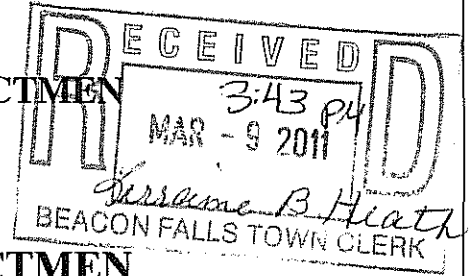


Town of BEACON FALLS  
*Connecticut*

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING  
March 7, 2011  
MINUTES (Phone System and Wolfe Ave.)  
(Draft Copy-Subject to Revision)**

First Selectman S. Cable called the Special Monthly Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 8:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Approx. 6 town residents

S. Cable opened the meeting explaining that there are 2 items on the agenda and they would be discussing the proposed telephone system. She noted that M. Krenesky and M. Gomes have been researching replacement telephone systems.

M. Krenesky explained that the requirement for any item/purchase under \$10,000 is that we get 3 quotes which he did for this new proposed phone system. He explained that the three proposals that he received are as follows:

1. Total Communications (E. Hartford)
2. Data Tel (Oxford)
3. Comcast (Seymour)

He noted that two of the systems/proposals are very similar and they would require us to purchase a new PBX system which would replace the current PBX system as well as replace 18 phones. He noted for the record that this conversation is about Town Hall only (it does not include the other Municipal buildings). He noted that our current system has no automation, no voice mail, no automated attendants and no after hours. The concept behind this exercise was to put a new phone system in and finance it through our current budget.

M. Krenesky spoke of the Comcast system which he noted was very similar to the type of phone system of a cable system used at home. A fiber cable would be installed with a switching station and all the new phones. He noted that the major difference between the 3 systems would be that the Comcast System does not require us to buy a PBX system - the system is totally controlled by Comcast in Seymour. The advantage of the Comcast system is that as long as you have power, the system will work; additionally there is a generator in the building. This phone system also comes with a 30 minute (or an hour) UPS (universal power supply) which allows you to shut down your system if you have a power outage.

M. Krenesky noted that through this exercise of researching the phone systems and diagramming the current system, they have already found two phone lines that have not been in use for over 10 years 1: that we have been paying \$45 per month since 2001 and 2: a phone line that connects the Police Station to Town Hall which is no longer in use - it has to be disconnected and we can begin saving money on that line as well.

There is no capital outlay with the Comcast system either. You can switch over from AT&T to Comcast with the costs coming directly out of our current budget. The Town of Beacon Falls currently budgets approx. \$40,000 (total) per year for phones. Without purchasing the PBX, we can cut our monthly phone expense from \$1200 per month to what Comcast has proposed approx. \$600 per month. These are voice over IP systems. The costs will go from .40 to .22 for having the phones so there is a great deal of savings.

M. Krenesky explained that the decision comes down to which new phone system are we comfortable with.

M. Krenesky's recommendation based on this data would be that the Town of Beacon Falls goes with the Comcast system for the reasons mentioned above (most cost effective); also noting that the advantage is that just for \$600 per month, we will have many more features. Other advantages would be that if the employees at the town hall used outlook as an email system, Comcast would be able to read you your emails.

M. Krenesky noted that switching the town hall over to a unified email system is another discussion that the Selectmen will have to have.

M. Krenesky noted that Comcast would require a 3 year contract.

S. Cable asked the Selectmen their opinions.

D. Sorrentino noted that it is the way of the future.

M. Krenesky noted that including the Senior Center and other municipal buildings into our phone system could not be done with the other 2 systems but Comcast did tell him that we would now be able to have 1 phone number to the town hall and then there will be extensions with an automated attendant. Each department will each have an extension. The Senior Center

currently uses Comcast so it would not be an issue to add them to this. M. Krenesky noted that they will stay away from the Fire Department/Emergency Calls because of the emergency services systems in place but we may be able to include Public Works.

S. Dowdell asked if the \$600 per month would increase as time went on. M. Krenesky answered that this would be a 3 year contract. S. Dowdell also inquired about how this might impact the Library. M. Krenesky noted that the fax lines will not be removed and we will be leaving a couple of ATT lines in place. He noted that the Registrar of Voters has a direct line that goes to Hartford that we will also not touch.

S. Dowdell also inquired about the 2 internet services that the library has. M. Krenesky noted that they have not yet had the conversation with the Library.

M. Fernandes noted that the 50% savings is not really 50% savings noting that the way she understands it that we are taking out AT&T and putting in Comcast and keeping some AT&T lines. M. Krenesky noted that they currently have 16 AT&T lines coming into the building at \$45 each and we will be reducing it to around 4 lines so it is still a huge savings over where we are.

**M. Krenesky motioned that the Town of Beacon Falls contracts with Comcast for the phone system at 10 Maple Ave. D.Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

S. Cable asked the M. Krenesky continue to pursue this. It was noted that this can take place during the current budget and can probably take a month.

It was noted that they could put an ad in the Citizen News announcing the single phone number that may be at the town hall.

**The second item on the agenda was discussed:**

M. Krenesky asked what the purpose of the "informational meeting" was and what we think we may gain from it. M. Krenesky noted that he would prefer just to name/appoint the committee and move on.

S. Cable noted that she received some prices as to the value of the property, one with the structure was for \$240, without the structure was \$150,000. The second appraisal was \$259,000 with the building.

Seymour Demolition quoted \$22,000 and Ocean quoted \$17,000 to demolish the building. S. Cable asked about the \$70,000 cost that M. Krenesky received for demolition. M. Krenesky noted that they used a Bailey Report which has to do with whether or not there is asbestos in the building. He noted it was approx. \$30,000 to take the building down and \$30,000 for expenses for hazardous waste and the difference as to whether they would fill the hole or drop the house into the hole.

A discussion continued regarding the committee.

M. Krenesky noted that he would expect a committee to have between 5 and 7 members and their mission statement should be to evaluate and come back with a proposal for the design and development of a Community Center/Library on the same property. This should be based on the Library study and the Bailey Report. S. Cable noted that they voted to take the building down and wanted all to be on the same page.

A discussion continued.

D. Sorrentino agreed with M. Krenesky in that he would like to see a building on that site/a Media and an Active Community Center.

S. Cable noted that they have already voted to take the house down and that they have to secure the funding for this noting that this is something the new committee should not have to worry about.

D. Sorrentino noted that they committee should be looking at it as it's an open lot and the committee has to figure out what they want to put on it.

S. Cable noted that the 3 Selectmen seems to be on the same page in that they are all looking for a Media/Community Center.

A discussion continued regarding square footage of the building, what fits on the site, what exactly does Community Center mean, etc.

It was noted that there are still lots of questions regarding a multi use Municipal Building.

I was noted that 7 people have sent in letters regarding their interest on being on this committee.

S. Dowdell noted that she feels very strongly that the committee should include 1 person from the Parks and Rec, 1 from the Library, 1 from the Historical Society, she would also like to be on the committee and she would like it to have some archival space.

S. Dowdell would also like to see someone who is good at marketing and fund development.

S. Cable noted that if you put one office in the building, grant money may be available.

A lengthy discussion continued regarding fund raising, fund development and marketing.

It was noted that this should be a 5 year committee.

It was noted that some people envision that the building will over-look downtown.

S. Cable will come up with the words for "the mission" of this committee.

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**To Design a Library/Community Center on the property of 35/37 Wolfe Ave. to meet the needs of the Community inclusive of Park and Rec Commission, the Economic Commission, the Library and Municipal meeting space.**

A discussion continued regarding thinking outside box as it relates to this building.

S. Cable noted that she would like to talk to each of the individuals that sent a letter regarding their interest on serving on this board.

A Special Meeting to interview potential members for this committee has been set for March 14th, at 6:30 P.M.

It was noted that the meeting will be set and the people that are interested will be in attendance.

**M. Krenesky motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M. D. Sorrentino 2nd the motion. All voted aye.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Classey

Clerk for the Board of Selectmen, Special Monthly Meeting – October 4, 2010

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