

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Special Town Meeting  
August 3, 2020  
MINUTES  
(Subject to Revision)**

**1. Call to Order /Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call/Presentation**

A special town meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Beacon Falls, Connecticut, was held at Beacon Hose Company #1, 35 North Main Street in Beacon Falls, Connecticut, on Monday, August 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Selectman Gerard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Mr. Gerard Smith was chosen as moderator of the meeting and Ms. Kerry McAndrew acted as clerk.

**Upon motion duly made, seconded, and adopted, the reading of the notice of the meeting was waived.** The notice, a copy of which is recorded in these records immediately preceding these minutes, was published in the Republican American on Sunday, July 26, 2020. The Moderator noted that a copy of the newspaper publication was available up-front for inspection if desired.

The Moderator called for the presentation of the resolution warned under item 1 and 2 of the notice approving an appropriation for the 2020 Road and Related Storm Water Drainage and Sanitary Sewer Improvements Program, and authorizing borrowings to finance the appropriation and Item 3, 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget Transfers and Additional Appropriations. **Upon motion duly made, seconded, and adopted, the reading of the full text of the resolutions into the minutes was waived, copies of the full resolutions & presentation having been made available to those in attendance.**

The Moderator then presented a Road and Related Storm Water Drainage and Sanitary Sewer Improvement power point presentation.

**Jack Betkoski made a motion to have everyone vote by hand due to pandemic, seconded by Thomas Pratt.**

Number of "Yes" votes                      43

Number of "No" votes                        2

**2. Item 1 (\$5,000,000 2020 Road and Related Storm Water Drainage and Sanitary Sewer Improvements Program).**

To consider and act upon a resolution appropriating \$5,000,000, and authorizing borrowing in the same amount to fund the appropriation, for costs in connection with various road and related storm water drainage and sanitary sewer improvements.

**Mr. Jack Betkoski moved the resolution for adoption. This motion was seconded by Mr. Douglas Bousquet. A copy of the full text of the resolution is recorded following these minutes.**

The Moderator then stated that the meeting was open for discussion of the foregoing resolution. The following comments were made:

Mr. Ray Binkowski, 52 Cedar Lane– According to this plan you have everything itemized in sections, not by roads that need to be paved. Cook Lane is the worst road and it is not going to be done until 2022 according to the plan. Also, what is the difference between rehabilitation and preventative maintenance?

The Moderator stated that Cook Lane is on the list but there are other roads we spent money on for Engineering that need to be done. The amount of money to fix Cook Lane is exorbitantly expensive because it will include drainage. It will be a complete reconstruction. It is almost as bad as Beacon Valley Road. We are trying to be as fiscally responsible as we can and hoping to do it through LOTCIP, so all we would have to pay is Engineering. That is why we are trying to do them in a systematic order. We plan to do the main roads and then the feeder roads.

Natasha Nau, Finance Manager provided the definition for preventative maintenance and stated that it does not just include pothole patching, it could also be chip sealing, crack sealing, fog sealing, etc.

Mr. Lou Krokosky, 7 Oak Drive – What did they just do to Rice Lane? The Moderator stated they did chip sealing, which is less expensive and can be done, when the road is in good condition.

Mr. Lou Krokosky, 7Oak Drive – Oak Drive is a private drive, but the town pays the insurance. If someone has an accident, who is responsible for the damage? The Moderator noted that topic is a discussion for a different meeting.

Following the close of discussion, the foregoing resolution was adopted by hand vote:

Number of "Yes" votes	49
Number of "No" votes	2

\*\*\*\*\*

**3. Item 2 (\$1,000,000 2020 Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades Project).**

To consider and act upon a resolution appropriating \$1,000,000, and authorizing borrowing in the same amount to fund the appropriation, for costs in connection with upgrades to the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Joe Rodorigo moved the resolution for adoption. This motion was seconded by Mr. Jack Betkoski. A copy of the full text of the resolution is recorded following these minutes.

No discussion, the foregoing resolution was adopted by hand vote:

Number of "Yes" votes 49

Number of "No" votes 2

\*\*\*\*\*

**4. Item 3 (2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget Transfers and Additional Appropriations)**

The Moderator called for the presentation of the three proposed 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget Transfers and Additional Appropriations.

Moderator noted that when the town sends money, if we appropriate anything more than \$20,000, we must come to the residents of the town prior to transferring the money out of line items to cover overages.

Mr. Jack Betkoski moved the resolution for adoption. This motion was seconded by Mr. Fred Smith. A copy of the full text of the resolution is recorded following these minutes.

- A. Police Overtime: \$36,008.82
  - i. \$21,775 from 10.90.53.1685 "Part Time Patrol" to 10.90.53.1049 "Wages – Overtime"
  - ii. \$14,233.86 from 10.90.83.1170 "Contingency" to 10.90.53.1049 "Wages – Overtime"

Moderator noted that the money that we were short was due to a shortfall that was incurred from when the Town went from a Full Time Resident Trooper to a Part Time Resident Trooper. That agreement left some open shifts and we had to back fill those shifts. We do our best to provide around the clock coverage.

No further discussion, the foregoing budget transfer was adopted by hand vote:

Number of "Yes" votes 49

Number of "No" votes 2

- B. 2018 Tornado Debris Clean-Up (Supreme Industries): \$58,339 from "Undesignated Fund Balance" to 45.90.90.2197, "Project/Debris Removal and Clean up 5-15 Storm".

Moderator noted that when the tornado came, we had a large amount of clean up and we were reimbursed by FEMA in an estimated amount of \$370,000, but we had an outstanding bill for Supreme Industries for \$58,000. Even though the money was reimbursed we must obtain resident approval prior to transferring the money to pay the older invoice. We ended up with an estimated \$330,000 in FEMA reimbursement.

No further discussion, the foregoing budget transfer was adopted by hand vote:

Number of "Yes" votes 49

Number of "No" votes 2

- C. COVID-19 Additional Appropriations: \$30,000 from "Undesignated Fund Balance" to Non-Recurring Capital Projects Fund 45.90.57.0019 "COVID-19", for a total appropriation of \$49,999 for COVID related expenses.

Moderator noted that since the COVID pandemic started, there is something new we must do every day, whether it is buying plexiglass, outfitting town hall with sanitizer, wipes, masks etc. We have extended a lot of money to try and keep everyone safe. Our staff has been working remote and we appreciate all your patience.

Mr. Ray Binkowski, 52 Cedar Lane – I agree with some of these items, the police overtime etc. but I feel that the expenses for COVID is high. I think the costs are excessive. Where is the other money from savings? We did not have a lot of snowplowing and sanding costs this year, etc. Schools and parks are closed. You must be saving money.

Natasha Nau, Finance Manager stated that the Finance Department is still closing the fiscal year, but the year-end undesignated fund balance is estimated to be between \$300,000-\$400,000. The IT costs alone for COVID were about \$8,000 (for laptops, virtual meeting technology, etc.). This transfer is to cover any additional expenses we may need in the future due to the pandemic.

Mr. Dino Verrelli –#33 Kaleas Way – I just want to say that this is a new world we are living in and in the new normal we have to spend some money on these items. Regarding the police, I was very vocal with the last administration about reducing the resident trooper to part-time. We did not save money, it costed us money. We have never had a plan to pave roads. These are things that must get done. This is a testament to the new administration getting things done. The money has to come from somewhere, we are not like Shelton or Ansonia who have large corporate industries.

Selectman Bielik stated that regarding the shared trooper, we saved \$100,000 off the cost of the contract. We put extra money to cover some overtime, but obviously missed the bar a little bit. People need to look at the bottom line and do the mathematics.

Following the close of discussion, the foregoing budget transfer was adopted by hand vote:

Number of "Yes" votes            49

Number of "No" votes            2

\*\*\*\*\*

Motion made by Jack Betkoski to adjourn the town meeting at 7:46 P.M., seconded by Howard Leeper.

**Attachments recorded with minutes: Bond Resolutions and Power Point Presentation as presented under items 1 and 2 and List of Budget Transfers as presented under item 3.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Kerry McAndrew*  
First Selectman's Office Administrator/Clerk