

**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2013
MINUTES
(Draft, Subject to Approval)**

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Treasurer, Michael Krenesky, Susan Dowdell, Joseph Dowdell, Mary Ellen Fernandes, Ed Groth, Julie Groth, Marion Zollo, Helen Mis, Susan Cable, Louis Krepenevich and M. Krepenevich.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 02/1/2013 – Special BOS Regular Meeting. **C. Bielik made motion to approve the Minutes as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**

REPORTS

1. **Report of the Resident Trooper. D. D'Amico made motion to accept the reports as presented, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
2. **Report of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. G. Smith noted Woodard & Curran have been in Town doing their work. He also noted that funding sources will be looked into so Town can begin the project. D. D'Amico made motion to accept report as presented, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
3. **Report of the Fire Marshal. C. Bielik made motion to accept the report as presented noting the dates on the report should be changed to the January and February dates, not the March dates, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
4. **Report of the Finance Manager. C. Bielik made motion to accept the report as presented and forward it to the Board of Finance for its review, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
5. **Report of the Tax Collector. Reports for January and February submitted. C. Bielik made motion to accept both reports as presented 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.**
7. **Report of the Town Clerk. D. D'Amico made motion to accept the report as presented and submit it to the Board of Finance for its review, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
8. **Report of the Library. C. Bielik made motion to accept the report as presented, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**

9. **Report of the Custodian.** D. D'Amico made motion to accept the report as presented, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.
10. **Report of the Fire Department.** C. Bielik made motion to accept the report as submitted, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye. It was noted response time was nine (9) minutes.

READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Tax Collector with regard to Tax refund owed in the amount of \$310.33. **D. D'Amico made motion to approve payment of the tax refund, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**
2. Letter from E. Dionne, President of the Beacon Falls Seniors with regard to estimate of work that needs to be done at the Senior Center. There is a problem with getting a senior into the Center who is in a wheelchair and needs help to get into the building. G. Smith said this is a safety issue. Estimate of work to be done is \$900 to \$1,000. The Seniors have exhausted their budget, and they do not have the money to get the work done. R. Doiron and J. Kean will be asked to submit bids for the project.
3. Letter from E. Dionne, President of the Beacon Falls Seniors, noting she had asked K. Wilson to work on a grant to purchase a new stove for the Senior Center, but K. Wilson has not had the time to do it. Problem now is that the stove is broken. Estimate to purchase a new commercial stove is \$6,250. D. D'Amico said he would take a look at it. G. Smith also suggested the Building Official take a look also to determine what the Town has to legally do with regard to this by making an inspection and coming up with a recommendation. Perhaps, something could be done at a lesser cost.
4. G. Smith noted the Temporary Permit issued to Mesa Excavation expires on April 18, 2013, adding the work they have been doing needs to be finished by that time.
5. Friends of the Library, Wanda Mulinski, President, has requested the use of the Town Hall Assembly Room for its Annual Spring Book Sale/ Bake Sale on Friday, May 31, 2013 to June 1, 2013. **C. Bielik made motion to approve the request, allowing the Friends of the Library to use the Town Hall Assembly Room from May 30, 2013 to June 2, 2013, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
6. **C. Bielik made motion to adopt and accept the Emergency Contingency Plans for Elections as prepared by Registrars of Voters H. Mis and K. Grace, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.** Clerk will give document to Town Clerk for his action.

OLD BUSINESS

1. G. Smith noted the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) is still a work in progress, with no updates available at this time.
2. Ordinances. G. Smith presented the following Ordinances to be revised:
 1. Ordinance Concerning Local Option Tax Relief for Volunteer Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics or Ambulance Drivers.

2. Town Road Ordinance – Driveway – Section 2.16.
3. Membership Changes to the Ordinance Establishing a Land Use Committee (Open Space, parks, Natural Areas, Playgrounds, Trails & Walkways or any Other Land Use).
4. Ordinance Establishing Citation Procedures and Fines for Violations of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Beacon Falls.

Discussion: What should the abatement be on a fireman who is killed in the line of duty. It was noted that previously, the Board of Selectmen had approved a 50% abatement of taxes, but that this could create problems down the road. Board felt the abatement should be set at 50%. G. Smith noted he is still waiting for paperwork from Attorney M. McVerry with regard to proper wording for the Revised Ordinance. **It was agreed to temporarily set the Public Hearing date for Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Assembly Room. Clerk will schedule date and publish Legal Notice as soon as paperwork is received.**

3. Kevin Maloney of CCM will be contacted with regard to trainings as suggested previously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Municipal Budget – 2013/2014. Board of Selectmen reviewed draft of proposed budget and agreed to go over each page and make suggestions, etc. G. Smith noted that overall, the proposed budgets did not indicate a lot of big increases. The Board would also specifically like to address the Capital Projects (page 16).
 - G. Smith would like to recommend a 4.50% increase for Elected Officials since it has been a long time since they have gotten any increase. This would include the Selectmen, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Town Clerk and the Registrars. Clerk K. Wilson noted that in the past, when Elected Officials were given a salary increase, increases were also given to the Building Official, Building Inspector and Animal Control Officer. G. Smith also added the Police Officers pay should also be looked at.
 - G. Smith also recommended that the First Selectman’s Salary be increased to \$68,400 with benefits, adding this increase would not take effect until December 1st, which would be after the November election.
 - It was also noted these increases would be pro-rated, starting after the November election.
 - C. Bielik felt the increase in 1st Selectman’s salary was too high, adding the 1st Selectman in Woodbury, which is a Town similar in size to Beacon Falls currently gets paid \$42,000. He also felt this position should not be a benefits position.
 - G. Smith noted that past furlough days also have to be taken into account in the calculations of the Town’s payroll.
 - A 40% increase is being suggested for the Building Official as workload has been increase due to State mandates.
 - Buy-back of certain benefits to employees is also being looked into.

- G. Smith would like to add \$10,000 to the Economic Development's Budget to use for marketing and promotion of the Town. (page 7). C. Bielick noted that in the past EDC's monies were returned to the Town, with G. Smith noting the Commission has new leadership.
- G. Smith agreed to the \$25,000 to be used for Land Acquisition by the Conservation Commission. C. Bielick asked what happens to that money as he would like to see it remain in the Conservation Commission's budget. G. Smith noted J. Galligan and Attorney S. Byrne are working on this, so that the non-re-recurring fund cannot be touched.
- The Fire Department needs \$7,000 to fix the Firehouse floor.
- The Police Department has to do mandated training.
- \$90,000 has been into the chip sealing – Public Works Budget.
- Monies can be dropped in the Treatment Plant budget.
- The Library would like to add five (5) hours to each of its three (3) full-time staff, in addition to keeping the fourth part-time person. After discussion, the BOS agreed to keep the hours at thirty (30) hours for each of the staff, plus the part-time person.
- G. Smith noted the Park & Recreation's budget dropped 7.75%.
- G. Smith noted some of the debt service will be reduced and principal and interest will drop.
- No decision has been made with regard to DocStar.
- Discussion of various Public Works Department vehicles, refurbishment or replacement. G. Smith added he wants to make sure that all equipment is used.
- The building generator, which is a necessity, needs to be installed inside of the building (\$25,000).
- A grappling devise (\$15,000) also needs to be purchased.
- New Library Study - \$30,000.
- Monies for the West Road Pump Station can be taken out of the budget.
- \$640,000 – Treatment Plant – can also be taken out of budget, as well as an additional \$50,000.
- New fire engine (\$585,000) needs to be replaced. This item could be part of a bond package.
- Reimbursements and Fees will also remain in budget as presented.

D. D'Amico made motion to submit this revised Selectmen 2013/2014 Municipal Budget to the Board of Finance. C. Bielick said he could not support this budget with the proposed First Selectman's salary increase. G. Smith then 2nd the motion. Two (2) votes aye to the motion.

APPOINTMENTS

No appointments at this time.

BUDGET TRANSFER REQUESTS

No Budget Transfer Requests at this time.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

1. H. Mis wanted to make sure that Town Clerk Leonard Greene would be given the Emergency Contingency Plans for Elections as approved by the Board of Selectmen at tonight's meeting. Clerk will give documents to Town Clerk on Tuesday, March 12th.
2. E. Groth, said he questioned the \$42,000 Woodbury First Selectman's salary and asked why Selectman C. Bielik was opposed to a salary increase. He added that providing a decent salary would attract more highly talented people to the First Selectman position.
3. S. Dowdell, said she would like to re-visit the Library's request to increase each full-time full staff to thirty-five (35) hours per week, to be in line with the rest of the Town Hall Staff.
4. M. Krenesky, asked if the debt, bonding and restructuring would include the short-falls for specific projects, with G. Smith noting this would be addressed and included in the budget.

C. Bielik made motion to go into Executive Session at 8:45 P.M. to discuss a personnel matter, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye. Everyone then left the room.

G. Smith called the Board of Selectmen meeting back to order at 9:00 P.M.

With no further business, **D'Amico made motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 P.M. 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Wilson

Clerk for the Board of Selectmen – Regular Monthly Meeting- March 11, 2013