



**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS
FY 21 PROPOSED BUDGET
POSTED 4/22/2020**

<https://www.beaconfalls-ct.org/finance/pages/budget>

QUESTIONS DUE TO NNAU@TOBFCT.COM BY 4/29/2020 6 PM

The following 8 comments/questions were received by residents between 4/22/2020 and 4/29/2020 6 PM and are hereby being posted for public viewing as of 12 PM on 4/30/2020. Answers have been supplied to all 8 comments/questions by 8 PM on 5/6/2020 as indicated in the budget schedule in the Budget Narrative.

4/22/2020 4:21 PM

Gary Komarowsky of 15 Second Street

Q1: Where is the budget for BOAA training? \$150 is needed to train the 3 BOAA members.

A1: The \$150 needed to train the 3 BOAA members is located within the \$1,000 budget for "Board and Commission Expenses" under the Town Hall Department. Account line is 10.90.03.1071.

4/26/2020 9:27 AM

Barbara and Joseph Conte of 11 Briarwood Drive

Q2: Are repairs to (or replacement of) Rimmon Hill Road part of this budget? While we have always supported town budgets, this is the one we would not if Rimmon Hill repairs are not included. While many of our town roads are in very poor condition, Rimmon Hill Road is dangerous because drivers cross the middle line to avoid damaging their cars.

A2: The Town is in the process of presenting a \$5 million dollar BAN/Bond for road improvements. It has gotten through the necessary board approvals and is next set to go to a Town Meeting for a vote. This \$5 million dollar BAN/Bond is largely for the roads that are in poor condition and are in need of "reconstruction" (rather than "rehabilitation" (mill and pave) or "preventive" (crack sealing/small patching)). The road condition and priority order are determined by the Town's StreetScan and Engineer. The Town is not naming any roads in its BAN/Bond documents to allow flexibility for supplemental grants and unknown circumstances that may arise with what is found underneath the roads. However, the Town is aware of the condition and danger of Rimmon Hill Road and foresees it being one of the main projects in this Bond/BAN. The work is expected to span two years.

4/29/2020 4:38 PM

William Coogan of 51 Pond View Circle

Q3: Page #2 of 28 - "assuming tax collection rate of 97.74%" - how does the Town arrive at that percentage?

A3: The Tax Collection/Assessor Department collect all tax monies for the Town (real estate, motor vehicle and water/sewer assessment). This Department evaluates the current year billing

against the current year money received at the end of every Fiscal Year. The amount “actually collected” compared to the amount “expected to be collected” is the percentage calculation. This percentage from the preceding Fiscal Year is then used as an estimate for the next Fiscal Year budget.

Q4: Page #3 of 28 - State Funding (Account #4045; School EQ Grant) - the 3/31 YTD actual is 50%. What are you basing your presumption on, with 3 months left in FY 20? Will you receive another 50% to equal the FY 20 budgeted number?

A4: ECS from the State is received as follows: 25% (end of November) 25% (end of January), 50% (end of April).

Q5: Page #4 of 28 - Refunds (Account #4157; Leachate Collection System) - why is the 3/31 YTD actual so low versus original budget of \$80,000?

A5: The revenues year to date (3/31) in the proposed FY21 budget for Leachate represent two quarters (or six months). The bill for 3rd quarter and 4th quarter will be issued in July and be an account receivable at year-end. Flow and rain are two factors that determine this revenue figure and there are therefore some unknowns. However, there has been a downward trend in this revenue figure for the last few years.

Q6: Expenses – Wages. Since Town Hall was closed due to COVID-19, are people being paid wages even though they are not physically in the building?

A6: The Town Hall and the Senior Center did close to the public once the COVID-19 pandemic first presented itself. Town Staff reported to Town Hall and continued to work with the doors closed to the public for a period of time until the seriousness of the pandemic was truly realized. Once the Governor’s executive orders materialized, all non-essential Town Staff (at various locations) were sent home to work remotely. Some Town Staff do periodically come into their offices to complete certain work that cannot be completed at home while others who can, stay remote. Remote clocking was a service provided to remote employees so that they could clock in and out. All non-essential employees (partially remote and fully remote) are being paid wages for their remote work. Essential workers such as Fire, Police and Public Works have remained physically in the building/car reporting to work “as usual”.

Q7: Page #21 of 28 - How is the projected surplus calculated? How is that handled versus the current proposed budget?

A7: The projected surplus of \$189,769 listed on the last page of the proposed operating budget is calculated as follows: Total FY20 Projected Year-End Revenue minus (-) Total FY20 Projected Year-End Expenditures. This amount is subject to change between the time the budget is proposed to the end of the Fiscal Year (6/30/20). This is our “best-guess” with the knowledge we have at this time about what will occur April-June. The projected surplus is not factored in as revenue in the FY21 budget because it is not a guaranteed or finalized number. Whatever the actual surplus ends up being gets added to the Town’s undesignated fund balance, which we are required to keep at 9.25% for emergencies and unforeseen capital/operating needs.

Q8: Page #28 of 28 - There is \$ 6.0M in the Bonded Projects Fund. Please describe the process that the Town goes through to obtain those funds.

A8: The Town works with its Financial Advisor and Bond Counsel to discuss all of its financing options, amounts, current market status, bond rating, timeline, projects, etc. A decision comes from this discussion on what amount is financially and operationally feasible. The Financial Advisor does projections on what the new debt added onto existing debt does to the Town's debt service payment schedule. The Town decides on whether to just BAN, just Bond or BAN and then Bond. The BAN/Bond documents are drawn up by the Bond Counsel and sent to the Town. The Town distributes these to all boards that need to review/vote on moving the BAN/Bond forward. In this instance, there are road and waste water projects so the BOS, BOF, WPCA and Planning and Zoning boards/commissions must meet to discuss and vote to move forward with the BAN/Bond. This process has been completed for this BAN/Bond. Then, all BANs/Bonds must go to a Town Meeting for a vote. This has NOT happened yet with this particular BAN/Bond. The interest payment has been incorporated within this proposed FY21 budget in anticipation of this BAN/Bond passing a town vote whenever COVID-19 allows for the Town to hold an in-person Town Meeting safely.