komerowsky asked a question regarding page 16 and the Blackberry Hill \$125,000. He was told that it is not in the budget but will be in the loan package.

R. Pizani, explained that she thought they had money for Blackberry Hill. G. Smith explained that there were some over-runs approx. \$150,000 and he hasn't seen the final bill yet. It was noted that the budget they are voting on tonight does not include Blackberry Hill.

J. Shankowsky, Dolly Drive, asked what is entailed in the waste water loan request and didn't we vote for money last year for this. G. Smith explained that this is for something entirely different. This year they are asking for a complete study of the waste water treatment plant so they can find out what they need to do and where they stand with the plant with the end result bringing the plant up to legal code. He explained that last year's money was used for phosphorous and nitrates.

D. Daigle, Blackberry Hill asked what the over-runs on Blackberry Hill and the extra costs. G. Smith explained that the over-runs are related to engineering costs explaining that the project began and took place before he took office on Nov. 21, 2011 and now all the bills are in.

C. Vacarro, Blackberry Hill, asked what the add-ons to the Blackberry Hill project are. G. Smith explained that they are drainage and curb tops and guard rails for safety. He explained that Public Works thought the guard rails are an issue of safety.

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Jeremy Rodrigo, Burton Road, asked what would happen to the ambulance should the budget fail. He was told that the capital projects will be put off but the Streetscape and Blackberry Hill will be added in and the ambulance would probably not be included.

C. Bielik, Selectman, explained that his prior position was Chairman of the Board of Finance and that all the items that are included in this budget or loan package have been brought before the town before. C. Bielik explained that theoretically, if the budget doesn't pass tonight, there's no reason they couldn't still pursue capital projects through the loan. He noted that if the budget does pass, they still have to come back and vote for the loan; if the budget does not pass capital projects will be delayed by a year.

Jeremy Rodrigo hopes that the ambulance and defibrulators do not die.

L. D'Amico asked the Public who we are kidding thinking about putting this off. He explained that he was the 1st Selectman for many years and this is a good budget. He doesn't want the taxes to go up either but understands that they have to. He strongly urges everyone to support this budget.

M. Holloway, Dolly Dr., explained that she doesn't want to see anything happen to the ambulance either and asked what the mil rate would be with this 2.8% increase and the upcoming school budget increase. She asked if there were alternatives to the loan such as a bond. G. Smith did not have an answer as to what the mil rate would be if the proposed school budget passed and also explained that a short term loan is the cheapest way to go noting that bonds are more expensive.

J. Pavlik noted that we were here tonight for a vote only and that the question and answer session was two weeks ago. He suggested

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they get on with the vote and that those who had questions should have attended the meeting two weeks ago.

L. D'Amico motioned that this meeting be recessed to a paper ballot vote on the 2012/2013 proposed municipal budget. D. Scott 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

G. Smith explained the voting process and everyone began taking their place in line.

Meeting was recessed to a vote at 7:36 P.M.

8:45 P.M. the registrars of voters announced that the vote resulted in 111 Yes and 92 No with a total of 203 voters.

The 2012/2013 proposed municipal budget passed.

J. Rodrigo motioned to adjourn the meeting. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:46 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Lauren Classey
Clerk for the BOS**

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BEACON FALLS TOWN CLERK