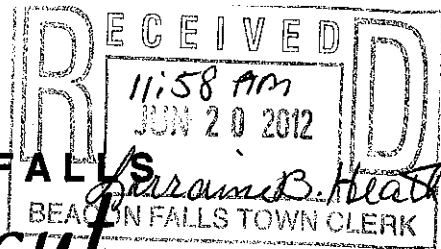




TOWN of BEACON FALLS
Connecticut



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN MEETING
JUNE 14, 2012
RESOLUTIONS
MINUTES

First Selectman Gerard F. Smith called the Town Meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. with the Pledge to the flag. Meeting was held at the Firehouse, 35 North Main Street, Beacon Falls.

PRESENT: First Selectman G. Smith, Selectmen D. D'Amico and C. Bielik and approximately 100 residents.

Clerk read call for this Town Meeting. **S. Mis made motion to accept the call as read, 2nd by H. Mis. All voted aye.**

L' Damico made motion to appoint Karen Wilson to serve as Clerk for the meeting, 2nd by S. Mis. No more nominations three (3) times. All voted aye. One ballot cast for Karen Wilson

E. Grace made motion to appoint Gerard Smith to serve as Moderator for this Town Meeting, 2nd by Mary Ellen Fernandes. No more nominations three (3) times. All aye. One ballot cast for Gerard Smith.

G. Smith noted that with petitions going around about voting on the five resolutions at a Town-wide Referendum, the Board of Selectmen voted on June 8, 2012 at a Special Board of Selectmen meeting to go to a referendum in order to expedite the process of voting on the resolutions. Referendum will be held on Thursday, June 21, 2012 from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. with voting to take place at Laurel Ledge School.

Discussion on item number 1:

- The Streetscape Project was under funded with many overruns occurring. The Town is receiving an 80% grant but the Town has to come up with the remaining 20% in matching funds. There is a shortfall of \$150,000 with approximately \$45,000 still to be paid. This project is almost completed.

- Guardrails still have to be put up on Blackberry Hill. Former 1st Selectman S. Cable noted she had been out of Town for the entire day and in no way did she try to stop this project. G. Smith noted the project is almost completed. Grant funds were also

obtained for this project but there is still a shortfall. He also noted he is frustrated with all of the harassment he has received and wants to move forward for the betterment of the Town.

Susan Mis, 15 Bonna Street, asked where monies would come from if these projects are not approved by the voters. G. Smith noted there are five (5) separate questions on the ballot and the voter can pick and chose what items they want to pass. He noted there is always the possibility of going into the Town's fund balance to cover these costs, but it is not recommended to have a fund balance of below 5%, adding this package merely puts the Town even.

John Gulesh, 122 Munson Road, asked why there is no contingency fund included with the project, with G. Smith noting this has been included. He also noted that all projects were bid out.

Susan Cable, 196 Blackberry Hill, handed over information from FEMA noting that the Town had gotten a FEMA grant from \$38,000, adding she had gotten this information via her email. She added that she did not like being accused for an incident that happened today, when she was out of the Town for the entire day, adding this was an 'out and out lie'. She noted she had helped get petitions signed because she felt people should be made aware of any vote on the expenditure of any monies, adding that these projects are needed, and that the Streetscape Project has been nationally recognized.

Mary Ellen Fernandes, 31 South Circle, asked about the cost of the Blackberry Hill guardrails, and felt the cost had already been included. G. Smith noted the guard rail cost was not included in original project but felt they are needed for the safety of the residents. He added the Board of Selectmen works for the Town and answers to the residents and that the Board does not rule or dictate on how things should be done.

Discussion on item number 2:

Jeremy Rodorigo gave a brief explanation of the items related to various public safety equipment, acquisitions, refurbishments and facility improvements for use by Beacon Hose Company No. 1. He added the current defibrillators in use are very outdated, adding the new ones send two (2) quick bolts of electricity and they are also pediatric compatible.

The 1999 ambulance also needs to be refurbished, adding the current vehicle recently broke down. Cost for this refurbishment is \$130,000.

He noted the Firehouse kitchen hood also needs to be replaced and with the firehouse being used as an emergency shelter, this expense is needed. (\$10,000)

J. Rodorigo also discussed the radios. The problem is their inner operability which enables everyone to be able to communicate.

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It was noted the police Tahoe will be replaced with an Explorer (\$40,000) since it can no longer be used on a day to day basis. M.E. Fernandes asked how many vehicles the Police Department currently has, response was four (4) vehicles plus the Tahoe. She also asked how many officers are usually on duty at one time, with the answer being two (2).

Gary Komarowsky, 15 Second Street, asked the difference between bond, note and loan, with G. Smith noting technically there is no difference because they all include borrowing at a determined rate of interest.

David Rybinski, Quail Hollow Court, noted many Towns spend well over \$1,000,000 for their radio equipment, adding that the \$85,000 cost for the Town's radios is very reasonable.

Discussion on item number 3:

G. Smith noted the Wastewater Treatment Plant is forty (40) years old and a sewage upgrade is desperately needed as it has never had and upgrades or studies done. The study's cost is \$290,000 which will take at least two and one half (2 ½) years to complete. Things such as field surveys, analyzing monthly flows, hydraulic profiles and the collection system will all be addressed. It was noted the Town currently has three (3) pump stations which will all be evaluated. Manholes and rainfall will also be studied. The studies could actually give ideas on how the Town can save money. It was noted the Town has to be in compliance with the DEEP.

Martha Berge, 75 Laurie Lane, asked if residences having a septic system would be studied.

Someone asked what happens if a problem is discovered that has to be immediately addressed. It was noted there is funding of \$150,000 included in the budget and could be used to remedy a problem. G. Smith noted this \$290,000 is strictly for a study.

W. Opuszynski, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent, discussed some of the problems, for example, we cannot tell what flows come through the plant, noting the Pinesbridge pump station handles the west side of the Town. He noted that during Hurricane Irene, the flow was enormous and went beyond the plant's capacity. He added the DEEP and EPA can also issue fines to the Town for not being in compliance.

S. Cable, 196 Blackberry Hill, noted this funding is in addition to the \$1,000,000 which is in a separate account, adding that nitrogen and phosphorous issues have to be resolved.

David Rybinski, asked what happens if Town cannot treat the phosphorous and nitrogen issues, since the Town is currently not in compliance, with W. Opuszynski noting the Town has not been fined up to this time, but this will soon be a reality. Currently the Town pays \$51,600 every year but with the necessary upgrades this cost would be reduced.

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Discussion on item number 4:

G. Smith noted the cost of \$61,034 is needed for various information systems projects that would address the Town Hall and Finance Departments.

M. Gomes, the Town's Finance Manager noted the current software is ten (10) years old. C. Bielik agreed you need to have a double sided entry to handle the Town's finances. M. Gomes noted the Town's auditor has been suggesting this type of software.

A work station in the Town Clerk's Office for public access to the computer system would cost \$6,000.

Discussion on item number 5:

\$152,450 is needed for costs related to acquisition for use by the Public Works Department of a dump truck and related equipment (\$57,000) and loader and related equipment (\$87,000). The dump truck would replace a 1999 4350 Mason Body Dump truck and the loader would replace the 1989 John Deer loader.

G. Smith then asked if there were any other comments.

- G. Smith noted that both the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance had voted unanimously to approve all five (5) of the Resolutions to be included in a vote either at a Town Meeting or at a Town-wide Referendum.

Leonard D'Amico, 57 Maple Avenue, former First Selectman, noted he has been at many presentations over the years and never has he seen (himself included) such preparation and explanation of all of the facts pertaining to these five (5) resolutions. He felt the explanations were clear and concise, and urged all residents to vote in support of these five (5) resolutions on June 21st.

Ron Holzman, Skokorat Road, thanked and applauded both the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance for all of their hard work in putting this package together, adding that as a retired naval officer he understands all of the time and effort that goes into this type of project. He noted that if action is not taken now, the costs will only go up in the future. He also urged everyone to vote yes on these items.

J. Dowdell made motion to adjourn the Town Meeting at 8:20 P.M. to go to a Referendum on June 21, 2012, 2nd by D. Rybinski. All voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Wilson

Karen A. Wilson

Clerk for Town Meeting – June 14, 2012

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BEACON FALLS TOWN CLERK