

SPECIAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MAY 22, 2013
MINUTES
(Draft, Subject to Approval)

First Selectman Gerard F. Smith called the Special Meeting of the Beacon Falls Board of Selection to order at 5:30 P.M. with the Pledge to the Flag.

PRESENT: First Selectman G. Smith, Selectman D. Damico and Selectman C. Bielik.

ALSO PRESENT: Approximately 30 to 35 residents.

G. Smith noted one of the items for discussion at this Special Board of Selectmen meeting was to discuss the Senior Center. The Board of Selectmen agreed to send letter to the Seniors with regard to a cease and desist of them charging fees of any kind to those persons using the Senior Center kitchen facilities.

The Board of Selectmen also decided to meet with Bernie Dionne, President of the Beacon Falls Senior Citizens Organization to discuss the use of the Senior Center, citing a letter dated in 1982 in regard to use of the Senior Center by others after its exclusive use. (copy of that letter attached).

G. Smith said the Board of Selectmen would like to get a detailed schedule of hours the Seniors use the Senior Center, and that his office would take over the scheduling of the Senior Center by other groups. To make this action official, **C. Bielik made motion to send the letter to the Seniors with regard to charging no fees to persons using the Senior Center's kitchen facilities, and to include the correspondence from U.S. Senator William Ratchford with regard to the Senior Center usage, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.**

E. Groth, the Town's webmaster, said it would be no problem to include dates for the Senior Center's use by other organizations and he could easily update the schedule as needed.

Second item up for discussion is the Local Option Tax Relief Ordinance for the Elderly and Disabled Homeowners in Beacon Falls.

G. Smith noted he had spoken with the Town Attorney on an opinion on this. He added that after review of all the available documentation it appears that the Ordinance that went into effect on January 7, 2009 is the Ordinance is the one currently in effect. He noted that at a Town Meeting on July 25, 2011, various changes were proposed to the Ordinance, but those changes were voted down at that Town Meeting, which made that January 7, 2009 Ordinance still in effect.

G. Smith presented the idea to eliminate the income levels altogether. The current income level is \$75,000 for singles and \$150,000 for two people, or eliminate "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 in the Town of Beacon Falls" from the Ordinance. He also suggested leaving the \$500 abatement to be a maximum of \$500. If

this were to be changed it would cause the Ordinance to be changed to reflect this. If the .05 percent is left in place, calculations would indicate the tax abatement to be closer to \$200 for this year.

L. D'Amico, Maple Avenue, agreed that income limits should be eliminated and that the Town should stipulate that the \$500 tax abatement be the maximum amount of the abatement, so there would be no confusion.

Lorrie Heath, Pond Spring Village, asked why the two (2) areas up for discussion could not be done separately. G. Smith added if the \$500 were to left in the Ordinance, this could amount to possibly \$144,000 in tax abatements, with monies needed to be made up by the rest of the taxpayers.

C. Bielik added that currently we are operating on a revised Ordinance, with G. Smith noting that this has come up over the years and some changes were made, but the last changes were rejected at a Town Meeting.

Thomas Beatrice, noted that if this Ordinance first went into effect in 2006, why are we waiting until now to make some changes to it?

G. Smith suggested that the Board of Selectmen draft a new document, have it reviewed by the Town Attorney and begin the process of holding a Public Hearing and then a Town Meeting. L. Heath asked if this could all be done in a timely manner, with G. Smith noting that this could all be done shortly.

Ray Kunz, 55 September Lane, asked the Board to make sure the correct formulas are being used, noting the AGI was first used, then he found out the Social Security income has to be used. G. Smith said he would look into this.

Ed Groth, asked if we had been doing this all wrong since the Ordinance had been changed, with G. Smith noting the calculation cannot be made until the number of people who sign up for the abatement is known.

Financial Software

C. Bielik made motion to award the RFP Bid to Harris Computers, based on the recommendation of Finance Director M. Gomes, 2nd by D. D'Amico. All aye.

Clerk will send letter to Harris Computers informing them of the bid award and send letters to those who did not get the bidl.

With no other business, **D. D'Amico made motion to adjourn the Special Board of Selectmen Meeting at 5:58 P.M. 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Wilson for First Selectman Gerard F. Smith – Special BOS Meeting -05/22/13

