



Town of BEACON FALLS  
*Connecticut*

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting**  
**May 9, 2011 - (Corrected Date Filed 5/12/11)**  
**MINUTES**  
**(Draft Copy-Subject to Revision)**

First Selectman S. Cable called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:35 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Approximately 18 town residents

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

L. Krepinevich, 134 Essex Court - wanted to notify the BOS that he has scheduled a meeting for May 16th to meet with Selectmen and the Beacon Falls road crew to discuss their concerns with the Benedetti repaving system. He noted that he has also scheduled for May 17th a presentation about the equipment with a 5 minute DVD. He will hopefully answer anyone's questions regarding the equipment. If he is unable to answer any questions, he will forward them to the Benedetti company so they can answer the questions. He noted that Benedetti will be coming to Beacon Falls on May 23 - 25 in order to meet with the town road crew and give a presentation regarding outstanding questions.

S. Dowdell, 32 Wolfe Ave. asked if the spending freeze has been lifted. S. Cable noted that there was never a freeze she had just asked them to hold tight to their line items. She also



Town of BEACON FALLS  
*Connecticut*

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting**  
**April 11, 2011**  
**MINUTES**  
**(Draft Copy-Subject to Revision)**

First Selectman S. Cable called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:35 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Approximately 18 town residents

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

L. Krepinevich, 134 Essex Court - wanted to notify the BOS that he has scheduled a meeting for May 16th to meet with Selectmen and the Beacon Falls road crew to discuss their concerns with the Benedetti repaving system. He noted that he has also scheduled for May 17th a presentation about the equipment with a 5 minute DVD. He will hopefully answer anyone's questions regarding the equipment. If he is unable to answer any questions, he will forward them to the Benedetti company so they can answer the questions. He noted that Benedetti will be coming to Beacon Falls on May 23 - 25 in order to meet with the town road crew and give a presentation regarding outstanding questions.

S. Dowdell, 32 Wolfe Ave. asked if the spending freeze has been lifted. S. Cable noted that there was never a freeze she had just asked them to hold tight to their line items. She also

questioned what the BOS planned to do with the Assistant Librarians pregnancy absence of 3 to 4 months and what actions they will be taking to cover the hours. S. Cable noted that they are aware of this but have not yet discussed it. She did note that they will not cut the hours but have to discuss what they will do regarding the absence noting that maybe it will be discussed later at this meeting.

J. Pavlik, 21 Fieldstone Lane, commented that he thought the article in the newspaper wasn't exactly accurate in that it is not only the 55 and older communities that have private trash pick-up but also Beacon Condos. S. Cable noted that she did say that most of the emails and comments that she has gotten have been from people who have private services. She noted that she has a whole abundance of emails from people stating that they would rather see layoffs than privatizing trash pick-ups. J. Pavlik noted that there are services out there that can pick up their trash cheaper than the town does it for. S. Cable noted that there are those that could do it for cheaper and those that could do it for more. The discussion continued regarding how often people could have their trash picked up.

B. Ploss, 55 Skokorat Road, wanted to know the status of the debacle that happened several weeks ago. He also asked that the email that he sent to the 3 Selectmen be put into the record. He noted that he has not yet heard of any charges against any individuals in Chatfield Farms. B. Ploss stated that he loves Beacon Falls but since moving into that house, it has been nightmare. He noted that all the Selectmen are aware of this. He noted that he has complained and personally worked to get laws changed to benefit other people. He noted that the situation is still "insanity", noting that there are laws in the books stating that you should be able to have a quiet existence at your house. He referred to the incident when his wife was walking her dogs and unrepeatable words were exchanged. B. Ploss was insistent that he be told what their plan is to rectify this situation. S. Cable noted that she did notify the police and they were to get in touch with him - if they have not yet, then there is a problem. The discussion continued with B. Ploss stating his total disgust with the situation regarding the debacle that transpired noting that if the BOS cannot do the job, then maybe someone else should. He was insistent on being told what they BOS were going to do about this issue. S. Cable noted that she cannot answer this at this time as she noted she has turned it over to the police. S. Cable assured B. Ploss that he will have an answer/update by May 10, afternoon. She noted that they will have to handle it in the future by having a meeting with all the players involved meaning B. Ploss and his neighbors. B. Ploss made it clear that he has not received support from the BOS regarding this issue which has been going on for way too long.

B. Conte, 11 Briarwood Drive, asked what the average value of a home in Beacon Falls noting that average increase to each house with this tax increase will come to under \$200 for each \$300,000 home. She noted that the town people would not be able to privatize the trash pickup for the majority of the people in the town who use the trash pickup for that small amount of money (under \$200 per household).

K. Grace, 45 Cedar Lane, noted that if people don't have the money for the increase in taxes, they are not going to be able to afford to have their trash picked up on their own. She noted that there will be garbage everywhere and the town will be a mess. K. Grace noted that she understands how the people at Chatfield Farms feel about the trash but she noted that when they moved into

town, they knew the situation they were getting into. The discussion continued with K. Grace noting that she doesn't think it's fair that people from those communities don't want their taxes to go up so instead they suggest to take the trash pickup away from everyone else.

H. Wenzel, 10 Lakeview Drive, asked why the town doesn't consider including Chatfield Farms and those that don't have their trash picked by the town, in the town wide trash pickup thereby reducing their expenses. S. Cable noted that they have been looking at this for years trying to get Chatfield Farms the same kind of cost the rest of the town gets but it just hasn't been cost effective for us to do it at this point - no benefit. She noted that the other people have children in education and perhaps the 55 and older don't but noted hopefully many of the 55 and older are getting the tax abatement. S. Cable noted that they try to balance it the best they can but it's unrealistic at times because we all live in America and we see where it all goes.

E. Cromcik, 19 Fieldstone Lane, suggested that a solution to this problem would be to raise the taxes on the rest of Beacon Falls but don't raise the taxes on Chatfield Farms.

J. Pavlik noted that private pickup in Prospect was quoted at \$41 per quarter. S. Cable noted that she stated some are cheaper and some are higher but she will address the trash pickup later in the meeting.

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

#### **April 11, 2011 - Regular BOS**

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

#### **April 12, 2011 Public Hearing**

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

#### **April 12, 2011 Joint BOS/BOF Budget Workshop**

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

#### **April 27, 2011 Special BOS**

**D. Sorrentino motioned to accept the minutes. S. Cable 2nd the motion. D. Sorrentino and S. Cable voted aye. M. Krenesky abstained as he recorded the minutes.**

#### **April 27, 2011 Town Meeting**

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

**APPROVE BILLS ON THE SELECTMAN'S ORDER REGISTER**

**RESIDENT TROOPER AND CONSTABLES REPORT**

S. Cable read the report.

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

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

It was noted that the report is not yet in the new format that was requested. S. Cable noted that will see the new format next month but there were comments. D. Sorrentino asked that in the new format, will they be defining which projects they are working on and when the plan to complete them. S. Cable answered yes and noted that she will remind him.

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

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT REPORT**

It was noted that the Waste Water Treatment Supervisor is getting ready to go for surgery so he didn't get to the report. They will have 2 next month.

**FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT**

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

**PARK AND RECREATION REPORT**

This report should be removed from an agenda item because they receive a calendar now.

## **REPORT OF FINANCE MANAGER**

It was noted that M. Gomes will be at the BOF meeting so he can go over this report with them at that meeting.

**M. Krenesky motioned to accept the report and send it to the BOF. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

## **TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

D. Sorrentino asked if they were going to get an updated report of what is owed. S. Cable noted they have that. She will have to get a copy to D. Sorrentino. D. Sorrentino would like to see a report from 2007 to present.

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

## **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

None.

## **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

None.

## **REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY**

S. Cable congratulated Friends of the Library for their 20 years of service. She would like to attend their next meeting and asked to be reminded.

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

## **REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

S. Cable read the report.

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

## **ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT**

It was noted that the reports are caught up. S. Cable read the report.

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

## **REPORT OF THE CUSTODIAN**

D. Sorrentino noted that with the new hire at the Fire House being responsible for the custodial duties there, the town custodian should have 6 hours freed up. S. Cable said she asked for a time schedule and if they don't get one by Tuesday, they will make a schedule for the custodian.

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

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. A letter from the elected slate of officers in the Fire Department was received. S. Cable read the letter.

2. A letter of resignation from C. McMahon from the Board of Assessors was received.

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

3. A letter to the DEP re graffiti and bridge work and their response to such was received and explained.

MAY 11 2011

4. A letter from the attorney re: Beacon Village was received.
5. A letter regarding retirement of E. Bowen from Wastewater Treatment was received.

**M. Krenesky motioned to accept his recommendation with a great deal of regret and appreciation. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

6. S. Cable noted a list of emails that were received - they are attached to this filing.
  - a. an email from P. Sokolowki re the transfer station being closed this last week as inexcusable..
  - b. an email from H. Wenzel re his suggestions to lowering the town taxes
  - c. an email from J. & J. Sikora re their suggestions to lowering the town taxes
  - d. an email from J. Ogorchock re living in town for 3 years and the taxes being raised all three years and his suggestions for lowering the taxes
  - e. an email from E. Groth re suggestions for lowering the town taxes
  - f. an email from M. Krenesky re bulky waste and suggestions to open the transfer station; re also asking for an accounting of where \$205,000 for the streetscape came from and examining the towns priorities without adding further burden to the budget
  - g. A letter from M. Krenesky which is copied and pasted below:

From the desk of Selectman Michael A Krenesky

As a result of the budget referendum I believe that previous decisions made by this board (BOS) need to be prioritized differently. The failure of the budget may not dictate or mandate wholesale changes be made, but we do need to adjust the budget further. Tough times mean making unpopular decisions.

*During the budget preparation process I asked for a detail accounting of the remaining unanticipated revenues received by the Town. At that time I suggested that we take any remaining funds and use the monies to pay down current debt and/or use the funds to purchase future capitol items in this current year, which would reduce the 2011-12 budget requests as well as reduce future expense. Purchasing air-packs, paying off police vehicles, and retiring other debt only helps the bottom line and the effect on the taxpayers.*

For the record, I never received an accounting of these available funds.

Within the last week or so, I was told that the Town managed to scrape together \$205,000 as the matching portion of the grant for the greenway/streetscape on Main Street. I have requested and not



yet received information on where these funds were taken from other than a passing comment that some of the school reimbursement was used.

We have no money. Our budget failed, we cannot open our Bulky Waste transfer station until July (assumes we do not remove funds from this line item), and with this failed budget we now need to discuss what Town services will be affected to build an acceptable budget the taxpayers will support.

Tough times mean making unpopular decisions; therefore I am making the following recommendations to reduce the 2011-12 budget by postponing construction of the Greenway and utilized the \$205,000 to reduce the 2011-12 budget by retiring some of the debt in the Special Projects Line Item (10-90) in this the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Specifically I would:

1. Pay off all outstanding vehicle loans reducing not only the 2011-12 budget, but the 2013 budget as well.
2. Make the final payment towards the Tax Collector Software
3. Open the Bulky Waste Station in May & June (approx \$10,000 cost) and charge \$5.00/carload - \$10.00/pickup truck; in addition to the current fees for tires/freezers etc., which will offset the cost of opening the transfer station.

Command Vehicles (2)	\$8,500
PW 2007 4x4 Dump truck	\$23,245
PW/Truck	\$12,546
PW Truck #2 (replacement)	\$88,000
Police Vehicles	\$14,633
New Police Car (Dodge)	\$30,000
Tax Collector Software	\$18,000
Sub-total Leases	<b>\$194,924</b>
Open Bulky Waste May/June	\$10,000
Total	<b>\$204,924</b>

This is a responsible approach to managing the Town's debt and spending at a time when sound fiscal management and accountability is needed. Reducing our outstanding debt will improve our bond rating and help control future tax years as we prepare for the several major building projects we know will be proposed in the very near future.

Michael A Krenesky, Selectman

7. A letter re Storm water Manage. S. Cable will ask Public Works for a report.
8. a letter from DEP re: bridge repair
9. a notice re Hope Regional Housing Forum on May 26h. - S. Cable asked if one of the Selectmen can attend as she will not be available.
10. Letter of resignation from G. Fredericks

**D. Sorrentino motioned to acknowledge the resignation and accept the resignation once someone is appointed. M. Krenesky 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

11. notice re the Grange closing on 5/11/11
12. a letter from Donna re: referendum
13. Letter from K. Grace re resignation of Sandy from the Board of Assessors.

**M. Krenesky motioned to accepted S. Sherwood's resignation from the Board of Assessors with regret. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

14. a letter from C. McMahon to fill a vacancy on the Board of Assessment and Appeals
15. a letter that was sent to all the employees re union concessions

### **OLD BUSINESS**

S. Cable discussed the triangle on South Circle and how the rotary club was asked to maintain it. The discussion continued about that becoming complicated in that the children in that

neighborhood play on the triangle and some residents have asked that it stay just as that. A lengthy discussion continued regarding what to do about this situation. S. Cable noted that she will speak with the residents and the rotary club and maybe they can make a compromise.

Website - M. Krenesky explained that the project is on schedule. He noted that he still needs to coordinate some things with the Town Clerk. Each Board or Department will have their own page. It was noted that the Clerk's office by law will have to post the minutes to the website and that the web designers will meet with everyone who will be having a page. A lengthy discussion continued.

Phone System - M. Krenesky noted the phone system is on schedule to be complete in the beginning of June. He explained that there are 2 upgrades needed which will cost \$550.00. S. Cable asked him to motion to purchase these items.

**M. Krenesky motioned to purchase the 2 pieces of equipment for \$550.00 in order to update the phone system. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

#### Ordinances

S. Cable noted that on May 10, 2011, they will set a date for a town meeting regarding all the ordinances. The ordinances have to do with a bi-annual election, training for members of the Board of Finance, local options for tax relief for elderly and disabled home owners and the service award.

S. Cable announced that there will be a joint BOS and BOF meeting on May 10th to discuss the budget. She noted that she has asked for concessions and if the town employees do not give up their increase, the employees will have to take between 9 and 12 furlough days.

S. Cable explained that she has also asked for \$9,000 back in longevity pay.

S. Cable explained that she has asked for \$38,990 in buy backs explaining that employees who do not need the medical insurance receive a check at the end of the year - they total \$38,990 - she noted that employees who do have the insurance pay into it.

S. Cable discussed the \$3.00 per hour increase for the part time police noting that she asked them to phase it in by give them \$2.00 per hour at first.

S. Cable explained that they may be getting a new trash group who may pick up the trash for less.

S. Cable noted they will present proposals for the transfer station tomorrow noting they can charge by car and truck load.

S. Cable noted the tax abatement that seniors and the Fire Department receive noting that it's now \$500 and the state recommends that it be \$200. She noted that this will be discussed in the BOF meeting 5/10/11.

S. Cable noted that back taxes will be reviewed.

S. Cable noted that in her personal point of view, the Town Nurse title needs to be changed because she handles more than just the town nurse. S. Cable noted that she also works on the safety committee and with HR and does the workers compensation as well. S. Cable also noted that it is an advantage to the community to have a Town Nurse.

S. Cable touched briefly on the Streetscape noting that she will discuss it at the BOF meeting on 5/10/11.

S. Cable noted that the Governor's plan A will be giving them more revenue, Plan B is not good at all.

M. Krenesky suggested that the town settle all 6 properties that are going for tax sale be sold in bulk. He noted that there are businesses out there that by liens. It was noted that this will be discussed at the BOF meeting on 5/10/11. He noted other towns have been doing this for years. A lengthy discussion continued.

M. Krenesky also noted that his suggestion would be to put the Greenway Project on hold for now and that the \$205,000 could be used in a more efficient way. He noted that he has asked for an accounting of where the \$205,000 came from and has still not received that accounting. He noted that the town has \$194,000 in leased debt that could be paid off and save the town tax dollars. He also suggested that they take \$10,000 out of the \$205,000 to open the Transfer Station in May and June. He noted that there were a lot of comments from the town regarding how Prospect lowered their taxes because they paid off their debt. His suggestions are noted in his document pasted above. A discussion continued.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was noted that NVSL has taken property on Burton Road and will come in with a plan for some houses.

All three Selectmen support the Public Safety program and it will cost \$400.

**M. Krenesky motioned to support the Survive the Drive Public Safety Program. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

**D. Sorrentino motioned to approve the Future Past Preservation Agreement. M. Krenesky 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

S. Cable noted that the quicker they move on the CT Care option for medical insurance, the more they will save. She noted they will have a comparison. A discussion continued on this subject.

### **TRANSFERS**

It was discussed that these transfers should be referred to the BOF for their review.

S. Cable wanted it noted for the record that she is concerned about receiving a list of transfers like this with no explanation.

**M. Krenesky motioned to forward the Transfers to the BOF for their review and discussion and an explanation from the Finance Manager. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

S. Cable noted that they have interviewed their candidate L. Solomita for the Assistant Plant Superintendant position and she recommends that they hire him.

**D. Sorrentino motioned to hire L. Solomita to fill the position of Assistant Plant Superintendant. S. Cable 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

### **APPOINTMENTS**

**S. Cable motioned to appoint S. Sherwood to fill the vacancy on the Board of Appeals. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

**D. Sorrentino motioned to reappoint T. Gutierro to the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District. M. Krenesky 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

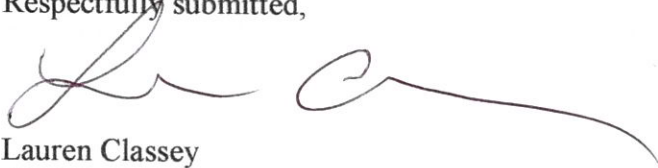
**D. Sorrentino motioned to reappoint E. Korzon to the EDC and to extend J. Woodward for 1 month until confirmation. M. Krenesky 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

### **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

S. Dowdell, 32 Wolfe Ave., asked if there were going to address the Library issue. S. Cable noted that she understands the situation but they do not know when Laura is leaving. A discussion continued with S. Cable noting that she will meet with Laura and Marsh to discuss this.

**D. Sorrentino motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 P.M. M. Krenesky 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lauren Classey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lauren Classey

Clerk for the Board of Selectmen, Regular Monthly Meeting - May 9, 2011