

**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 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.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Treasurer, Michael Krenesky, Susan Dowdell, Mary Ellen Fernandes, Alexandra Chamenko, Kevin McDuffie, Peter Betkoski, Mary Ann Holloway, Debra Daigle, Katharine Grace, Edmund Grace, Rhonda Bielik, E. Dey, and Gary Komarowsky.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

1. G. Komarowsky, Second Street asked the Board of Selectmen to reconsider adding a second Public Comment Section at the end of each BOS meeting, adding he felt this has fallen by the wayside and he had heard grumbling from some seniors and other residents that this should be reinstated.
2. M.E. Fernandes, South Circle also asked that the second Public Comment section be again included in the BOS Meeting's Agenda. She referred to a 10/28/11 article in the Citizens News in which First Selectman G. Smith said there should be another public comment section. **C. Bielik made motion to include this matter under New Business for tonight's meeting. No second on the motion.**
3. Lauren Classey, Munson Road, noted she had not seen the September Board of Selectmen or Board of Finance's minutes posted on the Town's website, adding she wondered why some of the Boards and Commission's minutes had been posted when those meeting minutes had not been. She also felt that all reports should be included with the Minutes and also be included on the website, adding she had not noticed any Public Works reports. G. Smith noted the Public Works reports are submitted to the Board of Selectmen twice a month. She would also like to see a second Public Comments section added to the BOS Meeting Agendas, as she felt it makes things clearer for the public. **C. Bielik again made motion to include a second Public Comment section in the BOS Meeting Agenda under New Business for tonight's meeting, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.** This will be discussed under New Business.
4. Kevin McDuffie, Haley Ridge, also agreed it was a good idea to include another Public Comment section, with G. Smith adding he would not like to see the meetings 'hijacked' and would prefer that only comments be made, not it being a question and answer section.
5. Sheryl Feducia, Bonna Street, noted the Board of Education's meetings do include an additional question and answer period, adding it helps when people

- know what is going on. She also asked the Board of Selectmen if it would like information with regard to upcoming negotiations, as they do give the Board of Finance information. M. Krenesky said this was not totally true.
6. Michael Krenesky, Maple Avenue, noted there already is a Public Comment section in the BOS Meeting Agenda.
 7. Susan Dowdell, Wolfe Avenue, noted the Friends of the Library's numbers have gone down with regard to its facebook and advised the BOS to come with a concrete plan if it decides to go forward with its social media communication plans.
 8. Lauren Classey, again added she would like to see an additional Public Comment section in the BOS Meetings, but she felt it should be limited to comments, not a back and forth type of thing.

C. Bielik made motion to include Feral Cats under New Business of this meeting, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 09/11/2012 – Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept the Minutes as presented, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
2. 09/19/2012 - Special BOS Meeting to set Town Meeting date. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept Minutes as presented, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**

REPORTS - G. Smith noted the Board would be short some of the reports due to the change in meeting date to one (1) week earlier.

1. Report of the Resident Trooper. No report available.
2. Report of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept Report as presented, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.** G. Smith noted the Treatment has a second vehicle to use.
3. Report of the Fire Marshal. No report given.
4. Report of the Finance Manager. **D. D'Amico made motion to submit the report to the Board of Finance for its review, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
5. Report of the Tax Collector. No report submitted.
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.** M. Krenesky noted Union Savings would like to make some changes in how the Town reports its 941 Federal and State payroll withholding taxes, by using a more secure system. Question asked if N.V.S.& L. would be able to handle this. Discussion will be held at a later time to discuss this further.
7. Report of the Town Clerk. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept the report as presented and submit to the Board of Finance for its review, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
8. Report of the Library. June, July and August reports were submitted. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept the reports as presented, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.** G. Smith noted he has observed many more adults coming into the

Library during both the day and evenings. He and S. Dowdell praised new Program Librarian S. Garcia for the great job she has been doing in replacing Meg Gill. S. Dowdell also noted that more adults have been volunteering to help out.

9. Report of the Custodian. No report submitted.
10. Report of the Fire Department. No report submitted.
11. Report of the Animal Control Officer. No report submitted.
12. Report of the Town Nurse. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept the report as presented, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.** G. Smith noted the Town Nurse has had an intern to help her out and this is working out very well.

READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

1. **D. D'Amico made motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$1228.93, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
2. G. Smith read letter dated 9/30/12 from Tax Collector Mildred Jurzynski saying she was retiring from the position of Tax Collector immediately. **C. Bielik made motion to accept her resignation with deep regret, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
3. G. Smith read letter dated 9/27/12 to M. Jurzynski noting that all investigations of and claims against the Tax Department would be terminated.
4. G. Smith read letter dated 10/1/12 to M. Jurzynski as a clarification to the 9/27/12 letter, noting that there has been no allegation or even a suspicion of criminal or intentional misconduct by her or her staff. He noted he had spoken to Attorney D. Civitello about this and she had given advice with regard to both of the letters.
5. G. Smith read correspondence from Attorney D. Civitello with regard to a fax sent from the Department of Motor Vehicles with regard to claims of a falsified clearance of taxes owed by Mary Ellen Fernandes. He also made reference to a signed affidavit signed by Linda Holt, the Tax Collector's Assistant claiming she had never tampered with any document. Copies of the above correspondence will be included with the 10/1/12 Board of Selectmen Minutes.
6. Letter from Shirley Anderson asking if there could be a food drive for the food bank during Election Day in November. G. Smith said he had spoken to the Rotary and the Scouts about this, but has not heard back from them.
7. Letter received with regard to sidewalk at S. Circle. G. Smith noted this is the responsibility of the homeowner and the Town will not be fixing the sidewalk.
8. Thank you letter received from the Eagle Scout who placed containers throughout the Town to collect things for the troops overseas. The response was overwhelming with 3900 items collected along with some cash. Board commented on the support of many local organizations who worked together to make this happen.
9. Letter from Attorney Byrne with regard to Chatfield Farms and a resolution adopted by the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission at its September 12, 2012 meeting. Clerk will make copies of this letter for BOS. G. Smith noted Chatfield Farms has to come up with a contractor who can do the work, but so far this has not been done.

10. Letter from a Bethany resident whose dog had been bitten by another dog while walking in Beacon Falls. She was upset because she never got a written report from the Animal Control Officer. G. Smith noted no report was necessary because the Dog Warden does not deal with animal to animal bites.
11. Aquarion Water Company sent correspondence with regard to contact numbers to call in case of emergencies. Copies will be given to each Selectman.
12. Bob Spear, who is a retired engineer and does a lot of volunteer work for the Town was able to secure a 50' long boon at no cost from LaMar Company, to help with the retrieval of ducks from the duck race. It was noted this equipment is also used to collect oil spills. Thank you will be sent to R. Spear and LaMar Co.
13. Letter received from Steven Posick with regard to Planning & Zoning Legal Notices in the Republican American. Copies will be made for each Selectman.
14. Letter from Oxford's First Selectman with regard to 'No Thru Truck' signs to be placed in Oxford to help with truck traffic control in Beacon Falls. They are working with the State to find the best location for those signs.
15. Bill received to reimburse Deputy Registrar Marion Zollo for attendance at the latest conference. G. Smith agreed to pay the bill but asked that in the future any such expense be brought to the BOS's attention.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Social Media Communication. Based on information given by C. Yanarella, it was agreed to postpone any further discussion on this until at least January 2013. It was noted that changes have been made with regard to Municipalities' pages within the last ten (10) days.
2. Doc Star. G. Smith this item will be included during the 2013/2014 Municipal Budget.

NEW BUSINESS

1. G. Smith noted that former Tax Collector Mildred Jurzynski had retired from her position as of September 30, 2012, adding that someone would be appointed in November to take over that position, and that in the interim, current Tax Collector Assistant Linda Holt would fill in. He also suggested that the current Assistant to the Assessor be given an increase in her hours to help out in the Tax Office as well as working in the Assessor's Office. He noted that the most help is needed for two (2) months of the year. G. Smith also noted that L. Holt had requested to take five (5) days of vacation in mid-October, but he felt that with Linda's vast experience and knowledge of the Tax Office that she was really needed in that office during October and hoped she could postpone her vacation until November.
C. Bielik noted that because the Tax Collector's resignation was on such short notice, an appointment should be made immediately. He felt that there is no difference in this situation than from the situation when the former Town Clerk resigned on short notice and the position was immediately filled. He added that since Mildred Jurzynski was a Democrat and had been elected to the position, a

Democrat should be appointed to this position as well. **C. Bielik then made motion to appoint Mary Ann Holloway to serve as the Tax Collector, adding she had a vast amount of experience and knowledge, had worked as a bookkeeper for many years and was a former member and Chairman of the Board of Finance. There was no second to the motion.** D. D'Amico said he would like to discuss this at a later date. C. Bielik expressed his concern that postponing making this decision on something that was so critical for the Town, was something he was not in favor of, citing the lack of staff in the Tax Collector's Office. Again, **C. Bielik made motion to appoint Mary Ann Holloway to serve in the interim as the Tax Collector. Again, there was no second to the motion.**

2. Beacon Falls Police Department Union Contract. **C. Bielik made motion to approve the new contract, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
3. Letter received from Kathleen M. Creighton from Seymour who would like to run a gourmet coffee truck to be located in downtown Beacon Falls. She was denied getting a permit because this is outside of our regulations and wanted to ask the Board of Selectmen for assistance by granting a variance to her request. After discussion, **C. Bielik made motion not to explore the possibility of giving permission to Ms. Creighton for this venture, and to not grant a variance to her, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
4. Public Comment. D. D'Amico said he was not opposed to having the Public Comment section at the end of the meeting, but felt there was no need to have it twice on the Agenda. **C. Bielik made motion to eliminate the first Public Comment from the beginning of the meeting and include the Public Comment right before adjournment of the meeting, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
5. Feral Cats. G. Smith noted there are problems with feral cat communities in Town, with the most recent complaints coming from North Main Street. He noted that many cats are living on the banks of Route 8. Discussion on the various costs to take care of this problem, from housing, feeding and euthanizing the cats. One person had suggested trapping the cats and having them euthanized at a cost of \$130.00 per cat. G. Smith noted these costs can only escalate. Since cats are not required to be licensed like dogs are, and the Animal Control Officers do nothing about cats, **D. D'Amico made motion to not do anything about the feral cat problem, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.** The Town does not want to set a precedent in this matter.

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 8:27 P.M. 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Wilson

Clerk for the Board of Selectmen – Special Monthly Meeting 10/01/2012.