

**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 13, 2013  
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.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Treasurer, Michael Krenesky, Susan Dowdell, Ed Groth, Helen Mis, Arthur Daigle, Debra Daigle, Wanda Mulinski, Richard Minnick, Jeffrey Smith, Matthew Hopkinson, Nelson Tchakivides and Teresa Conroy, 105<sup>th</sup> District State Representative.

**C. Bielik made motion to move item (c) under New Business – Picnic Pavilion – Toby's Pond for discussion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.**

Matthew Hopkinson, of Scout Troop 138 presented his Eagle Scout Project to the Board. He would like to build a pavilion to be located at Toby's Pond and presented plans for the project. The structure would be built at the highest point of the area and would be an open structure versus a closed structure. This is in the flood plain but is above it. He would like to start the project in August of September 2013 and would take approximately two (2) to three (3) weeks to complete it. J. Smith added he would help Matthew with the project. M. Hopkinson noted the Lioness Club had given him \$500 toward the project. **C. Bielik made motion to allow Mr. Hopkinson to go ahead with his project pending approvals from other Boards and Commissions, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. 04/08/13 – Public Hearing – New Ordinance. . **D. D'Amico made motion to approve the Minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Bielik. All aye.**
2. 04/08/13 – Town Meeting – Vote on revisions to three (3) Ordinances. **C. Bielik made motion to approve the Minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
3. 04/08/13 – Monthly Board of Selectmen Meeting. **D. D'Amico made motion to approve the Minutes as corrected, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Bielik. All aye.**

**REPORTS**

1. Report of the Resident Trooper. **C. Bielik made motion to accept the report as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
2. Report of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept report as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Bielik. All aye.**

3. Report of the Fire Marshal. No report received.
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, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
5. Report of the Tax Collector. No report submitted.
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, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.** Treasurer noted the report would always include the Small Cities funds, but the amount would always be zero (0)
7. Report of the Town Clerk. **C. Bielik made motion to accept the report as presented and submit it to the Board of Finance for its review, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
8. Report of the Library. **C. Bielik made motion to accept the report as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
9. Report of the Custodian. No report received.
10. Report of the Fire Department. No report received.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter from Lauren Classey with regard to posting of Board and Commission Minutes on the Town's website was read by G. Smith as requested. L. Classey feels the Minutes should be posted in a timely manner, with C. Bielik adding this is not a new issue, with G. Smith adding that maintenance of the website after it was initiated did not go well because of lack of training for someone to do the work, with M. Krenesky adding that it was hoped that someone in house would maintain the website. He noted there is no State Statute that makes a Town have to post its Minutes on a website.
2. Letter with regard to Wilbur Weed's Elm Street Farm being placed on the State Register of Historic Places.
3. Letter from Marsha Durley, Library Director, noting that effective July 28, 2013, she would be retiring from her position, noting she was concerned that her technical skills might not be up to par during the revamping of the Library's Long Range Plan and that she wanted to spend more with her family. **C. Bielik made motion to accept Ms. Durley's resignation with extreme regrets, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
4. Letter received from Dolores Ford, Burton Road with her concerns about the difficulty in getting a burn permit. Her letter will be forwarded to E. Rodriguez.
5. Letter received from Assessor June Chadderton with regard to the Town's Local Option Tax Credit. She noted that currently, a flat grant annually of \$500 per application household has been given, but she added that due to the Ordinance language, the amount of the Local Option Tax Credit would be approximately \$200 this year. Deadline for filing for this tax credit is May 15<sup>th</sup> and she is asking the Board of Selectmen what it wants to do. Assessor noted the following Ordinance language: "The total of all tax credits granted by the Town of Beacon Falls shall not exceed .05 percent of the prior year's total real estate tax assessed". After discussion, **C. Bielik made motion to have Town Attorney review the**

- information presented by the Assessor, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico.** Clerk K. Wilson noted that all Ordinances had been carefully reviewed by the Town's Attorney to make sure that proper language and math formulas were correct. **C. Bielik and D. D'Amico voted aye to the motion, with G. Smith voting no.**
6. Letter from Attorney S. Byrne with regard to the Dumschott Street repair of Drainage System. Another thirty (30) days has been given to the property owner to make the necessary repairs. If this is not done, the done will make the repairs and then place a lien on the property. Cost might be approximately \$1,000.
  7. Letter from Attorney S. Byrne with regard to the Blight Enforcement at 75 Laurie Lane, noting the bank had requested copies of the lien, foreclosure complaint as well as references to supporting CT Statutes. The foreclosure process will continue until all matters are addressed fully.
  8. Cease and Desist Orders have been issued by Zoning Enforcement Officer B. Herb to 250 Blackberry Hill road for storage issues and to property at 302/304 Lopus Road for operating a junk yard.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. G. Smith noted a Public Hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. at the Firehouse to discuss the proposed 2013/2014 Municipal Budget.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. G. Smith reviewed proposed revisions to three (3) existing Ordinances.
    1. Ordinance Establishing a Land Use Committee. Proposed change from six (6) members to seven (7) members, with the Land Steward being named as the 7<sup>th</sup> member of the Committee.
    2. Ordinance Providing for Biennial Elections. Proposed change would be to Section H – Board of Assessors, in that the positions would not be filled.
    3. Ordinance Regarding Noise. Proposed change would address Recreational Vehicle Noise since this was not addressed in the Original Ordinance.
- C. Bielik made motion to forward the three (3) Ordinances to Town Attorney for his review to prepare the proper language for the changes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.
2. Nelson Tchakivides presented a proposal to the Board with regard to having a seal plane base be designated at Toby's Pond, citing the reasons for this being the ideal location for such a project, as it would provide a landing place for those sea plane pilots traveling south from Canada. The Toby's Pond location is 4200 feet long and 225 feet wide, being perfect for runway which needs 3500 feet. It is also close to Oxford and Seymour's Industrial parks and would be a benefit for economic growth. He also noted this could be a Customs Office as well. C. Bielik had concerns about being too close to the Oxford Airport traffic, with N. Tchakivides noting this is on the fringe of that airport. G. Smith asked how this would get funded and how revenues might be generated. Landing fees could be charged. R. Minnick, Land Steward noted he had reviewed the

plans and concept and he had some concerns, especially with the involvement of the Army Corps of Engineers and the 100 year flood concerns, adding the area did get flooded three (3) times recently. N. Tchakivides noted another Town in Florida (Tabares, Florida) has a similar sea plane base with G. Smith noting he would do some research on this to see how this all works. This item will be place on the June Board of Selectmen Meeting under Old Business. R. Minnick suggested that N. Tchakivides make sure to do his homework on this project, adding that no power boats are allowed at Toby’s Pond and that radio-controlled devices are not allowed.

2. G. Smith noted that resident R. Melninkaitis had asked the Board of Selectmen to adopt a Resolution with regard to the Bluewater Navy Vietnam Veterans, with C. Bielick adding there has always been concerns about the Agent Orange problems, adding that Representative Teresa Conroy, a retired nurse might have some useful information on this matter. **C. Bielick made motion to adopt the Resolution, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D’Amico. All aye.**
3. Senior Center. G. Smith read letter from Seniors with regard to use of the Senior Center and its suggestion to charge a \$50.00 fee up front to use the kitchen and a \$20.00 per hour fee for their services. G. Smith referred to a letter written to then First Selectman Leonard D’Amico in 1982 from Congressman W. Ratchford, noting that after ten (10) years, since the facility was built with Federal funds, the Senior Center could be used by other organizations, with the Seniors having the first priority. G. Smith noted he had spoken with Valley Health and they felt it was not a good idea for the seniors to charge any type of fee as this opens up possibilities for liability for the Town. Board agreed to send a letter to the Seniors informing them that the Senior Center can be viewed as a Community Center and to include the above noted 1982 letter from Congressman Ratchford. Clerk will compose a draft letter to be reviewed by the BOS. This item will be included in the June Board of Selectmen Meeting under Old Business. It was agreed to schedule a Special Board of Selectmen Meeting to be held on Monday, May 20, 2013 at 4:00 P.M. to discuss the Senior Center.
4. Sealed Bids were then opened for the Financial System Software. The results were as follows:

**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS  
RE-SOLICITED BIDS  
FINANCIAL SYSTEM SOFTWARE  
BIDS DUE 4/15/13**

| <b>DATE RECEIVED</b> | <b>NAME, ADDRESS</b>  | <b>PHONE #<br/>E-MAIL</b> | <b>BID AMOUNT</b>                             |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| 4/11/13              | Edmunds & Associates, Inc.<br>301-1 Tilton Road<br>Northfield, N.J. 08225<br>Robert J. Edmunds, President |                           | \$62,126<br><br>\$9719 –Annual<br>Maintenance |
| 4/13/13              | Information Marketing Group<br>250 Franklin Street  | 508-626-<br>8682          | \$4500<br>\$11,500 – Annual                   |

|         |  |                  |   |
|---------|--|------------------|---|
|         | Framingham, MA 01702<br>Nancy Lauza  |                  | Maintenance                                 |
| 4/13/13 | Harris Computers<br>2429 Military Road, Suite 300<br>Niagara Falls, NY 14304 | 267-218-<br>0885 | \$33,985<br>\$ 2670 – Annual<br>Maintenance |

It was noted that Finance Director M. Gomes had originally suggested awarding the bid to Harris Computers.

**C. Bielik made motion to forward the bids to the Board of Finance for review at its May 14, 2013 Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D’Amico. All aye.**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**D. D’Amico made motion to re-appoint Jeremy Rodorigo to serve on the Economic Development Commission, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Bielik. All aye.**

**C. Bielik made motion to appoint the following persons to serve on the Safety Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D’Amico. All aye. Note that new members appointed are highlighted.**

| <b>NAME</b>                            | <b>ADDRESS</b>  | <b>AFFILIATION</b>                   |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Gracy, James</b><br><b>CHAIRMAN</b> | C/o Town Hall   | Assistant Road Foreman               |
| <b>Opuszynski, Walter</b>              | C/o Town Hall   | Supervisor, Treatment Plant          |
| Mennillo, Louis                        | C/o Senior Center<br>57 N. Main Street<br>71 Avenue C | Senior Center<br>(appointed 12/8/03) |
| <b>Colter, Douglas</b>                 | C/o Town Hall   | Building Inspector                   |
| Rodriguez, Edgar                       | C/o Town Hall   | Fire Marshal/Homeland<br>Security    |
| <b>Colon, Peter</b>                    | C/o Town Hall or<br>Burton Road                       | Town Hall Maintenance                |
| <b>Rodorigo, Joseph</b>                | C/o Town Hall or                                      | Park Department                      |
| Trzaski, Ernest                        | C/o Town Hall   | Park Department/Public Works         |
| Blakeman, Brian                        | 119 N. Main Street<br>Beacon Falls, CT<br>06403       | Police Department                    |
| Mis, Susan                             | C/o Town Hall   | Town Nurse                           |
| Wilson, Karen<br><b>SECRETARY</b>      | C/o Town Hall   | Town Hall                            |
| <b>BOARD OF SELECTMEN</b>              |   |                                      |
| <b>Gerard F. Smith</b>                 | C/o Town Hall   | First Selectman                      |

|                           |               |           |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| <b>David D'Amico</b>      | C/o Town Hall | Selectman |
| <b>Christopher Bielik</b> | C/o Town Hall | Selectman |

Letter received from Alexander Chamenko resigning from her position on the Library Board of Directors, effective April 30, 2013. **C. Bielik made motion to accept her resignation with regret, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.**

Letter received from James Moffat resigning from his position on the Library Board of Directors. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept his resignation with regret, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Bielik. All aye.**

**D. D'Amico made motion to appoint Jeanmarie Petrino to serve on the Library Board of Directors filling the vacancy left with the resignation of Alexander Chamenko, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Bielik. All aye.**

**D. D'Amico made motion to appoint Elizabeth Reilly-Edwards to serve on the Library Board of Directors filling the vacancy left with the resignation of James Moffat, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Bielik. All aye.**

**BUDGET TRANSFER REQUESTS**

Park and Recreation Commission has requested the following budget transfers:  
 \$300.00 from 10-71-1019 – Wages Seasonal to 1071-1550 – Tools & Equipment  
 \$1,000 from 10-71-1019 – Wages Seasonal to 10-71-1845 – Settling Pond  
 Maintenance  
 \$410.00 from 10-71-1019 – Wages Seasonal to 10-71-1850 – Building  
 Maintenance

**C. Bielik made motion to forward these budget transfer requests to the Board of Finance to review at its 5/14/13 Monthly Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

1. Gary Komarewsky, asked if any progress has been made at the gate closing at Cold Spring Road. G. Smith said retaining wall work should begin sometime in the next six (6) months and that conversations are still on-going with the State.
2. Susan Dowdell, 32 Wolfe Avenue and Assistant Librarian, noted that the Friends of the Library would like to put up some of signage on the Town Hall property facing Burton Road to announce upcoming Library and Friends of the Library events. She added other organizations could use the sign but the Library would have first priority.
3. M. Krenesky, 22 Maple Avenue, asked if a formal complaint had ever been filed by the Senior Center with regard to issues they have been having at the Center. He also noted that when the Center is closed, the stove and refrigerator cannot be used, and that the refrigerator is locked. He also suggested taking a look at the .05 percent figure used in the Local Option Tax Relief Ordinance. It was noted this is the figure used in the final adopted version of this Ordinance. Discussion

- that the flat fee of \$500 is open for review in order for the Board of Selectmen to have some control on this tax option and whether it can be adjusted every two (2) years. G. Smith said he would speak to the Assessor on this matter.
4. Teresa Conroy, thanked the Town for its assistance to the Town of Seymour during the last big blizzard, adding that Beacon Falls came through for them. She also noted she will check into the concept of a seaplane base to be designated at Toby's Pond.
  5. Ed Groth, suggested the Town consider purchasing an overhead projector and drop down screen to be used in the Assembly Room for various presentations. He also asked for a copy of the letter from Lauren Classey with regard to the Town of Beacon Falls s website as he would like to prepare a formal response to her. He noted he originally to serve as the Town's webmaster when he realized that the former Town Clerk's Office was not maintaining the website and that the Town was paying for nothing. He added he felt this letter was politically motivated and added he is happy to do the job.

With no further business, **C. Bielik made motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 P.M. 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Wilson

Clerk for the Board of Selectmen – Regular Monthly Meeting- May 13, 2013