

Town of BEACON FALLS  
*Connecticut*

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

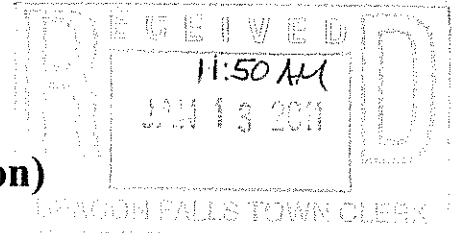
BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Monthly Meeting

JANUARY 10, 2011

MINUTES

(Draft Copy-Subject to Revision)



First Selectman S. Cable called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:30 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** First Selectman S. Cable, Selectman D. Sorrentino and Selectmen M. Krenesky.

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** M. Pratt, D. Bousquet, G. F. Smith and B. Mariano

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**M. Pratt, 286 Cook Lane,** Noted his concerns regarding snow removal at the Fire House. He pointed out that 2 storms ago, the parking lot was not plowed out until 10:00 a.m. and the last storm, he noted the Fire Department plowed the lot themselves. S. Cable noted that she had received his letter regarding this issue and it has been addressed.

M. Pratt also noted that the Fire Department has not been cleaned in 2 weeks now and was wondering should the town janitor be on vacation, is there a back up? S. Cable noted that we do have back-ups and will address the issue.

M. Pratt inquired about the snow removal at fire hydrants. He pointed out that we have not had problems in the past as there have been volunteers who took care of this but there are still some hydrants covered in snow. M. Pratt noted that other towns hold the property owners (where the fire hydrant is located) responsible for clearing the snow off the hydrants as generally the home owners insurance is substantially reduced due to its location to the hydrant.

M. Pratt noted that only a few of the Public Works vehicles have the hi-band radio communication systems in them. S. Cable suggested that they continue to look for grant money to upgrade all the vehicles to hi-band.

M. Pratt noted that the Water Company donated a truck (with a crane and air compressor) to the Fire House. He noted that he called the insurance company today to get quotes on insuring the truck.

M. Pratt noted that the Fire House is planning on hiring a 2nd person at the Fire House pointing out that B. DeGeorge is going on his second year there. S. Cable noted that they have not yet received the ambulance audit and need to have that information as it related directly to Fire Department funds. M. Pratt noted that per contract, the audit is not due until the end of February. He also noted that per D. Civitella, the Fire Department has the right to hire a second person. He said this second person would assist in things like Fire House maintenance inside and out.

M. Krenesky noted to M. Pratt that the Board of Education is holding their meeting at 7:00 January 11th and would like a representative from the Fire House to discuss the "repeater". M. Pratt noted he would have a representative present however, a study should be done for the exact cost of the project and it costs money for the study - he noted that a ball park figure for the repeater would be approximately \$10 - \$15K. M. Pratt noted that they also need a repeater at Cotton Hollow as there is no communication in that area. S. Cable suggested that the Fire Department look to Homeland Security for possible grants.

M. Pratt explained the petition that has begun regarding the Board of Finance's decision to not include some Fire Department equipment in the bond package proposal being presented to the town. He noted that the petition has to include a certain percentage of the amount of voters in town. Once that was met, the petition would be presented to the BOF asking them to include the Fire Departments request to let the town people decide. Should the BOF still decide not to include these items in the bond package, then another 25 signatures will have to be obtained. The petition would then go to the BOS who would have no choice but to take the *entire bond package before the town*. A discussion continued regarding this explanation and it was noted that these details will have to be clarified and confirmed as this was not the way it was stated by the Bond Council.

**D. Bousquet, 20 Cedar Lane**, was questioning why town plows were plowing a private development. He noted that the subdivision at the top of Blackberry Hill is a private subdivision and should be plowed by private contractors and not the town crew. S. Cable explained that during emergency situations and safety reasons, the town had to clear roads. She noted that J. Wisniewski was out of town and Dominic Thompson was told we would help out. Both J. Wisniewski and D. Thompson have been billed \$575 each by the town for the town vehicles plowing for them.

**G. F. Smith, Lasky Road**, noted that he has volunteered on various boards for the town for over 20 years and that prior to his change of party affiliation his statements had never been considered being made for "political" reasons. He wanted it noted for the record that Gerard

F. Smith will not be running for any political office in 2011. He has no political aspirations noting that Chairing for the Board of Finance is enough. He asked that it be stated very clearly for the record that Gerard F. Smith will not be running for any political office in 2011.

G. F. Smith also commented on the town plowing private developments and private roads noting that all private developments and private roads are to take care of and plow their own property. He does not understand why the town would send their trucks to these private roads to plow them and asked what deemed an "emergency". He also noted that when he questioned why the town was plowing private roads, he was told he was being political noting that this response was insulting and disturbing. He again asked how could the town plow Oak Drive and not all the other private roads. G. F. Smith noted that he thinks the BOS really has to look at how they define and emergency on a private road noting that they have already set a precedence.

S. Cable apologized to G. Smith if he was insulted but noted that she was insulted in the past as well on what was referred to as back and forth's regarding how statements and comments were taken. She noted that they will move forward. S. Cable also noted that she respects his comments.

The discussion continued on what services and taxes are received and paid by people who live on private roads.

**B. Mariano, Railroad Ave.**, wanted it noted that whoever drives the small green truck for the town did an excellent job on Railroad Ave. He noted that his person should be commended.

### **READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. **Minutes – BOS Regular Monthly Meeting, December 13th** - S. Cable noted that on page 8, the spelling of Nefis and Young needed to be corrected.

**D. Sorrento motioned to accept the minutes with the spelling correction. M. Krenesky 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

2. **Minutes - BOF Public Hearing December 13th**

**M. Krenesky motioned to accept the minutes. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

### **APROVE BILLS ON SELECTMEN'S ORDER REGISTER**

None. S. Cable noted that they probably will not be opening the dump until July this year.

### **RESIDENT TROOPER AND CONSTABLES REPORT**

None.

S. Cable wanted to respond to comments that she heard noting that the Resident Trooper does not live at the Police station. Due to a double shift and a DUI check, he slept on the couch one night so as not to have to drive home to Bethel and then back in a couple of hours.

### **ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT – PUBLIC WORKS**

D. Sorrentino noted that the Road Foreman's Report appears to be time sheets not indicating if projects have been complete. He noted that it was mentioned that the settling ponds were leaking and was wondering if the problem has been checked and how severe is the problem.

S. Cable noted she does not know if this has been addressed.

D. Sorrentino also noted that they have received quotes for doors, have they been installed yet?

S. Cable did not know if the doors have been installed yet.

M. Krenesky noted that D. Sorrentino had a good point as to the value of what they get out of time sheets. M. Krenesky noted that while he likes the details, he would like to see more of what projects are being completed. The report should include "projects completed".

**M. Krenesky motioned to accept the Public Works Report requesting that a project completion report be included in future Foreman Reports. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

### **WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT REPORT**

M. Krenesky noted that the change in the font used in this report is much easier to read.

**M. Krenesky motioned to accept the Wastewater Treatment Plant report. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

### **FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT**

None.

### **PARK AND RECREATION ACTIVITY REPORT**

None.

### **REPORT OF FINANCE MANAGER**

**M. Krenesky motioned to accept the Finance Manager's Report. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

**D. Sorrentino motioned to accept the Tax Collectors Report. M. Krenesky 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

**D. Sorrentino motioned to accept the Treasurers Report. M. Krenesky 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerks report did not appear to be a full report therefore the Board of Selectmen did not accept the Town Clerk's report until the report is clarified.

**REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY**

None. The next month's library report will include December.

**REPORT OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

None.

**REPORT OF THE CUSTODIAN**

None.

**REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**M. Krenesky motioned to accept the Report of the Fire Department. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

*M. Pratt explained that the Fire Departments over-all response time may change due to a nationwide law which will now have emergency calls prioritized. M. Pratt will ask J. Rodrigo to give a lengthier explanation of this new nationwide plan.*

**M. Krenesky motioned to accept the Beacon Hose Fire Department's Report from November 2010. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. S. Cable noted a memo she sent to both Selectmen regarding her request for information and ideas related to improvements.
2. A letter from Carter and Civitello regarding questions relating to appointments was received.
3. A memo was sent to Animal Control Officer P. Dionne regarding storage of dogs. It was noted that a response has not been received yet.

4. A letter was sent to Ms. Lisa DeGoes, Chairman of the Board of Education regarding concerns about emergency radios not working in the high school.
5. A letter from Luchs Consulting Engineers regarding traffic south of the Depot Street Bridge was received.
6. A letter from Beta Group regarding sign maintenance mandates was received.
7. A note from the Senior Center breaking down how their grant money was spent was received.
8. A memo requesting a weekly public works schedule was noted.
9. A letter from Conservation noting their annual report of activities, accomplishments and how money was spent was noted. S. Cable noted that this was very commendable.
10. A letter from the Conservation Committee requesting an update on River Bend Park was noted.
11. A list of continuing education classes being taking by A. DuBois was noted.
12. Letters from the Beacon Hose Company (already discussed) were received
13. M. Krenesky noted a request for Beacon Hose representation at the BOE meeting.
14. A note referring to \$360.19 in overpaid taxes was noted.

**D. Sorrentino motioned to refund \$360.19 in overpaid taxes. M. Krenesky 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

S. Cable noted that she would like to bring the Land Management Ordinance back to the public for a Town Meeting. M. Krenesky noted that a person from Parks and Rec had some questions on this subject. A meeting will be scheduled for February 7, 2011 at 7:00

M. Krenesky asked that it be noted on record that he will be out of town from February 10, - 16th 2011.

S. Cable would like to plan a BOS budget workshop for February 7th. M. Krenesky noted that an evening workshop would work better for him.

S. Cable asked the Selectmen which purchasing proposal (for the office of Policy and Management) they preferred. It was noted that there wasn't a big difference between the two but S. Cable noted that proposal two looked to be a cleaner process.

**M. Krenesky motioned to accept proposal #2 as a purchasing policy. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

A change to the Service Award Policy was discussed. While the change is very minor, it still needs to be reviewed by the attorney and no action can be taken until then.

S. Cable noted that there has been quite a few burglaries in Beacon Falls lately.

Wolfe Ave. - S. Cable noted that after she has gathered some information, she will have a power point presentation prepared to be presented to the town. The presentation will show the process of which decisions were made relating to the property on Wolfe Ave. She would like to share this information with the town. A Committee will be formed after the informational meeting sometime in February.

S. Cable noted that the Depot St. Bridge dedication should be done during nicer weather, maybe March.

M. Krenesky noted that the painting on the bridge is patchy. S. Cable noted that there is still some finishing work to be done.

D. Sorrentino asked about the progress of the phone system. M. Krenesky noted that he has a meeting with M. Gomes on 1/11/11 to discuss packages.

D. Sorrentino noted that they did not have a quorum for their December meeting which was to discuss the website. He will set up another date.

M. Krenesky discussed parking issues on Main Street noting that business owners are concerned. A discussion continued regarding previous plans and safety issues. S. Cable will discuss this with the D.O.T. M. Krenesky noted that if we are not going to commit to the full plan regarding the greenway project, he does not think implementing a partial plan would be the right thing to do at this time. It was noted that D.O.T. changed a lot of regulations and this should be taken into consideration.

### NEW BUSINESS

S. Cable noted that "energy education" is being presented at the BOE meeting. The Town of Beacon Falls will be looking into the possibility of combining health plans. S. Cable would like a comparison of health plans (between what we have now and what the proposal may be).

M. Pratt asked if it was possible to have the Fire Department employee jump on to the town's health plan. S. Cable noted that they can ask.

M. Krenesky noted to M. Pratt that they need to discuss the phone circuit.

M. Krenesky noted that the Road Foremen was concerned about snow plowing issues around town noting that people are leaving trails of snow in the streets after they shovel their driveways. M. Krenesky looked up the ordinance on snow removal and it is very poorly written and very subjective. He noted that the ordinance can certainly be challenged. A discussion continued regarding people dumping snow on the meridian on Main Street, etc.

### APPOINTMENTS

**M. Krenesky motioned to appoint Ed Groth to Planning and Zoning for a term of 3 years. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

M. Pratt will send a letter regarding the appointment to the Service Award Committee for the Fire House.

### **TRANSFERS**

S. Cable noted that the Fire Department is requesting a transfer of \$23,997 from contingency to the Fire Department to cover the costs of fixing the sewer back up issues. It was noted that this amount does not cover the hot water heater issues or the apron. A discussion continued and it was noted that this amount covers the entire cost of the sewer back-up issues and also noted that this request will have to go before a town meeting. A discussion regarding whether or not the monies should be taken out of the wastewater treatment budget also took place but it was decided that taking it out of contingency was a better plan.

**M. Krenesky motioned to take the transfer request of \$23,997 to the BOF for their recommendation that it go before a town meeting. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**M. Krenesky motioned for the BOS to go into Executive session. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

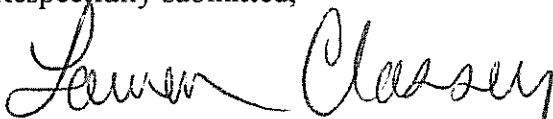
**The BOS went into executive session at 9:03 P.M.**

**The BOS returned from executive session at 9:24 P.M.**

**With no further business, M. Krenesky motioned to adjourn the meeting. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Classey

Clerk for the Board of Selectmen, Regular Monthly Meeting - January 10, 2011