



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
Tax Collector and Town Clerk
March 26, 2012
MINUTES
(Draft Copy-Subject to Revision)**

G. Smith called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M. with the Pledge to the Flag.

Present: First Selectman G. Smith, Selectmen C. Bielik and D. D'Amico, Tax Collector M. Jurzynski and approximately 50 members of the public.

G. Smith began the meeting by explaining that he had asked M. Jurzynski to come to this meeting to explain what kind of ideas she may have in order to have more Tax Collector coverage/fill in the holes and cover when Linda is on vacation. He wanted to know how we can have coverage around the clock. He noted that he also wanted the Selectmen's opinion on this as well.

M. Jurzynski responded by saying that she thinks they should have "inter-office" – someone who knows all jobs. She noted that she spent a couple of days with the part-timers from the Town Clerks office and the Tax Assessors office but she said that both had said that this is not what they were hired to do.

M. Jurzynski said that she could only be at the town hall in the mornings and definitely cannot be there on Fridays. She noted that she also cannot be there in the afternoons and doesn't think that's her job anyway.

G. Smith asked her when she is not there and Linda is not there, who is collecting taxes? M. Jurzynski's answer was "no one" but there is a box outside the door where people can drop off their checks (not cash) and it's locked. She noted that they can put checks there during lunch time too and the box is picked up in the morning.

G. Smith noted that as a board and as a town that he really thinks they should have a person there to collect taxes during all town hall hours.

G. Smith asked that when M. Jurzynski mentioned the Assistant Assessor and Assistant Town Clerk, did they ever get trained to collect taxes. M. Jurzynski said that they sat with her a few times but that was it. G. Smith repeated what M. Jurzynski had said that they have both been trained and now it is a matter of getting coverage through lunch hours and vacations. M. Jurzynski responded by saying "that is all" they are needed for.

C. Bielik asked if this is a question of this task not being listed in their specific job descriptions or out of the scope of their job descriptions.

M. Jurzynski responded by saying that she doesn't know except for that is not what they were hired to do. M. Jurzynski noted that she does not think it should be filled in by those two positions but an inter-office person should be hired. She explained that at one time they did have an inter-office person but it was the wrong person noting that inter-office is what they need. She noted that they do have one person in the town that worked inter-office and she was excellent and knew all the departments but the union says "no" they won't let her come back and work and she does not know the reason for this.

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MAR 28 2012

G. Smith asked M. Jurzynski in summary was she suggesting “one person to work all three departments as a floater”? M. Jurzynski answered “yes” but you don’t need them all the time.

G. Smith noted that this is something they need to explore, how they can fill the void.

G. Smith also explained that after speaking with M. Gomes, they are going to start working towards collecting taxes on-line and that our current software is capable of that. He noted that this will give us another venue to collect taxes and that once M. Gomes is finished with Woodbury we will hopefully institute that in Beacon Falls as well.

G. Smith asked M. Jurzynski if we have a set time line for when and how we collect delinquent taxes. M. Jurzynski noted that after 30 days they are going to get interest. She noted that they just can’t do anything about it noting that after a month you put a lien on it – noting that actually all the liens go on in June. After that, if they don’t do anything about it, they will periodically send out bills to them saying this is what is owed.

M. Jurzynski explained that it’s quite expensive to send out the tax bills because they are not allowed to use the machine noting that they actually have to buy stamps and stamp all the envelopes to send them.

C. Bielik asked M. Jurzynski about the distressed property sale that they had last year for the properties that were very far in arrears on taxes – he asked Millie if there was a consistent threshold stipulated by law that says after x number of years being in arrears, the property becomes available (should the town choose to do it) for a tax sale or is this at the town’s discretion.

M. Jurzynski responded by saying that if nothing is done in like three months, then they warn them through the Marshal which costs the town nothing (it’s free to do that). If they don’t answer the warrant, then they

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MAR 28 2012

look back and say OK let's put it up for auction. She noted that as soon as you mention that, people come in and start paying noting that this has been working. She explained that the town loses a lot of taxes through the Trailer Park noting that just recently, two trailers were taken off the property and new ones put on – one of them owed \$8,000 in taxes. It was confirmed by D. Civitella that nothing can be done about this. She re-iterated that the town loses a lot of money through the trailer park.

G. Smith asked Millie if what she was saying is that all the delinquent taxes after 90 days go to the Marshall for a warrant and then to auction?
M. Jurzynski said that to go to auction takes a good 2 months.

G. Smith asked Millie if we could get a little bit more aggressive with our letters noting that some go back more than a year and even more than that. Millie responded by saying that after 15 years, they are just off the books. G. Smith noted that we shouldn't let the taxes get that far explaining that if we could get them more in the 6 month range we will be able to collect a little bit more revenue.

Millie said that they actually go by the law. What the law tells them to do, they do. She noted that there are state laws that tell them how to go about it and they don't do it any other way. Millie noted that they did collect an awful lot of back taxes after the auction noting that the auction scared a lot of people.

G. Smith asked if anyone had any other questions noting that they will see if they can get the other two people to work in the tax collectors department so they don't have to close the tax department.

M. Jurzynski noted that in looking over the list she gave him today, Beacon Mills village alone hasn't paid the 2nd half of their taxes (she understands this is due to refinancing or something else) noting that these are one of their biggest tax payers. She also noted that she looked over the list today and noticed that half the people on the list are deceased noting no one ever lets them know if they are deceased.

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Smith confirmed that these are real estate taxes only and Millie responded by saying that they can't do anything about car taxes.

G. Smith asked if there were any other comments from the Board noting that the meeting was not open to public comments.

Next item on the agenda: Town Clerk Appointment

G. Smith explained that the Town Clerk resigned 3/15/12 effective 3/16/12.

G. Smith noted that since that time, they have received 3 letters of intent to fill that position.

Jeremy Rodrigo – letter of intent received on 3/19/12

P. Critella – letter of intent received on 3/20/12

Leonard C. Green – letter of intent received on 3/26/12

G. Smith read all 3 letters of intent noting that on 3/26/12 he received a 2nd letter from Jeremy Rodrigo withdrawing his letter of intent.

G. Smith read Jeremy Rodrigo's letter explaining that Jeremy had received an email written by the DTC which infuriated and disgusted him which in turn led him to decide to withdraw his letter of intent. G. Smith also read the email from the DTC which was attached to J. Rodrigo's letter to withdraw.

D. D'Amico motioned to appoint Leonard C. Green as the Town Clerk. G. Smith 2nd the motion.

Discussion:

C. Bielik noted for the record that he spoke in length with Mr. Rodrigo today explaining that the conversation is between the two of them unless Mr. Rodrigo's pleasure was to share the conversation. C. Bielik noted that he did explain to Jeremy that the Board of Selectmen ~~RECEIVED~~

feels that any results of actions that may have precipitated Mr. Novak's resignation in any way reflect on him or the job that he was doing as Assistant Town Clerk. C. Bielik explained that there was much more to their conversation than that but feels that this statement summarizes the conversation enough for the public at large.

C. Bielik also noted that he personally thinks there are two excellent candidates for this position (noting that they had 3 excellent candidates and now have 2) but he noted that he thinks what they are doing is possibly approaching this selection process out of order. He noted that *the receipt of the auditor's report is possibly important information that the people of the town need to have before the Board of Selectmen made a decision on appointing who is going to be filling that role over the next couple of years.* Therefore, C. Bielik noted that his choice would be to defer making this nomination tonight and deferring it until after the auditor's report has been accepted by the town and posted for public knowledge.

G. Smith noted that he thinks these are two separate issues.

G. Smith called for a vote on the motion on the table.

G. Smith and D. D'Amico voted aye. C. Bielik opposed the motion. Motion passed.

D. D'Amico motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 P.M. C. Bielik 2nd the motion. All voted aye.

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,


Lauren Classey
Clerk for the Board of Selectmen

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BEACON FALLS TOWN CLERK