

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
C/O TOWN HALL
10 MAPLE AVENUE
BEACON FALLS, CT 06403**

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
SEPTEMBER 3, 2013
MINUTES**

(Draft – Subject to Approval)

First Selectman Gerard F. Smith called the Town Meeting held at the Beacon Falls Firehouse to order at 7:51 P.M. with the Pledge to the flag. Meeting was held at the Beacon Falls Firehouse.

PRESENT: First Selectman G. Smith, Selectmen D. D’Amico, C. Bielik and approximately 90 Town residents.

Clerk read call for this Town Meeting. **Joseph Rodorigo made motion to accept the call as read, 2nd by H. Mis.**

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

Joseph Rodorigo made motion to appoint Gerard Smith to serve as Moderator for this Town Meeting, 2nd by Robert Doiron. No more nominations three (3) times. All aye. One ballot cast for Gerard Smith.

Jeremy Rodorigo made motion to have a show of hands as the method of voting, 2nd by Michael Pratt. Vote by show of hands:

76 YES votes, 12 NO votes and 0 ABSTENTIONS. Motion passed.

First Selectman G. Smith appointed Selectmen David D’Amico and Christopher Bielik to serve as counters.

1. To consider and act upon a Resolution to increase by \$420,000 the \$3,690,000 appropriation and bond and note authorization from the 2006 Depot Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project approved at Referendum held on June 27, 2006 and at a Special Town Meeting held on August 28, 2006 for an aggregate appropriation and bond and note authorization of \$4,110,000; and to take such action to allow temporary advances of available funds which the Town reasonably expects will be reimbursed from the proceeds of borrowings. G. Smith opened the floor for discussion, comments, and questions.

1. Joseph Rodorigo, 42 Bonna Street asked where the increase in cost is going. Town Engineer, Jim Galligan noted the cost of the work increased, noting a subsequent inspection showed further erosion and rust problems which caused a 25% time overrun. He then asked why this would have to go to bonding. G. Smith said a Resolution is needed to approve the expenditure. J. Rodorigo

- jokingly added that why can't the Town make a deal with the engineer to pay the overruns over a longer period of time.
2. Kurt Novak, 90 Munson Road, was told the original engineering costs were \$800,000 and how could the project now come to a 1.2 million dollar cost. Again, J. Galligan noted the reasons for the cost increases.
 3. Lauren Classey, Munson Road, asked if anyone has ever negotiated the cost overruns, especially when additional work has to be done. J. Galligan noted the Town has already paid for the project, but the monies to be approved at this Town Meeting would go back into the General Fund, with G. Smith adding that the Town might not have to bond this amount.
 4. Eve Melninkaitis, 111 Highland Avenue, asked J. Galligan as an engineer, what happens when a project goes over or under a budget. J. Galligan noted the State DOT does all of the bridge inspections and that they take total responsibility for those inspections, adding the rusting was noted at a later inspection.

Joseph Rodorigo made motion to approve this Resolution, 2nd by David Rybinski. Vote by show of hands was:

72 YES votes, 13 NO votes and 2 ABSTENTIONS. Motion passed.

2. To appropriate \$700,000 for costs in connection with various improvements to the Town's Wastewater Systems, as to be determined by the Water Pollution Control Authority (W.P.C.A.) contemplated to include: Supervisory Control Authority and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems and integration, emergency bypass and readiness provisions, and mechanical improvements for the Railroad Avenue, Pines Bridge and West Road pump stations; short-term measures to address interim phosphorous removal requirements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and for related bond and note issuance and other financing costs.

G. Smith noted that discussions took place on this Resolution at Public Hearing just held and opened the floor for discussion, comments and questions.

Richard Minnick made motion to approve this Resolution, 2nd by David Rybinski. Vote by show of hands was:

80 YES votes, 7 NO votes and 3 ABSTENTIONS. Motion passed.

3. Vote on a Resolution to appropriate \$700,000 for acquisition of a 75 foot quintuple combination pumper ("quint") fire truck and related equipment for use by Beacon Hose Company No. 1 Volunteer Fire Department, and for related bond and note issuance and other financing costs. The appropriation may be spend for acquisition and delivery costs, equipment, consultants' fees, legal fees, net temporary interest and other financing costs, and other costs related to the project. Prior to July 1, 2014, there shall be no encumbrance under this Resolution while a request is pending under the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. G. Smith noted the current equipment is twenty-five (25) years old, adding there might be FEMA grant monies available, noting we have hired a Grant Writer at a cost of \$3,000 to apply for this funding. Since there is no assurance the Town would even get any grant funds or the amount of a grant if received, cost to purchase this equipment could be from \$35,000 and up. C. Bielik noted that if the Town was to receive notification of getting a FEMA grant or not, the Town could proceed earlier to buy the truck if we

know for sure that no grant funds were forthcoming. G. Smith then opened the floor for discussion, comments and questions.

1. Raymond Kunz, 55 September Lane asked if the Town does not get any grant funding, then why would we want to buy the fire truck and related equipment? G. Smith responded that while some people might not want to purchase a new fire truck, the Board of Selectmen thought it was fiscally responsible to buy the truck and try to get some grant money to do this, adding that the Town has to plan ahead.
2. John Gullesh, 122 Munson Road asked why we just couldn't wait for grant funds before deciding to buy the new truck and asked what is the emergency right now? G. Smith said part of the whole process is to appropriate the funding, and that grant funds are tied into the final purchase price, adding the Town is facing a lot of expenditures right now and with the current truck 25 years old, it is important to look into purchasing the new equipment.
3. Michael Pratt, current Fire Chief noted the truck has 27,000 miles on it, but it is an open cab vehicle which sits outside and open to various weather conditions.
4. Paul Brennan, member of Beacon Hose Company No. 1 added the engine is from a Class A apparatus, and when it has problems, insurance rates can go up for the residents and the Town.
5. David Rybinski, Quail Hollow Road, and Past Fire Chief, noted when insurance rates go up it affects everyone. He noted there are houses and roofs not accessible to the Fire Department during an emergency. He noted that Beacon Hose Company No. 1 has applied to FEMA for many grants and has gotten many of those grants, but they were told Beacon Falls would not qualify for any FEMA for grant funding toward purchase of a fire truck, adding the Town is wasting its money paying a grant writer to write and submit this grant. He added that the longer the Town waits to purchase, the more expensive it will be and the \$700,000 will not be enough.
6. Ruth Pisani, Back Rimmon Road felt that the Town would not get the FEMA grant, adding her homeowner's insurance goes up every year and has nothing to do with what kind of fire truck the Town has.
7. Kurt Novak, Munson Road noted he joined Beacon Hose in 1969 when the own purchased the current truck, adding that while some people might not need a ladder truck to help them in an emergency, we should remember our neighbors and friends who might need that ladder truck available.
8. Jack Levine, White Birch Lane and current member of the Board of Finance said he is speaking for himself and he supports the efforts of the Fire Department to purchase this fire truck. He noted that it has been frustrating for the Fire Department to keep getting shot down in its efforts to purchase this equipment and felt we should not keep putting things off.
9. Bill Mis, Bonna Street said he supports our Volunteer Fire Department, noting the huge cost of having a paid Fire Department.
10. James Trzaski, Burton Road and member of the Fire Department and a paid firefighter for the Borough of Naugatuck agreed with the expense of having a paid Fire Department, adding that safety is paramount. If someone got injured or worse using this truck, then what happens and who is to blame. He noted that Naugatuck spends approximately \$2.1 million dollars for its Fire Department,
11. Robert Speark, Chatfield Farms asked if the Fire House is big enough to house this new equipment and was told that it is.
12. T. O'Donnell, Laurie Lane, asked what is the price of a life.

Sheryl Feducia made motion to move the question, 2nd by Thomas Pratt. By show of hands, all voted in favor of the motion.

Sheryl Feducia made motion to adopt the Resolution to appropriate \$700,000 for purchase of a new fire truck, 2nd by William McCasland. Vote on the motion by show of hands:

81 YES votes, 6 NO votes and 4 ABSTENTIONS. Motion passed.

With no other business, Robert Doiron made motion to adjourn this Town Meeting at 8:58 P.M. seconded by David Rybinski. By show of hands all voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Wilson, Clerk for Special Town Meeting – September 3, 2013