

## Beacon Falls Board of Finance

10 Maple Ave  
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



### Beacon Falls Board of Selectmen

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#### Special Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2018

(Subject to Revision)

Present: Selectmen Chris Bielik, Selectman Mike Krenesky, Selectman Peter Betkoski

Present: Marc Bronn, Joe Rodorigo, Tom Pratt, Jim Carroll,

Absent; Steven Leeper, Brian Ploss

#### **1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

C. Bielik call the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

#### **2. Review of post-tornado cleanup bids**

Tom Tomlin, New Finance Manager; handed out Bids that came in from 7 companies that are under FEMA guidelines. First went out we used 20,000.cubic yards, what the public works though, when we equalized it andredid the bids at 15,000 cubic yards. Price in red is based on cubic yards. Looking at the bids if you use FEMA route you need a monitor. With the help of public works. Tom B;someone will need to do all the forms. Bronn;the government paperwork is not easy. Bielik; need a second person to check your work. Tom T; will need private duty work, debris site manager, reimbursement at 75%, we may not get the full 75%, and did a reduction of 60%. Bielik;that is just for the clean-up and processing removal. Tom T; if you wanted to borrow for it the report also shows borrowing 1 million. Bielik; we still haven't been given a federal declaration yet and if we don't we will be liable for the whole clean up.

Bronn; Have you reached out to our local representatives, Bielik: yes I have reached out to all of the representatives. Two teams came from FEMA, one for the municipals sites and the other team all the residents that may be affected by the tornado, about 20-30 household that reported some kind of damaged done by the storm. Not sure what has happened with the rest of the towns. The guess we gave in May, will clear FEMA threshold. What is going to happen at the federal level even if we clear that threshold? Tom T; When Super Storm Sandy hit East Haven, that was devastated; looking around here I'm not so sure. Betkoski; Homeowners insurance should step up first. Bielik; for homeowners FEMA will reimburse you for over and above what your insurance won't cover. Tom gave you the report with the FEMA verse the town clean up, Tom P; How do we know which stumps are targeted for this cleanup? Bielik; The Town crew verified what was in the municipalities. Trees that are in the right away, does not make it a town tree. And that is something we have clarified repeatedly. Betkoski; Ten feet in is the town? Bielik; Well that is not true. Rodorigo; what is the plan; you have had 7 weeks to figure this out? Bielik; we need to allocate this funding, which path do we want to go? Which direction do we want to go, trying to authorize the funding for FEMA, or should we just pay the full amount ourselves, and then bring it to the public. Carroll; There is a ton of debris on the curbside, and what is the plan on cleaning up the debris. Bielik; we have not detailed public works to pick up the curbside debris, the intention has always been to hire someone to pick up the debris. Carroll; why haven't we done something 1/2 days or 1 day a week? Pratt; we should have had a firm plan and all the First Selectmen has said was to put the debris to the curbside. We haven't done anything to help the public. Rodorigo; we have a wood chipper why couldn't we start picking things up. If we did the O&G route it would be \$1.00, and its 5 acres, and you are improving it for your transfer station. And there is nowhere to hall the chips to, 7 weeks to have nothing in place, no one is monitoring it and it's out of control. Betkoski; I believe a code red should go out tomorrow no more dumping; we owe it to the taxpayers to come up with a plan tonight. Carroll; obviously we need to go to a town meeting. What is the plan? Bronn; who estimated this 214,000.00 what was the plan? Rodorigo; It comes from Rob at Public works, he's going to hire Ed the Tree-man and grind it up and wood chip it, but we don't have a place to put it. Jim Weed has a site, and no one has contacted him. He hasa crew and he has the site. And it all could be done in three weeks. Bronn; we can't have our own town crew work on this? Rodorigo; Chip what you can and dump where you can, and in the meantime lets develop a plan. Pratt; we don't even

know what these numbers are for? Carroll; we own a chipper and it hasn't been used? Rodorigo; No it has not been done. Bielik; based on our workforce we have they don't have time to work on this. People are always on vacation. Most of the time we only have 4 or 3 during the summer. Pratt; we could have used them before summer started and vacations. Rodorigo; I'm not bashing the Town Crew. Bielik; I've seen the trees that are coming to the curb are directly related to the storm. Rodorigo; we should contact Jim Weed; he is the only one that has a location. Bielik; I am under the impression that we had reached out to him. Rodorigo; I asked Rob what the number is to get it to site ready, and Jim Weed is still getting a number for us and he wants to do the job. Let's look at the number and if it's equal to equal. It's not 100% for FEMA. We come up with a plan that doesn't include FEMA, and if we do get declared then we can submit those bills. Bronn; you can do partial for FEMA. Tom B. Certain things are and aren't included. Bielik; There was nothing to talk about until the bids are in. Betkoski; I would like the support from our Board of Selectmen and from the Board of Finance. I've had a conversation with the Vice Chairmen, and with O&G it's a good thing to get the ball rolling. Krenesky; we said we wanted to find a site that wouldn't cost the taxpayers money. We will need to clear the O&G site and then we have to give it up in 10 years, I think it's off the table, I think it's too far down the road. Rodorigo; if you don't use Jim Weed who would you use? I want to keep other people in the loop. Can we throw out these bids and get new ones and add in they need to use their own site. Tom B; you can get a new RFP and have those all submitted new bids. Krenesky; Looks like FEMA is off the table for now and move forward and come up with a plan. Tom B; the timeline was the municipalities had to report by May 26<sup>th</sup> and then the State has till the end of June to make a decision. Bronn; are we allowed to start work without FEMA? Pratt; Yes we can but everything needs to be recorded. Bronn; the risk is still there, that it may not be monitored correctly. Tom B; 90 days you still get at 75%, after 90 days you're at 60%. Betkoski; if you were to start the town crew out where would you start? Bronn; I would start on 42. Tom B; when you hire the Public Works they sign in not to take vacation during winter plowing time, so then they are all off during the summer. Bronn; you need to stack the vacations. Rodorigo; All I want is a number, and I should have gotten the number 7 weeks ago. Anyone of these people could have the same capabilities that Jim Weeds have. Tom B; as long as you don't put in restrictions. Bielik; why do we need to get a bid from Jim Weed, if we have the numbers based on what the finance came up with? Rodorigo; where is the list of the trees? Bielik; if

we collectively are going to throw out the first rounds of bids and we can schedule a town meeting in the ballpark of \$214,600.00, and put a comfort zone factor and say around \$250,000.00 and ask the town for authorization for tornado cleanup fund. Carrol; there are two numbers we don't have based on this report. Rodorigo; we don't have \$300,000.00. Bielik; Yes we do have \$300,000.00 in our unassigned fund balance. Carroll; I said why we can't lower the mil rate, so we were going to take the money in case what the storm was going to be. Bronn;so after this, we have no savings. Tom B and Tom T went over all the numbers, we both believe were are going to break even this fiscal year, when I looked again the \$120,000.00 was before capital, and without taking it out it's about \$400,000.00. Betkoski; There is \$18,000.00 for curbing. We can't forget that. Tom B; if you decided we can issue a purchase order for \$250,000.00. Bielik; if we were going to borrow a short-term note for 1 million, there are additional fees. Tom B; you don't have to decide on FEMA tonight, just the dollar amount you need to bring to the public. Discussion continues.

### **3. FEMA reimbursement vs. local funding for cleanup – discussion**

Kerensky: I'm ready to make motions that were going to by ourselves. Rodorigo; to clear the O&G site it's \$50,000.00. Bielik; The Haynes site which is already agreed on, \$7,000.00 is not a lot of money. And it's only days to get the Haynes property ready. Bronn: I rather spend the money on O&G and have the property. Bielik; the first thing we need to do tonight is to select any of the bids. Bielik makes a motion to reject the first go around of bids submitted. **Krenesky makes a motion to reject all the bids;** Betkoski **2<sup>nd</sup> it.** Betkoski; we will get new bids: Bielik; Yes we will; **all eyes.** Bielik; How much time to put it into the guidelines we talked about tonight. Tom B.; Mike K said there was something wrong with the bids? Krenesky; I never said there was something wrong with the RFP. Tom B; the people that bid don't get to say what's in the RFP. Krenesky; to my knowledge, there is nothing wrong with the RFP. Bielik; next step to modify the RFP to make it more open to more potential bidders, including a site to dispose of the stuff. Bronn; if we don't take it to a DEP site, FEMA will not

approve the money. Bielik; let's decided if there is enough support in a position not to exceed the number to get the town to authorize the funds. Rodorigo; 18, 0000 for curbs. Carroll; 75,000.00 included. Krenesky; Make a motion to go to the public for \$350,000.00. Bronn; that is going to spend all the money.

#### **4. Setting town meeting to vote on funding alternative – Discussion and Action**

Betkoski; we need a plan before the meeting. I'm a little uncomfortable with that. Rodorigo; \$350,000.00 is too high. There is no monitor anymore. I don't think there is any management number, but the hauling. Bielik; the \$18,000 for curbing should be reimbursed from FEMA. If it gets past the BOS then the BOF has to approve it. Pratt; The police stay in, the monitors are out. Bielik; is there a 2<sup>nd</sup> motion for \$300,000.00? **Betkoski/ Krenesky**; all ayes. Bielik; we schedule a town meeting for up to \$300, 000.00 from unassigned balance.

**Motion that we set a town meeting for \$300,000.00 for the town clean up Rodorigo/Carroll; out of the unassigned balance.** Bronn; they are going to see this amount and then all their bids will be \$290,000.00. Just municipal properties, not public. All in favor **of all ayes**, no opposed. Bielik; I will look at the calendar and move forward with it.

#### **5. Budget Transfer Request**

1. From Line Item 10.90.67.1770 SLUDGE Processing in the amount of \$3,100.00 to line item 10.90.67.1760 Plant Ops in the amount of \$3,100.00;  
Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

From Line Item 10.90.67.1770 SLUDGE Processing in the amount of \$3,100.00 to line item 10.90.67.1760 Plant Ops in the amount of \$3,100.00;  
Rodorigo/Carroll; no discussion; all ayes.

2. From Line Item 10.90.59.1720 Storm Drains in the amount of \$6,250.00 to line item 10.90.59.1713 Tree work in the amount of \$6,250.00; Krenesky/Betkoski; *Krenesky; Where is this tree?, Bielik: it's the tree in from of Rau's house on Main St;* all ayes.

From Line Item 10.90.59.1720 Storm Drains in the amount of \$6,250.00 to line item 10.90.59.1713 Tree work in the amount of \$6,250.00; Rodorigo/Pratt; no discussion; all ayes.

Bielik made a motion for the transfer of fund for a new asphalt conveyer for curbing and no one made a second motion. Was not approved.

3. From Line Item 10.90.44.1490 Physicals & Inoculations in the amount of \$1,200.00 to line item 10.90.44.1465 Comm. Equip. Main & Repairs in the amount of \$1,200.00; Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

From Line Item 10.90.44.1490 Physicals & Inoculations in the amount of \$1,200.00 to line item 10.90.44.1465 Comm. Equip. Main & Repairs in the amount of \$1,200.00; Rodorigo/Carroll; no discussion; all ayes.

4. From Line Item 10.90.01.1020 First Selectmen Secretary in the amount of \$1,250.00 to line item 10.90.03.1090 office supplies in the amount of \$1,250.00; Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

From Line Item 10.90.01.1020 First Selectmen Secretary in the amount of \$1,250.00 to line item 10.90.03.1090 office supplies in the amount of \$1,250.00; Rodorigo/Carroll; no discussion; all ayes.

5. From Line Item 10.90.83.1170 Contingency in the amount of \$19,421.50 to line item 10.90.90.2153 Storm Expense in the amount of \$19,421.50; Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

From Line Item 10.90.83.1170 Contingency in the amount of \$19,421.50 to line item 10.90.90.2153 Storm Expense in the amount of \$19,421.50; Rodorigo/Pratt; no discussion; all ayes.

## **6. Police Body Camera purchase – discussion and Action**

Bielik; there is a grant program to allow the funds for body cameras for the policemen. The problem is time is short it needs to be submitted this fiscal year, by Friday. It's 100% reimbursable \$19,900.00, there is a storage fee for the video feed you get. And we don't know what the cost is for the storage fee. Bronn; Does the police department want this? Bielik; yes they do want it, we just don't know what the storage fee is. Rodorigo; this grant comes up every year so we have time. Bielik; next year the

grand amount will be 50% less. But we don't know what the operation cost is. Rodorigo; Can someone explain to me what the need is for this in Beacon Falls? Bielik; It may become mandatory in the future. And for now, just in case something tragic happens it's recorded. Bielik; any motions? No Motions were made. Then we are done with the agenda for tonight.

7. **Executive Session ( If needed)**

None needed.

8. **Adjournment**

Bielik: The Board of Selectmen portion is adjourned, Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes 8:29 PM.

Motion to adjourn tonight's Board of Finance Special meeting at 8:29 PM; Pratt/Carroll no discussion; all ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Smith Overby  
Clerk Board of Finance