

**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, September 10, 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. A moment of silence was then held to remember the events of September 11, 2001.

PRESENT: First Selectman Gerard Smith, Selectman David D’Amico and Selectman Christopher Bielik.

ALSO PRESENT: Treasurer, Michael Krenesky, Helen Mis, Susan Dowdell, Joseph Dowdell, Mildred Jurzynski, Edward Groth, J. Groth, Mary Ellen Fernandes, Alexandra Chamenko, Kevin McDuffie, Christian Yanarella, Wanda Mulinski, Gary Komarowsky and Rhonda Bielik.

D. D’Amico made motion to add the following item to New Business in the Meeting’s Agenda: “To vote on a Resolution that Gerard F. Smith, First Selectman, is authorized to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this Municipality a Contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant”, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No Public Comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 07/13/2012 – Town Meeting – Vote on Sale of Cell Tower. **C. Bielik made motion to accept the Minutes as presented, 2nd by D. D’Amico. All aye.**
2. 07/13/2012 - Regular Monthly BOS Meeting. After review, **D. D’Amico made motion to accept Minutes as presented, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**

REPORTS

1. Report of the Resident Trooper. **D. D’Amico made motion to accept Report as presented, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
2. Report of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Discussion of the Thompson and Godwin pump equipment which is needed during times of emergency and when problems occur with excess water. General consensus was to buy the pump outright rather than lease it. No decision made at this point. **C. Bielik made motion to accept Report as presented, 2nd by D. D’Amico. All aye.**

3. Report of the Fire Marshal. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept the report as presented, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.** It was noted there was a lot of mutual aid during the recent flooding problems in Naugatuck.
4. Report of the Finance Manager. **C. Bielik made motion to submit the report to the Board of Finance for its review, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
5. Report of the Tax Collector. Two (2) Reports submitted. **C. Bielik made motion to submit the reports to the Board of Finance for its review, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
6. Report of the Treasurer. M. Krenesky noted that he has already moved funds into the Capital Projects account. **C. Bielik made motion to accept Report as presented and submit to the Board of Finance, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.** G. Smith noted the Town is working with N.F.S.& L to accept **Current** tax payments for the Town and that taxpayers will be able to pay their taxes on line as well. Timeframe for this to be executed is hopefully by January 1, 2013. A check scanning method is also being worked on as equipment must be in place. This will allow bank deposits to be automatically deposited every day.
7. Report of the Town Clerk. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept the revised report as presented and submit to the Board of Finance for its review, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
8. Report of the Library. No report submitted. S. Dowdell noted that once the Library Board meets on September 12th, all of the past reports will be submitted.
9. Report of the Custodian. Reports for July and August were submitted. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept the reports as presented, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
10. Report of the Fire Department. No report submitted.
11. Report of the Animal Control Officer. **C. Bielik made motion to accept the report as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**

READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence received from Attorney Steven Byrne with updates with regard to Pending Enforcement Matters with regard to the Town's Blight Ordinance. Copies will be made for each Selectman to review. G. Smith noted that some matters are currently in the hands of the Zoning Enforcement Officer and are in the legal process. Some of the matters are being contested and being fought at this time.
G. Smith noted there are erosion problems at Chatfield Farms and suggested Town can call the bond for the erosion causing problems, adding there is an Inland Wetland bond as well as for Planning & Zoning. He noted there is 36" pipe wide open with silt coming down off the mountain, going onto an adjoining neighbor's property. He added that the new Chatfield Farms owners are from Maryland and so far they have not done anything. This is a safety and environmental issue as well as being unsightly. G. Smith also noted that undeveloped lots are not maintained and are causing blight concerns, adding the Town can go after them for the blight infractions. G. Smith added the Town can always pull their bond.

2. Discussion on Oakwood Drive (Blackberry Hill). Developers want the Town to release the bonds it currently holds on the project. There is a soil and erosion bond and a maintenance bond with Planning & Zoning and an Inland Wetlands bond. Town Engineer J. Galligan did not recommend releasing the Inland Wetlands bond. **C. Bielik made motion to release the first two (2) bonds (the soil and erosion bond and the maintenance bond), 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.** G. Smith said he would check again with the engineer on this to make sure everything has been done as required.
3. Correspondence from Beacon Hose Company # 1 with regard to bid received for refurbishment of its 1999 Chevy Ambulance with their recommendation that bid be awarded to Eastford Fire & Rescue Sales for the amount of \$129,140. After discussion, **C. Bielik made motion to award the bid to Eastford Fire & Rescue Sales, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.** Discussion on the savings of \$4,000 if 80% is paid in three (3) weeks. G. Smith noted his feelings are that if you pay someone in full then what recourse do you have when something happens or you have a problem with the equipment.
4. Chatfield Farms. G. Smith noted he hired Michael Horbal to do a survey at 655 Skokorat Road because of problems with site lines, and because property owner had an issue with trees being trimmed on his property. Survey indicated property in question does fall within the Town's ten (10) foot right of way. **D. D'Amico made motion to pay the bill of \$1301.75, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
5. **C. Bielik made motion to pay Tax Refunds totaling \$1166.99, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
6. Letter received with regard to the closing at end of Cold Spring Road. DOT wants the road closed, but the DEEP wants it to remain open. Work is being done in the area. The CNVCOG has written a letter of support of the Town in keeping the road open as it is an access and needs to be open in case of an emergency.
7. Mandated training for Animal Control Officers is required in letter from the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture. This information will be forwarded to the Town's Animal Control Officer.
8. Two (2) letters received from Steven Posick. Clerk will make copies for each Selectman.
9. G. Smith presented information from CCM with regard to a drug prescription program for those who do not a drug prescription plan. This is a modified prescription drug plan cannot be combined with any other plan. Residents will be mailed cards.
10. G. Smith noted there had been previous problems with a tree on Beacon Street, which the Town did take down since it was in the 10' Town's right of way.
11. G. Smith asked Seymour and Oxford's First Selectmen to put up 'No Thru Truck Traffic' signs on streets going into Beacon Falls as there has been a lot of truck traffic in Beacon Falls. Both Towns agreed to put up those signs.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Social Media Communication for the Town. Christian Yanarella, 313 Bethany Road, gave a brief presentation of what he would like to do for the Town with regard to social media such as Facebook and Twitter. He noted these are an internet marketing and social media management tool to perform outreach, as people do not have to go looking for a site, but rather the information comes to them directly. He added that during an emergency situation, this is a very useful tool. G. Smith added “he gets it”, adding this is great as long as someone is on top of it. He also added he is uncomfortable that many things can get through which could be very negative, adding who would monitor and approve the content of material that goes on the site. C. Yanarella noted he would be the point person and would keep the site secure. Monitoring the site could take from six (6) to seven (7) hours per week. G. Smith asked how this would work with the Town’s current website. Question of the Town’s liability also came up, with C. Yanarella noting he has been working on liability coverage for his company. G. Smith asked who is responsible when someone wants to sue the Town, adding the Town will always be the one being sued because it is presumed “the Town has bigger pockets” and asked if we are setting up the Town for a problem. Joseph Dowdell added that anyone can comment on facebook, with G. Smith adding he is worried that someone could put up something which may not be true. S. Dowdell noted the beauty of facebook is that allows a person to comment, and if that is not allowed, then the site loses its interaction.

Ed Groth, who is the Town’s current webmaster for its website, asked what we are trying to accomplish with this, when a person has the ability to subscribe to get any news from the Town’s website, adding the integrity of the Town has to be monitored. He added the Town’s website currently has approximately 250 subscribers, with C Bielik adding there is a potential for more users if you utilize something like facebook, adding we have to tap into future generations.

Kevin McDuffie agreed that many people are afraid of what they do not know, with G. Smith adding he would like to get additional information, specifically from an attorney, before jumping into anything. M.E. Fernandes added that being a facebook follower brings the information to you.

Discussion on cost. C. Yanarella noted his fee would be \$600 for each of the two (2) first months, and then \$200.00 per month for months 3 to 12.

G. Smith suggesting including the social media communication under Old Business for the October 2012 Monthly Meeting.

2. Doc Star. G. Smith noted the Town Clerk’s office is out of space in keeping and storing its documents and had met with Doc Star. At a quote of \$5,628, doc star would store the Town’s documents and would have licenses for two (2) users. Currently, the Town has approximately 300,000 documents that need to be scanned and stored. Discussion on whether to purchase or lease the needed equipment. C. Yanarella suggested Town know what site would store the documents, adding that it would be a never ending job to get all of those documents stored. G. Smith noted the ultimate goal is to greatly reduce the amount of paper the Town utilizes.

Gary Komarowsky asked what happens to the documents once they are scanned and where would they be stored.

Doc Star will be placed on the Agenda under Old Business on the October BOS Meeting Agenda.

APPOINTMENTS

No appointments made.

BUDGET TRANSFER REQUESTS

No budget transfer requests at this time.

With no further business, **D. D'Amico made motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 P.M. 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Wilson

Clerk for the Board of Selectmen – Monthly Meeting 09/10/12.