

**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 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 of Allegiance. He then pointed out the new flag poles and tops for the flags.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Treasurer, Michael Krenesky, Susan Dowdell, Mary Ellen Fernandes, Kevin McDuffie, Mary Ann Holloway, Susan Cable, Ed Groth, E. Rodriguez, W. Giglio and Marion Zollo.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 10/01/2012 – Special Town Meeting to vote on Budget Transfers. **C. Bielik made motion to approve the Minutes as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico All aye.**
2. 10/01/2012 - Special BOS Meeting. **C. Bielik made motion to Approve the Minutes as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
3. 10/17/12 - Joint Meeting between the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to discuss lighting. **D. D'Amico made motion to approve the Minutes as presented. All aye.** G. Smith noted that the process has already begun with various things being looked at.

REPORTS

1. Report of the Resident Trooper. **C. Bielik made motion to accept the report as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.** G. Smith and Lt. E. Rodriguez noted the Police are using three (3) laptops in their police vehicles which accounts for a larger number of incidents being reported, as things can be looked up much quicker using the laptops. It was noted Resident Trooper A. Borelli also has a compatible laptop in his vehicle.
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 new pump did not give an accurate reading, but it was possible to use the old pump to get the needed information. It was noted the recent storm could have been much worse in Beacon Falls, with whatever happened being dealt with.
3. Report of the Fire Marshal. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept the report as presented, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.** G. Smith noted the Fire Marshal has been working with Kolga to get its necessary permits in order to be compliant with the Fire Marshal.

4. Report of the Finance Manager. No report submitted.
5. Report of the Tax Collector. September and October reports were presented and reviewed. **C. Bielik made motion to accept the reports and forward them to the Board of Finance for its review, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
6. Report of the Treasurer. **C. Bielik made motion to accept the report as presented and submit to the Board of Finance for its review, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.** M. Krenesky noted he had had some problems with getting the report printed and would submit the additional pages via email to the Board of Selectmen.
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. September and October 2012 reports were submitted. **C. Bielik made motion to accept the reports as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico. aye.** G. Smith noted Library coverage will be discussed later on during the meeting under New Business.
9. Report of the Custodian. Reports for September and October 2012 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. The August and September reports were submitted. **C. Bielik made motion to accept the reports as submitted, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.** It was noted that when necessary the Fire Department asks for mutual aid when it needs a ladder truck.
11. Report of the Animal Control Officer. September report submitted (1 stray dog). **C. Bielik made motion to accept the report as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**

READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

1. Thank you received from Helen Mis with regard to the quick response in repairing wires which had caught fire at her home. G. Smith noted Public Works was also involved in this, adding they worked right along with C.L.& P. when a tree would fell. **C. Bielik made motion to send a letter from the Board of Finance (***) Clerk noted she thought C. Bielik meant the Board of Selectman and not the Board of Finance) thanking fire Marshal Ed Rodriguez, Beacon Hose Company No. 1, Public Works and the Senior Center for all of its work in helping the Town and its citizens during the recent Hurricane Sandy, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.** G. Smith added he was proud to see the Town working together, especially since most of the people are volunteers. It made for a safe time for everyone during the hurricane and its aftermath.
2. Tax Refunds are owed in the amount of \$412.66. **C. Bielik made motion to approve the payment of the tax refunds, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
3. Katharine Grace, Chairman of the Democratic Town Committee recommended the appointment of the following persons: Mary Ann Holloway to be appointed as the Tax Collector, William Giglio to the Planning & Zoning Commission and Kevin McDuffie to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

4. Letter from the Senior Center requesting the Town pay a shortfall of \$194.00 towards the cabinets at the Center. **C. Bielik made motion to pay this from the Senior Center's Maintenance Budget Line Item, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
5. Letter from the Treatment Plant with regard to the leachate payment from the coalition agreement. There is \$9800 coming to the Town.
6. Letter received from S. Posick with regard to not being notified that HI Stone had been invited to the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting and that he should have been notified.
7. Letter from Nafis & Young with regard to Toby's Pond being compromised, with Nafis & Young feeling O&G should take care of this since this was a condition of their gift of Toby's Pond to the Town. G. Smith noted there are on-going discussions between both parties about this.
8. Nafis & Young also reported on a bridge on Beacon Valley Road that had been hit by a vehicle and caused a crack from top to bottom. The cost to repair the bridge is very expensive. G. Smith indicated investigation showed the driver of that vehicle had no insurance. He noted the Town's insurance has been notified and it is up to them to go after the driver.
9. Nafis & Young also addressed the Cedar Lane/Cedar Circle area which had some water problems.
10. Correspondence with regard to Fawn Hill, noting the matter had been settled.
11. Letter from Joseph Rodorigo, Chairman of the Park & Recreation Commission, thanking Public Works who worked on field # 2 to correct a safety issue, adding the project was quite labor intensive. He also singled out Public Works employee G. and thanked him for the work he did to make sure the project was completed quickly.
12. Thank you from the Lions Club in appreciation for the boom they were given as a result of a suggestion made by volunteer Bob Spear. This equipment will be an asset which will be used at the Annual Duck Race.
13. Letter received from the Amistad Committee who asked that all Town bells be rung on January 1, 2013 for one (1) minute out of respect for the Amistad. C. Bielik said he would check with Father Kvedas of St. Michael's Church to see if they would do this.
14. Letter received with regard to a small gravel mining operation which has been running at Watch Hill for some time. G. Smith added this operation has been told to stop by April 18, 2013 or else!
15. Attorney Byrne gave an update on various blight conditions his office has been working on. Photos of one particular area show a cleaned up lot, but then moments later, the area is again littered. G. Smith noted the Town has spent thousands of dollars on these various blight issues.
16. Letter from Town of Oxford indicating they have put up No Thru Truck signs where they able to. E. Rodriguez added you could talk to the DOT for more assistance with this.
17. Letter from Chatfield Farms to note that they are working with the Town of Beacon Falls to solve the problems.
18. Letter from David Scott thanking the Board of Selectmen in taking care of the repair of Cook Lane.

19. The Beacon Falls Historical Society is asking the Board of Selectmen to hire a professional grant writer to help in attaining funds for the Town and offered its assistance.
20. Letter from the Registrars of Voters thanking Public Works Employee S. Moffat for installing new batteries in election equipment.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **C. Bielik made motion to ratify the Public Works Union Contract, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
2. C-Pace. G. Smith explained the program which allows a business to borrow funds at a reasonable rate. A lien would be placed to go behind the taxes, with the Town acting as a Collector in this. This would give another avenue by which a business could get needed funds. The Town would have to decide if its wants to opt in on this. Copies will be given to Selectman C. Bielik for his review. This item will be included under Old Business for the December 2012 Board of Selectmen Meeting.
3. Library Hours and Coverage. G. Smith said he had some concerns about library personnel being alone on the 3rd (third) floor with no one else in the building, adding he feels this is very unsafe. *This is not a dollars and cents issue but is a safety issue.* Possible suggestions to remedy this might be to increase hours to overlap the coverage or hire a part-time person to fill in the spaces. Question on how this would be funded was noted, with G. Smith suggesting the Board of Selectmen sit down with the Library to see how this situation can be taken care of. C. Bielik also felt it was a good idea to take a look at the different alternatives before making any decision. The number of hours the library is open should be taken into consideration, as well as considering if staff might be able to stagger some of their hours.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Tax Collector. G. Smith noted the Democratic Town Committee had requested that Mary Ann Holloway be appointed as Tax Collector. He also received a letter from former Tax Collector Ursula Henri expressing her interest in the position. **C. Bielik made motion to appoint Mary Ann Holloway to the position of Tax Collector** as she has the qualifications to do the job, noting that she had recently applied for the position of Finance Clerk, with the Board of Selectmen being familiar with her qualifications, and that she had a long history of serving the Town as a member of the Board of Finance and its Chairman. No second to the motion. **D. D'Amico made motion to appoint Ursula Henri as Tax Collector for the Town of Beacon Falls, motion 2nd by G. Smith. G. Smith and D. D'Amico voted yes to the motion, with C. Bielik voting no. Motion passed.**

2. **C. Bielik made motion to re-appoint Noralie D'Amico to the Conservation Commission, 2nd by G. Smith. G. Smith and C. Bielik voted yes to the motion with an abstention by D. D'Amico. Motion passed.**
3. **D. D'Amico made motion to re-appoint Steven Ruhl to serve as the Town's Municipal Historian, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
4. G. Smith noted that Peter Betkoski's term on the Planning & Zoning Commission had expired. D. D'Amico made motion to re-appoint Jack Burns to serve on the Planning & Zoning Commission, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.
5. Letter of interest to be appointed to the Planning & Zoning Commission was received from William Giglio, Bethany Road. Question asked if he could serve both on the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. W. Giglio noted he would step down from the Zoning Board of Appeals. **C. Bielik made motion to appoint W. Giglio to serve on the Planning & Zoning Commission, adding that the Democratic Town Committee had recommended this appointment, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.** No action was taken on appointing Kevin McDuffie to the Planning & Zoning Commission at this time.
6. **C. Bielik made motion to re-appoint David Finn to serve on W.P.C.A. 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
7. **D. D'Amico made motion to re-appoint Robert Pruzinsky to serve on W.P.C.A., 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**

G. Smith noted that all persons will be notified of their appointments and will have to get sworn in to begin their new terms.

BUDGET TRANSFER REQUESTS

No budget transfer requests at this time.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

1. M.A. Holloway asked for own information if the previous Tax Collector had been elected as a Democrat, would the replacement have to be of the same party. G. Smith noted he had researched this and in this case, a person from any political party could be appointed to the position.
2. Susan Dowdell thanked everyone who volunteered to be a judge at the Friends of the Library's first cupcake contest.
3. William Giglio, 274 Bethany Road, asked if there is any type of alarm system at the Town Hall and suggested that this be looked into for safety reasons.
4. M. Krenesky, Town Treasurer, offered to speak with the Beacon Falls Congregational Church as they also have bells and might be interested in ringing them for the Amistad observance in January. He also commented on the library staffing hours and felt that with more people working in the Town Hall during the day, it might be better to fill the need for more security during the night time hours. He also noted that BOS clerk cannot change the content of the minutes just

- because she felt she knew what Selectman Bielik was referring to when he mentioned the Board of Finance. Clerk said the comment was well taken.
5. Mary Ellen Fernandes, suggested that Friends of the Library or some other volunteers might be willing to stay in the Library with the staff to address the safety issues until the matter is solved, adding something should be done now until the problem is solved.

With no further business, **D. D'Amico made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M. 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Wilson

Clerk for the Board of Selectmen – Special Monthly Meeting 11/05/2012.