

**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 14, 2012
MINUTES
(Draft, Subject to Approval)**

First Selectman Gerard F. Smith called the Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Board of Selectmen to order at 7:30 P.M. with the Pledge to the Flag.

PRESENT: First Selectman G. Smith, Selectman D. D'Amico and Selectman C. Bielik.

ALSO PRESENT: Treasurer, M. Krenesky, H. Mis, H. Daniels, S. Dowdell, J. Dowdell and E. Groth.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 4/9/12 – Public Hearing – Community Development Block Grant. **C. Bielik made motion to accept Minutes as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
2. 4/9/12 – Regular Monthly BOS Meeting. **C. Bielik made motion to accept Minutes as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
3. 4/10/12 – Joint Budget Workshop with the BOF. **C. Bielik made motion to accept Minutes as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
4. 4/12/12 – Special BOS Meeting. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept Minutes as presented, 2nd by G. Smith. All aye, with ABSTENTION by C. Bielik who was not at meeting.**
5. 4/26/12 – Special BOS Meeting – Vote on Resolutions. **C. Bielik made motion to accept Minutes as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
6. 5/1/12 – Town Meeting. **C. Bielik made motion to accept Minutes as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**

REPORTS

1. Report of the Resident Trooper. **C. Bielik made motion to accept Report as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
2. Report of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It was noted that a fuse had popped causing an automatic alarm not to go off; resulting in no notification there had been a problem. Matter has been taken care of. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept Report as presented, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
3. Report of the Fire Marshal. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept Report as presented, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**

4. Report of the Finance Manager. **C. Bielik made motion to accept Report as presented and submit to the Board of Finance, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
5. Report of the Tax Collector. **C. Bielik made motion to accept Report as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
6. Report of the Treasurer. **D .D'Amico made motion to accept Report as presented and submit to the Board of Finance, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
 - Discussion on Union Savings Bank's reimbursement to the Town with regard to a \$7.50 monthly fee which had been charged in 2011 and 2012.
 - Discussion about Water Assessments and how these monies are collected and which account they go into. G. Smith noted the last water project which included Cedar Lane, Cedar Circle, Burton Road, Lorraine Drive and Cook Lane assessed each household \$4900. Question raised as to what account these monies have gone into. Board felt there still must be some outstanding payments due since payments were divided out over a thirty (30) year period. This matter will be looked into further.
7. Report of the Library. **C. Bielik made motion to accept the Report as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
8. Report of the Custodian. No report received. G. Smith will address this with Custodian.
9. Report of the Fire Department. **C. Bielik made motion to accept the Report as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**

READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

1. Copy of Invoice sent with regard to reimbursement of the Beacon Heights Coalition.
2. Letter received from Edmund Grace resigning from the Zoning Board of Appeals. **C. Bielik made motion to accept his resignation with regret, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
3. Letter from Elaine Rose, Pond Spring Village, which noted she had fallen in the Town Hall parking lot. G. Smith said Town would pay for her glasses. Ms. Rose thanked the Board for its compassion in dealing with her situation. She will not sue the Town.
4. G. Smith noted he had received a copy of the Coalition Agreement with the Town from Attorney D. Civitello. Information is needed for Wastewater Treatment Plant Study.
5. Letter from Lt. E. Rodriguez with regard to his re-certification. He teaches for forty (40) hours at the Fire School as fulfilling the Town's responsibility to pay for this re-certification.
6. It was noted there was a leak caused by the air-conditioning in the Town Clerk's Office. Original estimate to repair the problem was \$7200, but upon closer inspection by A.E. Olsen, the filters needed to be cleaned at a cost of \$72. Unit is now working fine.

7. Letter from Dorothy Bacon, Oak Drive, with concerns about safety at the walking track between two (2) fields at the Pent Road Complex. After looking into the matter, it was agreed to keep trucks off the walkway path.
8. Letter from the CNVCOG with regard to DEEP and the DOT wanting to close the entrance to Cold Spring Road and the entrance to High Rock. G. Smith noted the Town is vehemently opposed to this as it would cause a serious problem in the event of an emergency because emergency vehicles would have to go through Naugatuck to get to High Rock. G. Smith noted that Representative L. Greene, the Town and the CNVCOG are working on this.
9. It was noted Town Treasurer sent memos to all Department Heads, Boards and Commissions asking that any checks they receive must be made out to the 'Town of Beacon Falls'.
10. Letter from DOT with regard to repair of the retaining walls on Main Street. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2013. G. Smith noted that Representative L. Greene worked hard to get this project taken care of. He also noted State funds will pay for the project, with no Town monies involved.
11. G. Smith noted S. Posick's FOI complaints and information he wanted have been taken care of by Town Clerk L. Greene.
12. **C. Bielik made motion to approve Beacon Hose Company No. 1's request to use Main Street (S 852) for its Annual Parade on June 9, 2012, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
13. Letter from R. Minnick received with regard to Toby's Pond and a request to hire two (2) high school students to do some maintenance work there under supervision of Public Works at a cost of approximately \$4,000. The funding would come from the original \$41,000 received from O&G. After discussion, **C. Bielik made motion to approve the hiring of two (2) students to do maintenance work at Toby's Pond, pending approval from the Public Works Union, and to do this for this summer only, based on the recommendation of R. Minnick in his 5/8/12 letter, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.** Board felt that hopefully this work will take things to the point where Public Works will be able to maintain Toby's Pond on a regular basis.
14. After comparing rates charged by surrounding Towns, E. Bea submitted recommendations on Transfer Station Fees; i.e. \$25.00 per load for pickup or trailer and \$10.00 per car load and other fees. G. Smith suggested these fees be charged beginning in June 2012. Discussion. Question asked how these fees would be collected and by whom. Possibility of having Town Clerk's Office handle this since they do issue the identification stickers to Beacon Falls residents. It was noted some Towns charge, others do not. D. D'Amico asked how fees charged now are currently collected. J. Dowdell felt the proposed fees are a lot of money. H. Daniels suggested having a once a year bulk pickup, with G. Smith adding he felt this might be very expensive, but he would check into this further and get some prices. He would like to keep the Transfer Station open at least six (6) times per year, and would keep an open mind about the possibility of also having a bulk curbside pickup. The Agenda for the June BOS Meeting will include this discussion under Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The Streetscape Enhancement Project. G. Smith noted one of the hold ups has been the asphalt paving, adding that even though asphalts have been open, the State requires at least two (2) weeks before it can conduct certain tests. With rain predicted, this could hold up the project even more. Many items have been completed including: the ADA curbs, ordering of lights. Trees should get planted in the fall.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Beacon Falls Municipal Loan. G. Smith noted that even though this is a loan, it has to be treated similar to a bond, adding costs include monies still owed Day Pitney. The following Resolutions were voted upon: (full text attached) **D. D'Amico made motion to waive the reading of the entire text and vote on each separate Resolution, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
 - a. **C. Bielik made motion to approve the Resolution appropriating \$206,700 for costs related to various road and Streetscape Improvement Projects, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All voted aye.**
 - b. **D. D'Amico made motion to approve the Resolution appropriating \$294,356 for costs related to various Public Safety Equipment acquisitions for use by the Beacon Hose Company No. 1, 2nd by C. Bielik. All voted aye.**
 - c. **D. D'Amico made motion to approve the Resolution appropriating \$427,660 for costs related to various sanitary sewer system projects, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
 - d. **D. D'Amico made motion to approve the Resolution appropriating \$61,034 for costs related to various information systems projects for the Town Hall and Finance Department computer systems, etc, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
 - e. **C. Bielik made motion to approve the Resolution appropriating \$152,450 for costs related to acquisition for use by the Public Works Department of a dump truck and related equipment, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**

C. Bielik made motion that with the Board of Selectmen's approval of the above five (5) listed Resolutions, they be then presented to the Public at a Town Meeting to be held on Thursday, June 14, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. at the Firehouse, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.

J. Dowdell asked what happens to this Loan if the Board of Finance says no, questioning if the Board of Finance needs to approve this before it can go to a Town Meeting for a vote. Discussion if motion needed to be amended. C. Bielik made motion to vote on the Resolutions at a Town Meeting to be held on June 14, 2012, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.

2. Town Ordinances.

- a. Local Option Tax Relief for Volunteer Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics or Ambulance Drivers. Revision.
- b. Land Use Committee – Ordinance Establishing a Land Use Committee. Revision. Suggestion to change membership from nine (9) members to six (6) members because it is difficult to have a quorum.
- c. Establishing Citation Procedures and Fines for Violations of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Beacon Falls. Revision.

The revisions will be forward to Attorney D. Civitello for her review.

3. Tax Assessor Grant Amount.

- Currently the Town’s income limits are \$75,000 for a single person, \$150,000 for a couple. The States income limits are \$39,000 for a single person, \$78,000 for a couple. It was noted the Town is very generous with its income guidelines.
- The Assessor comes up with a formula. Maximum is currently \$500 per household. Suggestion made to possibly reduce it to \$200 or \$240. It was noted the full \$500 comes to approximately \$130,000 in lost tax revenue. People must apply for this every two (2) years. Board expressed concern that lowering the amount would affect those people who really need this and would not be fair for those who need the tax break. G. Smith felt we should keep the amount at \$500 and address the other income levels in the future. **C. Bielik made motion to retain the current ceiling of \$500 and revisit the income levels, 2nd by D. D’Amico. All aye.**

4. 160 Blackberry Hill.

- G. Smith noted he had taken a look at the property and felt the problem appears to have been lacking in maintenance over the course of many years. He added the homeowner said the previous administration had said the Town would take care of it. G. Smith felt the Town is not responsible for this, with maintenance the responsibility of the homeowner, adding it is a more involved project than just having Public Works send down a truck to dredge the pond.
- **C. Bielik made motion to notify the homeowners at 160 Blackberry Hill, that the Town will not take of their pond problem, but that the Town could possibly assist the homeowner in working with FEMA to see if any funds might be available to help them out, 2nd by D. D’Amico. All aye.**

APPOINTMENTS

- 1. It was agreed to defer until the June 2012 Meeting an appointment of someone to fill the vacancy left with the resignation of E. Grace on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

2. **D. D'Amico made motion to re-appoint Dominick Sorrentino to serve on the Economic Development Commission, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.** Letter will be sent.

BUDGET TRANSFER REQUESTS

G. Smith noted that Finance Director said there will be many budget transfers to consider in June, and suggested any budget transfer requests be held off until then.

Board agreed to take a five (5) minute recess.

D. D'Amico made motion to go into Executive Session at 8:40 P.M. to discuss a personnel matter, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.

Board came out of Executive Session at 9:00 P.M.

With no further business, **C. Bielik made motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 P.M. 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Wilson
Temporary Clerk for the Board of Selectmen – Monthly Meeting 5/14/12