

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**April 14, 2015**  
**MINUTES**  
**(Subject to Revision)**

**1. Call to Order**

Board Members Present: Joe Dowdell, Joe Rodorigo, Bob Doiron, Marc Bronn, and Brian Ploss

Not Present: Jack Levine

Others present: First Selectman Chris Bielik; Selectman Dom Sorrentino; Selectman Peter Betkoski; Chief Jim Trzaski and Asst. Chief Brian DeGeorge, Beacon Hose Co. 1; Tom Broesler, Finance Manager; Sue Dowdell, Director of the Library, and Mike Yamin, Region 16 Superintendent of Schools.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Chairman Joe Dowdell called the meeting to order at 7:30P.M.

**3. Public Comment**

There were no members of the public present at tonight's meeting.

**4. Presentation by Superintendent of Schools, Region 16 – Mike Yamin**

M. Yamin handed out a summary of the Region 16 Budget to the members of the Board. He wanted to know if anyone on the Board had questions about the budget. B. Doiron asked about what will happen with Algonquin School. M. Yamin indicated that it will be demoed, with receiving a price of \$660,000. That price leaves \$1,500,000 for building 6,100 sq. ft. on the site if chosen. They are not going to go for the reimbursement.

M. Yamin indicated that they would fall under different regulations if they took the reimbursement and then they would not be able to do what they need to do at that site. M. Yamin indicated that they are looking to sell Community School. An appraisal is being sought and Mayor Chatfield is interested in purchasing the school. J. Rodorigo asked if the idea is to build on the site of Algonquin School and M. Yamin indicated that it is. J. Rodorigo asked if they could be on the site of the new school. M. Yamin indicated that they looked into that and could build below. It would cost more with the road cut-ins and tie-in with the water and septic.

J. Rodorigo asked about the roof on Woodland Regional High School. The roof is 15 years old and had a life expectancy of 40 years. M. Yamin indicated that after 7 years, you cannot go after anyone. The basic construction is covered by not negligence. M. Yamin indicated that no one would allow you to take the people to court and the legal fees would be enormous. J. Rodorigo noted that his concern is that the 40 year warranty being violated and the roof is leaking. M. Yamin indicated that it was 6 years in before they knew it was leaking. The plan is to wait two more years because it would be reimbursable through the state. The money will be put into the non-recurring Capital account and when the building is 15 years old in 2016, the state will give us reimbursement on it. They are accumulating the money because they will need to come up with about 45% of the money.

M. Yamin indicated that he is hoping not to overcharge, not to have surpluses. He is looking to have about \$300,000 in the budget for "in case something happens". He wants to carry the 8%-10%, where it has been 19%-22% in prior years. M. Yamin noted that they are going to be on a three-year plan with capital improvements and academic growth. He is going to make sure that when the Region asks for money, it is for what is needed, not for what is wanted. The teachers' contract has to be negotiated next year, which is a large item. With the sale of Community School and keep expenses down, it would help to put money back in the town where they can do the capital improvements that is needed.

J. Dowdell asked about the sale of Community, wanting to know if the money comes back to the town. M. Yamin indicated that it is revenue and the Region cannot keep revenue. The split will be 60% to Prospect and 40% to Beacon Falls. They will have the appraisal in May.

J. Dowdell thanked M. Yamin for coming to the meeting tonight.

##### **5. Approval of Minutes from March 10, 2015**

J. Rodorigo noted that the incorrect account was referenced in the Budget Transfer Request from the Beacon Hose Co. 1. The motion on page 6 should be corrected to state the following:

***Motion to approve the transfer request of \$7,025.00 from the Hose Replacement Program, Budget Line Item 10.90.90.2126 to Emergency Service Vehicle Repairs, Budget Line Item 10.90.44.1472: Rodorigo/Bronn; no discussion; all ayes.***

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2015 monthly meeting with the correction to the motion of approving the transfer request by Beacon Hose Co. 1: Doiron/Ploss; no discussion; all ayes.

## **6. Finance Manager's Report**

T. Broesler indicated that not much happened last month due to the budget.

### **a. Updated on Corrective Action Plan**

There was nothing to update on the corrective action plan and T. Broesler will be working on it next month.

### **b. Status Report on Payroll Conversion**

The payroll is running smoothly now and E. Schwartz has come up with some ideas. She is working out very well.

### **c. Status Report on Bank Reconciliations**

There was nothing to update on the bank reconciliations.

### **d. Update on Other Issues**

T. Broesler indicated that he will not be at the next Board of Finance meeting but will submit his report for the meeting.

## **7. First Selectmen's Report**

### **a. Proposed Budget Transfers**

There is one proposed budget transfer that was approved last night at the Board of Selectmen meeting. With Shari Garcia out on maternity leave and unpaid leave, the part time wages went over the budgeted amount and the full time wages was under the budgeted amount. The library asked to have \$2,000 transferred from full time wages to part time wages. C. Bielik would like to have the approval from the Board of Finance on this transfer.

Motion to transfer \$2,000 from Budget Line 10.90.69.1010, Library Wages Full Time to Budget Line 10.90.69.1019, Library Wages Part Time: Rodorigo/Ploss; no discussion; 4 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention by J. Dowdell.

## **b. Information on Tracy House Repairs/Demolition and Financial Impact**

C. Bielik did not have an update on the Tracy House. He is waiting to hear from Theresa Conroy on getting state money to help with the demolition. J. Dowdell asked about the insurance issue with other fire departments from other towns using Beacon Falls property. The Tracy House is used by other town fire departments for training and the concern is if someone gets hurt, whose insurance covers the injury. Chief Trzaski indicated that The Valley Fire School is the one that is doing it and has their own insurance policy. J. Dowdell would like to have the policy checked. Chief Trzaski previously had found out that if someone gets hurt at a fire school, that person is under the town's worker's comp. insurance and not the fire school's insurance. J. Dowdell indicated that it should be checked out.

## **c. Status Report on Sewer Treatment Plant Upgrades and Proposed Bonding**

C. Bielik indicated that Woodard & Curran's report is done. Dave Prickett has been commissioned to do a study to find a fair way of determining sewer user fees. There is plenty of study money left for this. They are still determining the firm that will be used to do a peer review of that plan. There are some bids received.

## **d. Status of Proposed Ordinance on Town Treasurer's Duties (Bank Reconciliations)**

The Board of Selectmen have not starting discussing this item as of yet. There was an error in the Ordinance that was found by Mike Krenesky. The Ordinance noted Section 7-180 and should be 7-80. The Board of Selectmen voted on the change last night.

## **e. Discussion on Search for New Engineers and Consultants**

C. Bielik will be after a meeting next week with a firm that T. Broesler had found during research. J. Rodorigo indicated that he requested copies of the bills from Nafis & Young to review. The delay in receiving bills could be 6 months later which should not be allowed. Also, the description is very brief. Nothing is noted as to what was done and J. Rodorigo indicated that if someone reads the bill, they should know what was done, work that was performed. Under the First Selectmen's report, Discussion on Billing from Nafis & Young should be added to the agenda for next month.

## **f. Update on Other Issues**

C. Bielik reminded everyone of the Town Meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2015, at the Town Hall Assembly Room starting at 6:30 P.M. The meeting is for the three resolutions to be voted on by the town.

**8. Discussion and Possible Vote on Audit of Ambulance Service (Fire Chief and any other member of service invited to join conversation)**

J. Dowdell indicated that this agenda item will be tabled for tonight since J. Levine is not present. C. Bielik indicated that he has not received the contract from Atty. Stanek as of yet.

**9. Reports**

**a. Ambulance Service Report**

Chief Trzaski distributed the report to the members of the Board.

B. Doiron asked about the amount of outstanding monies and how far past due are they. Chief Trzaski indicated that it is \$24,357 with the column listed as 180 days or more. They need to dig deeper to say how far back does that money goes.

J. Dowdell asked to have the report emailed to the members of the Board the Friday prior to the meeting in order for the members to review.

**b. Town Treasurer's Report**

The Board reviewed the report that was submitted by M. Krenesky. It was a snapshot runoff since he is away for two weeks.

**c. Tax Collector's Report**

J. Rodorigo indicated that after the budget is passed, we need to have the tax collector attend a meeting to inform the Board of the people who owe back taxes, what's left to collect. J. Rodorigo asked if she could provide a list for the Board to review.

C. Bielik noted that the foreclosed property on Bear Hill Road was purchased by the owners of Oakwood Estates. The back tax number that was owed was \$164,xxx and the winning bid was \$200,000. The town was paid everything that was owed plus the marshal fees plus the attorney fees.

**d. Town Clerk's Report**

The members of the Board reviewed the report that was submitted by the Town Clerk.

## **10. Unfinished Business**

J. Rodorigo indicated that the mil rate as discussed at the workshop could not be right. He sat down with T. Broesler and found that the first page was wrong and the information was never carried forward. J. Rodorigo presented the cover page that will go with the budget at the presentation. If the budget is passed, the new mil rate will be 32.9, a .4 increase. J. Rodorigo will make copies for everyone. C. Bielik added that they sat down and looked at the numbers. They started with the audit report with the amount of the revenue collection that was used, and moved forward. C. Bielik noted that there were old numbers on the first page and was carried forward so there were bad numbers. The cover sheet is the only thing that changed. Nothing in the budget changed.

## **11. Correspondence**

**a. Board of Finance Clerk's Invoice from March 10, 2015 meeting for \$95.00 and Invoice from Special Meetings held on March 25, 2015; March 31, 2015; and April 1, 2015 each for \$35.00 for a grand total of \$200.00.**

Motion to approve the invoices from the Board of Finance's Clerk as submitted for tonight's meeting: Doiron/ Rodorigo; no discussion; all ayes.

**b. Other**

## **12. New Business**

**a. Discussion of the Organization of the Police Department**

B. Ploss asked about the use of the State Trooper and proposing the possibility of getting rid of the State Trooper. C. Bielik indicated that if we do away with the State Trooper, we are cut off from Troop I. Troop I does the holding, processing, all of the functions that are done after apprehending someone. There will be infrastructure costs associated with this. A jail would have to be built, staffing for 24 hour coverage at the facility, hardware, and other costs that would be associated. He can contact E. Rodriguez to compile and estimate an itemized list of what is needed and their costs.

This item was asked to be added to the agenda for next month's meeting under the First Selectmen's agenda item.

### 13. Public Comment

Sue Dowdell, Directory of the Library, indicated that a survey has been sent out and she is looking to get 500 responses by May. She is asking for everyone to participate and to have everyone forward it to the family and friends.

### 14. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, J. Dowdell asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting.

Motion to adjourn tonight's meeting at 8:46 P.M.: Doiron/Rodorigo; no discussion; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo  
Clerk, Board of Finance