

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**Public Hearing**  
**May 19, 2021**  
**MINUTES**  
**(Subject to Revision)**

1. **Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance:** T. Pratt called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: T. Pratt, S. Leeper, J. Carroll, W. Hopkinson, K. Brennan, D. Fennell (7:15PM)

Public Present: Selectman Mike Krenesky, First Selectman G. Smith, Selectman C. Bielik, 9 members of the public

Clerk E. Schwarz read the legal notice/call of the meeting, as published.

Finance Manager N. Nau reviewed the attached summary PowerPoint presentation (which is posted on the Town website) on the FY2022 budget, giving a high-level overview and highlights of the FY2022 Budget and Capital Project plans. The comprehensive budget detail and narrative are also posted on the website.

The FY2020 audit results were very positive for the town, due to 3 factors: the \$375,000 Category A FEMA reimbursement from the 2018 tornado where the town was reimbursed monies which were spent on debris clean up, conservative spending due to a freeze which was implemented at the onset of COVID because of uncertainty surrounding the pandemic and strong tax collections. The Town has fared well throughout COVID, with tax collections remaining strong throughout the pandemic.

The General Fund Town Operating budget has increased to \$7,955,650 this year. We are also showing one-time transfers to the Debt Service Fund and to Non-recurring Capital fund for roads. This will be the largest capital expense year that the town has seen with capital projects close to \$900,000. There will be a \$6M bond issue this year with \$5M for roads and \$1M for the wastewater plant, following the \$4M BAN issued in FY2021.

Revenue Summary: Our largest revenue from the State is ECS revenue, which funds Region 16. Final state grant revenue numbers are forthcoming, and we have used conservative State grant numbers used in the budget. Bank interest income has declined significantly to 0.10%. Tax revenue makes up most of the Town revenue, with just under \$3.9M in ECS for Region 16. State grants of just under \$300,000 for the town, bringing the revenue totals to \$23M. Building permit revenue has been very positive, based on ongoing development in town. Tax Collections have been very strong, and our tax collector is pursuing delinquent accounts aggressively. Water and sewer assessment revenue is declining as many of these assessments have been paid off, as these assessments age.

Expenditure Highlights: Wages and benefits for staff make up a large piece of the town operating budget. There is a raise for our elected officials, a 2.5% contractual wage increase for union which is matched for non-union employees, a mandated increase to the State pension percentage for the town and medical insurance increases. The departments of Public Works, Town Garage and Parks have been condensed in the budget into one place.

We have seen a decrease in our Workers Compensation premium. The town added a Cyberinsurance policy this year in response to an audit recommendation. The Finance Office continues to work on building maintenance contracts to save monies. Engineering and Legal expenses have increased in this budget due to increased use of these services for roadwork, etc. The position changes in the budget include the full time Land Use Administrator, the Town Clerk will be an appointed position (rather than elected) and a new Senior Center director. The Region 16 School Budget has decreased significantly (4.2%) and savings from the school district allowed the town to put forward many projects this year.

N. Nau continued to review the Capital Projects in this year's budget:

- Revaluation – The physical revaluation is a requirement. The total project spans 2 years totaling \$140,000 with \$100,000 in this year's budget.
- Lease payments on the new Ambulance and a Public Works Truck are required.
- Station 2 - This is an ongoing project from the Fire Department, reconfiguring space at this property on Railroad Avenue.

D. Fennell entered the meeting at 7:15 PM.

- SCBA Compressor – We are hoping to receive an AFG grant in the coming months with a 5% match from the town. If the AFG grant is not received, additional appropriations will be needed to replace the broken compressor.
- SCBA Cylinder Replacements for Fire Department – This is an ongoing project for Fire updating their SCBA bottles.
- Vehicle Replacement Fund – The boards have been discussing establishing this fund. The request was initiated by Beacon Hose, but town wide vehicles are large ticket items which need replacement. Conversations happened throughout the workshops about establishing this new fund and this budget puts over \$200,000 in this fund, which will be used in future years primarily for the Fire Department vehicle purchases.
- Spreaders & Rams for Fire Department – These are vehicle extrication tools replacing very old items.
- Fire Extinguisher Simulation program – This is also a grant application for an electronic system which trains the community on fire extinguisher operations.
- Office Renovations of the Fire/Fire Marshal to improve their space.
- Used Vehicle for Fire Marshal
- Parks projects - Matthies Island House: There is a project for repairs to the house.
- Rimmon Hill Schoolhouse Relocation: This is a historic preservation project.
- Guardrail Replacement: Public Works has this ongoing project to replace guardrails throughout town.
- Excavator: This is the largest project for Public Works, which is a piece of equipment which will be well used. The town shares an excavator with Oxford and Seymour through the ICE program, but the equipment is not always available to our department. The town will no longer need to rent this equipment when needed.



- Roof Replacement @ Town Hall – The proposal is to replace the 4-level roof using LOCIP (Local Capital Improvement Program) funds and capital project funds.
- Building Security Town wide – We are working on alarming, monitoring and emergency lighting updates for all the town buildings.

Aside from the \$900,000 which will come from the Undesignated Fund Balance, there are other funds which are sources of revenue; including Police Private Duty Fund which is funding Police projects, Grants, and our Bonded Project funds for roads.

The next slide addresses the Town's fund balance results. There was a lot of input into this budget and thought put into it. More services being offered in this budget, while keeping the town's fund balance healthy. The goal is to stay conservative while accomplishing a lot at the same time. The final slide shows that the budget will result in a 1 mill reduction. The Grand List has increased by 2.93% this year, and this growth assists in offsetting increases in the budget. The budget vote is scheduled to take place on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Senior Center. The Finance Office encourages questions prior to the town vote. N. Nau concluded that throughout the budget process, the focus is on doing the best that we can for town residents and increasing town services.

Public Comment:

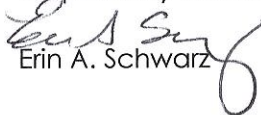
Dino Verrelli – 33 Kaleas Way asked about projection of revenue from the State and from construction and building projects. N. Nau responded that the State grants to the Town total \$300,000 and noted that Building Permits collections have been extremely high, surpassing revenue projections. With Chatfield Farms building slowing down and unknowns pertaining to other developments in town, the building permits revenue was budgeted conservatively, as we do not want to be too aggressive.

Mr. Verrelli's second question for the Board is regarding the Public Works excavator, and he noted the town tends to kick the can down the road with repairs. He is supportive of replacing needed fire apparatus and the other necessary work which needs to be done. The Public Works crew is down a man and will they have time to utilize the excavator. Is spending the money prudent when the crew is so busy? T. Pratt noted that the 6-man crew is strong and there have been times when we have had to rent an excavator to complete needed work. Public Works has requested this piece of equipment and if they have an excavator, they can do this work themselves. This excavator is one of the final large pieces of equipment that they have requested for several years.

There were no other questions from the public.

- 5. Adjournment: S. Leeper made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 PM. K. Brennan seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Erin A. Schwarz

Finance Office





# TOWN OF BEACON FALLS CONNECTICUT



## TOWN OF BEACON FALLS MUNICIPAL BUDGET - DETAIL

Proposed

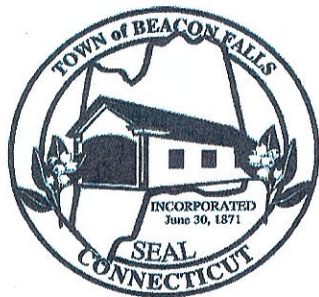
FISCAL YEAR 2022: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

For Public Hearing: May 19, 2021

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# TOWN OF BEACON FALLS CONNECTICUT



## TOWN OF BEACON FALLS MUNICIPAL BUDGET - DETAIL

Proposed

FISCAL YEAR 2022: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

For Public Hearing: May 19, 2021

### FY2020 Audit Recap

- Total usage of fund balance = \$455,148
- Actual change in fund balance was an increase of \$891,438, resulting in a favorable budgetary variance of \$1,346,586
- Revenues were \$799,476 more than budgeted
  - \$424,250 in property taxes
  - \$426,622 in grant revenues (\$375k FEMA tornado reimbursement for '18-'19 expense, COVID relief, and other grants)
- Expenditures were \$547,110 less than budgeted
  - Conservative freeze placed due to COVID unknowns
- \$3,723,824 total unassigned fund balance, which is equal to 16.5% of appropriations (or 2 months of expenditures)

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# TOWN OF BEACON FALLS CONNECTICUT



## TOWN OF BEACON FALLS MUNICIPAL BUDGET - DETAIL

Proposed

FISCAL YEAR 2022: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

For Public Hearing: May 19, 2021

## TOWN FY22 BUDGET SUMMARY

TYPE	AMOUNT
General Fund Operating Budget	\$7,955,650
Non-Recurring Capital Budget	\$897,204
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,852,854</b>

*\*Totals above do not include school district*

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# TOWN OF BEACON FALLS CONNECTICUT



## TOWN OF BEACON FALLS MUNICIPAL BUDGET - DETAIL

Proposed

FISCAL YEAR 2022: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

For Public Hearing: May 19, 2021

## REVENUE SUMMARY LIST

TYPE	AMOUNT
Taxes	\$17,641,971
Other Taxation	\$120,000
State Funding	\$308,217
ECS (School District)	\$3,884,172
Fees	\$304,100
Refunds	\$18,000
Investment Income	\$15,000
Internal Transfers	\$1,143,704
<b>TOWN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,550,992</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (incl. school)</b>	<b>\$23,435,164</b>

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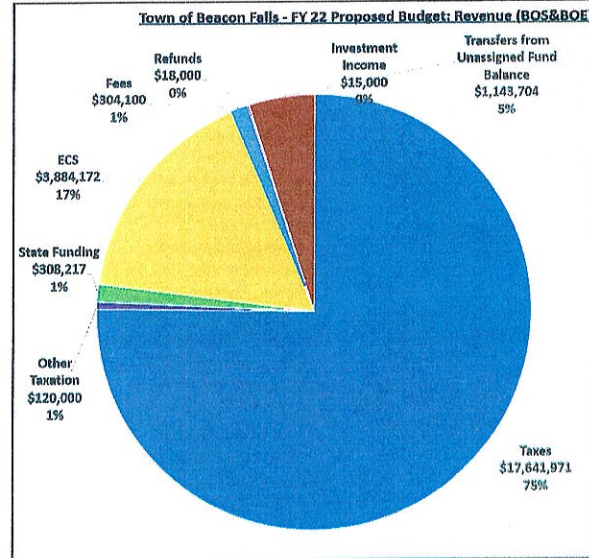
# TOWN OF BEACON FALLS CONNECTICUT

## OPERATING & CAPITAL REVENUE PIE CHART



### TOWN OF BEACON FALLS MUNICIPAL BUDGET - DETAIL

Proposed  
FISCAL YEAR 2022: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022  
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# TOWN OF BEACON FALLS CONNECTICUT



### TOWN OF BEACON FALLS MUNICIPAL BUDGET - DETAIL

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## REVENUE HIGHLIGHTS

Current year collections reflect the grand list growth  
Prior year collections (and corresponding interest) increased slightly due to increased delinquent tax collection  
Sewer & Water tax revenue decreasing as these early 2000's assessments have begun to be satisfied  
State PILOT funding increased  
**School district: ECS funding decreased**  
Building permit revenue increased slightly due to recent year trends  
Town Clerk conveyance revenue increased  
Bank interest rates have crashed with economy - decreased to reflect





# TOWN OF BEACON FALLS CONNECTICUT

## EXPENDITURE DETAILED LIST



### TOWN OF BEACON FALLS MUNICIPAL BUDGET - DETAIL

Proposed  
FISCAL YEAR 2022: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022  
For Public Hearing: May 19, 2021

TYPE	AMOUNT	TYPE	AMOUNT
FIRST SELECTMAN	\$177,115	EMERG. MGMT./HOMELAND SECURITY	\$11,150
TOWN HALL	\$294,011	SAFETY COMMITTEE	\$6,000
TOWN CLERK	\$146,028	WATER HYDRANTS	\$227,060
TAX COLLECTOR	\$114,436	POLICE	\$784,553
TREASURER	\$13,680	ANIMAL CONTROL	\$10,793
BUILDING INSPECTOR	\$62,061	PUBLIC SAFETY OTHER EXPENSES	\$82,426
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$1,217,789	PUBLIC WORKS	\$908,675
BOARD of ASSESSORS	\$122,255	COMMUNITY WELFARE	\$88,655
BOARD of ASSESSMENT APPEALS	\$1,800	REFUSE	\$420,100
BOARD of FINANCE	\$37,100	WASTEWATER TREATMENT	\$658,595
FINANCE DEPARTMENT	\$154,771	LIBRARY	\$179,425
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMM.	\$46,000	PARKS & RECREATION	\$93,580
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION	\$5,551	MINIBUS OPERATIONS	\$27,161
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	\$6,500	SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER	\$51,200
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION	\$36,748	CONTINGENCY	\$100,000
REGISTRARS of VOTERS	\$43,800	DEBT SERVICE	\$936,290
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$288,951	EDUCATION	\$14,151,316
INSURANCE	\$115,584	Transfer to Fund Bal. for Non-Recurring Capital	\$1,328,198
AGENCY MEMBERSHIP	\$11,881		
MISC. BOARDS & COMMISSIONS	\$25,260		
FIRE AND EMS SERVICES	\$393,336		
FIRE MARSHAL	\$55,350		
		Town Total	\$9,283,848
		GRAND TOTAL (Incl. school):	\$23,435,164

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# TOWN OF BEACON FALLS CONNECTICUT

## EXPENDITURE SUMMARY LIST



### TOWN OF BEACON FALLS MUNICIPAL BUDGET - DETAIL

Proposed  
FISCAL YEAR 2022: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022  
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TYPE	AMOUNT
FIRST SELECTMAN, TOWN HALL, CLERK, REGISTRAR, INSURANCE, AGENCY MEMBERSHIP, SAFETY COMMITTEE, MISC BOARDS, PROFESSIONAL FEES, CONTINGENCY	\$1,208,621
TAX COLLECTOR, BUILDING INSPECTOR, ASSESSOR, BAA, ZBA, EDC, IWC, CONSERVATION, P&Z	\$395,340
TREASURER, BOF, FINANCE	\$205,551
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$1,217,789
FIRE AND EMS SERVICES, FIRE MARSHAL	\$448,687
EMERG. MGMT./HOMELAND SECURITY, PUBLIC SAFETY, ANIMAL CONTROL, COMMUNITY WELFARE	\$193,024
POLICE	\$784,553
PUBLIC WORKS, REFUSE	\$1,328,775
WPCA, HYDRANTS, WASTEWATER TREATMENT	\$885,655
LIBRARY	\$179,425
PARKS & RECREATION	\$93,580
COMMISSION FOR ELDERLY, MINIBUS, SENIOR CENTER	\$78,361
DEBT SERVICE	\$936,290
TRANSFERS (CAPITAL, ADDTNL. DEBT SERVICE, & ADDTNL. ROADS)	\$1,328,198
Town Total	\$9,238,848

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# TOWN OF BEACON FALLS CONNECTICUT

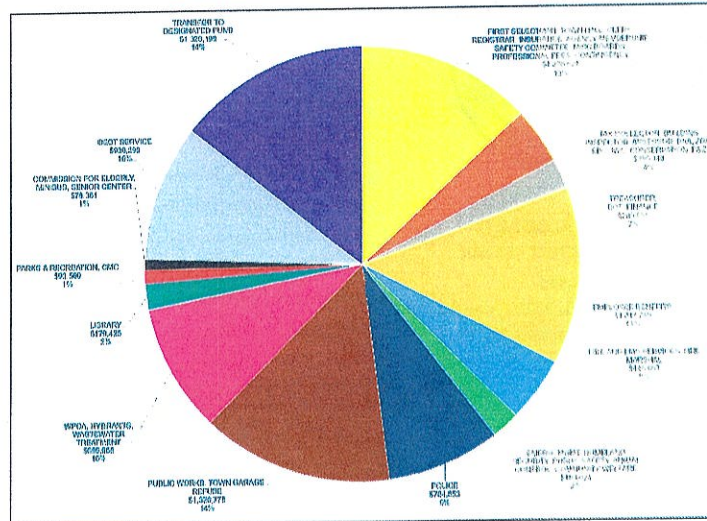
## OPERATING & CAPITAL EXPENDITURES PIE CHART



### TOWN OF BEACON FALLS MUNICIPAL BUDGET - DETAIL

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Town of Beacon Falls - FY22 Proposed Budget: Expenditures - BOS ONLY



# TOWN OF BEACON FALLS CONNECTICUT



### TOWN OF BEACON FALLS MUNICIPAL BUDGET - DETAIL

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## EXPENDITURE HIGHLIGHTS

Salary adjustments for the following elected positions: First Selectman, Selectmen, Tax Collector, Treasurer, ROV  
 Union negotiated 2.5% contract increases for PD, PW & Town Hall  
 Non-union positions increased 2.5% to match unions  
 Increases in both MERF pension (1.5%) & medical benefits (5%+)  
 Property/Workers Comp insurance decrease  
 New cyber insurance policy  
 Renegotiated various service contracts for cost savings  
 Increases in engineering & legal to accommodate additional projects  
 1 new PT Land Use Administrative position  
 1 new PT Senior Center Director  
 Shifting Town Clerk from elected to appointed  
 IT improvements town-wide  
 2012 ambulance repairs  
 4.2% decrease to school district spending





# TOWN OF BEACON FALLS CONNECTICUT



**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET - DETAIL**  
Proposed  
FISCAL YEAR 2022: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022  
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PROJECT	AMOUNT
Assessor – Physical Revaluation	\$100,000
Fire & EMS – Ambulance Financing (Yr. 2 of 5)	\$44,158
Fire & EMS – Generator @ Station 1 (EOC)	\$47,670
Fire & EMS – Station 2 Oil Tank Removal & Gym Creation	\$30,750
Fire & EMS – SCBA Compressor Grant Match	\$2,956
Fire & EMS – 23 SCBA Cylinders	\$29,723
Fire & EMS – Vehicle Replacement Fund Creation	\$211,300
Fire & EMS – Spreader, Rams & Struts Grant Match	\$2,967
Fire & EMS – Pumper & Tanker Financing (Yr. 1 of 10; 5)	\$165,000
Fire Marshal – Office Renovation	\$9,000
Fire Marshal – Fire Extinguisher Grant Match	\$1,323
Fire Marshal – Used Vehicle	\$28,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	See next page

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

### DETAILED LIST

#### PART I



# TOWN OF BEACON FALLS CONNECTICUT



**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET - DETAIL**  
Proposed  
FISCAL YEAR 2022: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022  
For Public Hearing: May 19, 2021

PROJECT	AMOUNT
Parks/PW – Matthies Island House Repair	\$5,000
Parks/PW – Rimmon Hill Schoolhouse Relocation	\$5,000
PW – Plow Truck Financing (Year 3 of 5)	\$36,551
PW – Guardrail Replacement Program	\$20,000
PW – Excavator	\$77,000
Town Hall – Roof Replacement	\$50,806
Townwide – Building Security (video & fire alarm monitoring)	\$30,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$897,204*

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

### DETAILED LIST

#### PART II

\*Total doesn't reflect \$550,860 in potential fed/state/foundation grant funding (or matching) on various projects, \$43,695 in private duty fund projects, \$2M Bond, & \$38,693 in LoCIP projects. Grand total of all potential capital project fund sources is \$3,530,451.





# TOWN OF BEACON FALLS CONNECTICUT



TOWN OF BEACON FALLS  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET - DETAIL  
Proposed  
FISCAL YEAR 2022: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022  
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DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
2021 Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$22,634,202
Minimum Balance Required Per Financial Policy Manual (9.25% of Total Proposed Expenditures)	\$2,093,664

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Audited General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance as of 7/1/2020	\$3,723,824
Less 2021 Allocations from Fund Balance (orig. \$456,917; not required)	(\$0)
=Unallocated Fund Balance as of 3/31/21	\$3,723,824
Less Minimum Fund Balance	(\$2,093,664)
=Available Undesignated Fund Balance as of 3/31/21	\$1,630,160
Plus Projected 2021 Surplus (Subject to Change)	+\$1,087,823
=Projected Available Undesignated Fund Balance as of 6/30/21	\$2,717,983
Less Proposed 2022 Usage of Undesignated Fund Balance	(\$1,143,704)
Less Amount Needed to Make Minimum 9.25% (\$2,167,753-\$2,093,664)	(\$74,089)
<b>TOTAL PROJECTED AVAILABLE UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,500,190</b>

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
2022 Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$23,435,164
Minimum Balance Required Per Financial Policy Manual (9.25% of Total Proposed Expenditures)	\$2,167,753

**\$3,667,943  
or 15.6%**



# TOWN OF BEACON FALLS CONNECTICUT



TOWN OF BEACON FALLS  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET - DETAIL  
Proposed  
FISCAL YEAR 2022: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022  
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## TOWN OF BEACON FALLS - FY22 BUDGET MILL RATE CALCULATION

FINAL PROPOSED REVISED  
05/11/2021

		<b>2020 Grand List</b>
Total Assessment (from Assessor)	2.93% Increase from 2019	\$ 603,847,474
*No BOAA Appeals brought forward this year		\$ -
Prorations Increase (Oct-Apr)		\$ 1,953,180
<b>Net Total</b>		<b>\$ 605,800,654</b>
<b>1 Mill =</b>		<b>\$ 505,800.65</b>
Amount to be raised by Taxation (From Current Year "Property Tax" (which includes prorations) & "Supplemental Motor Vehicle" - Revenue Lines)		\$ 17,230,630
Tax Levy - assuming a tax collection rate:	98.00%	\$ 17,582,450
(Tax Levy = Amount to be Raised by Taxation divided by the Collection Rate)		
Add Tax Credits: Emergency Services Tax Relief		\$ 28,350
(from Assessor) State Elderly Circuit Breaker Program		\$ 46,676
Town Elderly Tax Relief		\$ 157,240
<b>ADJUSTED TAX LEVY</b>		<b>\$ 17,814,746</b>
<b>FY21 MILL RATE = (Adjusted Tax Levy divided by (Taxable Net Assessment/1000))</b>		<b>35.90</b>
<b>FY22 MILL RATE = (Adjusted Tax Levy divided by (Taxable Net Assessment/1000))</b>		<b>34.80</b>
<b>Effective Tax Increase (Decrease)</b>		<b>(1.00)</b>





**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET - DETAIL**

Proposed  
**FISCAL YEAR 2022: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022**  
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*Town Budget vote  
will take place at the  
Senior Center on June  
2nd @ 7pm*