

## **First Selectman's Letter May 2012**

With the passage of the 2012-2013 municipal budget, the voters of Beacon Falls have approved part one of a two-step financing process, which will save the town \$25,000 in interest and fees, as compared to a traditional bond issue. The Town is applying for a ten-year \$1,100,000 municipal loan from a local bank, taking advantage of a product designed to enable towns to finance their capital improvements with the greatest bang for the buck. The fifteen individual items are capital projects vetted and approved by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance. The items include: waste water treatment study, BH#7 ambulance, Blackberry Hill Rd shortfall, Main Street Streetscape project shortfall, public works pay loader, replace 1997 public works dump truck, replace 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Vehicle, new financial software, town hall computer server, town-wide radio system, Lifepak defibrillators, town clerk computer stations, firehouse ventilation system, flow meter for the Pinesbridge pump station, and waste water plant upgrades. With the approval of this loan, the town will begin a five year capital plan. A town meeting to approve the loan will be scheduled in June; the exact date is to be determined.

An interesting note: Jeremy Roderigo gave an impassioned plea to fellow voters to pass the budget, citing the dire condition of the rescue fleet and the necessity of a new ambulance. Not two days later, while responding to a distress call, the old ambulance broke down.

The Streetscape project is nearing completion; \$45,000 from the pending town loan will complete the shortfall for project overruns. Drainage work at the Depot Street Bridge is complete. The asphalt to complete the paving must be DOT approved and tested. Local plants start testing DOT spec class 2 asphalt two to three weeks after opening, depending on cooperative weather. Unfortunately, while the weather was cooperative in March, it has not been in April or May, when the plants have been open. The project's contractor plans to be substantially complete by June 15.

Graduation for the first CERT class is June 9, to be held at Beacon Hose Company #1 Headquarters. Congratulations and thank you to our first civilian emergency response team!

Tobey's Pond has been substantially restored, with graded areas for parking and a walking path along the water. Fishermen have been enjoying the solitude of the well-stocked pond, and a boat launch has been installed for ease of launching kayaks and canoes. I extend a big thank you to Rich Minnick and his devoted team for giving of their time and labor to provide Beacon Falls with a beautiful spot to recreate and commune with nature.

Spring cleaning alert: the transfer station will be open to receive bulky waste on Saturday, May 19. In due time, as our finances improve, our administration hopes to include more frequent collection dates in the town calendar.

Gerard Smith  
First Selectman

