



BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMAN AND BOARD OF FINANCE  
57 North Main St. Beacon Falls, CT 06403  
Joint Meeting Minutes  
March 07, 2023  
(Subject to Revision)

Members Present:

Gerard Smith (**GS**), Peter Betkoski (**PB**), Michael Krenesky (**MK**), Wendy Hopkinson (**WH**), Tom Pratt (**TP**), Kyle Brennan (**KB**), Dalton Fennell (**DF**), and Stephen Leeper (**SL**)

Members Absent: Jim Carroll (**JC**)

Others Present: 1 Member of the Public and Natasha Nau, Finance Manager (**NN**), Erin Schwarz, Finance Administrator (**ES**), and Lauren Fennell, BOS Clerk (**LF**)

1. Call to Order:

**GS** called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- a. BOF motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the 2/21/23 meeting. **DF/SL**. All ayes.
- b. BOS motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the 2/21/23 meeting. **MK/PB**. All ayes.

3. Public Input – Webform Submission:

None

4. Department Budget Review:

- a. First Selectman's Office: **LF** mentioned 3 budget requests regarding updating the website and community communication. **LF** to submit proposals to the budget SharePoint site.  
Town Hall: Some building items need to be updated. Assessor and Tax also came in with increases, so increasing the building maintenance line would be helpful.
- b. Other: Board discussed whom to invite back to the next budget workshop.  
**KB** mentioned Public Works, Police, Fire & EMS, and Wastewater which had the most significant budget requests.

**NN** mentioned that the Wastewater Treatment Plant boiler needs to be replaced. **NN** to gather more information on this potential project and present it at the next meeting.

ROV was discussed as being a department that may need further discussion. **GS** mentioned funds being added to contingency to cover potential increases in expenditures.

Fire & EMS and Fire Marshal has been invited back for the 03/14/23 meeting to discuss their proposals.

**NN** mentioned that there are FEMA funds available for projects like sign replacement, fire extinguisher protocols, and smoke detector replacements.

Discussion opened regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant truck replacement proposal.

Discussion opened regarding vehicle replacement proposals from various departments.

Public Works, Wastewater, and Police have been invited back for the 3/21/23 meeting.

Emergency Management radio request was discussed.

**NN** mentioned other funds to keep an eye on for future discussion.



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5. Open Budget Discussion: Revenue, Expenditures, Non-Recurring Capital Projects:

- a. ARPA Funds: NN reviewed what the funds have been used for thus far. Total funds used YTD: \$1,179,345.01. The amount remaining: \$76,625.33 in ARPA balance. NN made it known to the boards that they should not rely on these funds for FY24. GS reviewed the current projects in place. ES mentioned that the private duty rates estimate is something to be aware of for ARPA funds. The Beacon Valley Road project will be starting this spring.
- b. Bonded Funds: NN gave an update on the remaining amount in the bonded fund. NN believes that there will be few bonded funds left for FY24. NN and GS mentioned a few options for projects with potentially bonded funds. Our bond rating is excellent, and GS mentioned that if we continue to offset our taxes with undesignated fund balance money, it will negatively impact our bond credit rating. Our bond credit rating is very important.
- c. Debt Service: NN mentioned potentially pursuing bonding \$4,000,000.00 for FY24 bringing our total bonded funds to \$20,000,944.

Grants:

Discussion opened regarding the completion of the Main St. Connectivity grant. GS mentioned that it would be beneficial to start somewhere by completing half of Main St. From PD to Main St. Market. TP mentioned his concern with details of what this grant will cover.

MK mentioned concern with CIF grant for the Wolfe Ave. community center. NN gave update on CIF grant details.

DF questioned if pursuing these grants would help with future grants. NN responded that this would be helpful for future grant opportunities.

The point of the connectivity grant is to enhance the appearance of Main St.

TP questioned the Church St. project status. Have we procured the funding for the grant? NN said yes, there are funds procured. A grant has been obtained along with \$580,000.00.

EV grant was discussed. The grant has yet to be announced.

NN asked that the boards consider the vehicle replacement fund for the next meeting.

KB mentioned the need to be creative with managing the undesignated bond fund. The discussion opened regarding this matter.

NN mentioned that the state changed the Beacon Falls Revaluation schedule. The new Revaluation year will be 2025 instead of 2026. ES mentioned that the board would need to allocate funds towards the Revaluation FY25.

WH questioned the amount of student population for Region 16 portion of the budget. Beacon Falls dropped from 35.62 % to 35.40 %. A 2.3 % increase has been expected by Region 16 for their budget.

6. Adjournment:



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- a. Motion to adjourn the BOS meeting at 9:19 PM made by **PB**, seconded by **MK**, All ayes.
- b. Motion to adjourn the BOF meeting at 9:19 PM made by **WH**, seconded by **DF**. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren A. Fennell  
Clerk, Board of Selectmen