

**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 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:** Town Clerk L. Greene, Helen Mis, Ed Groth, Ms. Groth, M. Pratt, Building Official D. Colter, C. Browe and S. Dowdell.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

1. 07/108/13 – BOS Regular Monthly Meeting. Spelling error on page 3, should be “Pavlik”. **D. D’Amico made motion to approve the Minutes with correction, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Bielik. All aye.**
2. 07/09/13 – Special Town Meeting- – Upgrades to Wastewater Treatment Plant. **C. Bielik made motion to approve the Minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D’Amico. All aye.**
3. 07/2913 – Special Board of Selectmen Meeting. **D. D’Amico made motion to approve the Minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by G. Smith. All aye with an abstention by C. Bielik.**

**REPORTS**

1. Report of the Resident Trooper. It was noted the report was very detailed with Board feeling that some parts could be eliminated. G. Smith said he would speak to Resident Trooper about this. **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. **C. Bielik made motion to accept the Report as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D’Amico. All aye.**
3. Report of the Fire Marshal. **C. Bielik made motion to accept the report as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D’Amico. All aye.** It was noted that various coding is used in the reports, G. Smith said he would find out what the codes stand for.
4. Report of the Finance Manager. No report submitted. G. Smith noted a Transfer Report would be addressed later.
5. Report of the Tax Collector. **D. D’Amico made motion to accept the report as presented and forward it to the Board of Finance for its review, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Bielik. All aye.** G. Smith noted that the Tax Collector, Assessors and Town Clerk Offices all worked together in getting tax bills out and in the tax collection.

6. Report of the Treasurer. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept the report as presented and submit to the Board of Finance for its review, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Bielik. All aye.** G. Smith added he would like to make some Town Hall renovations to better secure the cash in both the Tax Collector and Assessor's Offices.
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.** Town Clerk L. Greene noted that contract has been signed with ACS. This will include new computers, two (2) public viewer stations, new server and replacement of the Title equipment. He also noted Town will be receiving a check in amount of \$22,480 as the Town had overpaid. He also noted that E recordings may be sent electronically but that the Town is still responsible for the recording in the books.
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 submitted.
10. Report of the Fire Department. **D. D'Amico made motion to accept the report as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Bielik. All aye.** Chief M. Pratt noted that the yearly services on the Department's vehicles have been done.

**C. Bielik made motion to add the Bond Resolutions under New Business, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter received from Beacon Hose Company No. 1 with regard to old radio equipment and Hurst tool that sit in storage at the Firehouse. It was noted the Fire Department found two (2) separate Fire Departments in desperate need of equipment. Beacon Hose asked what the Town would like to do with this equipment. M. Pratt noted that the items were put up for sale but no one was interested. G. Smith said he would speak to the Board of Finance at its August 13, 2103 meeting and ask for their input.
2. Letter from the Beacon Falls Senior Center asking that a crosswalk be placed at the Senior Center, citing the fact that a senior was stopped for jaywalking and issued a written warning. No one could recall ever seeing a crosswalk there before. G. Smith noted the BOS acts as the Traffic Commission and that he would speak to LT E. Rodriguez about this. It was noted that the Senior Center's patrons are between the ages of 60 and 90.  
**C. Bielik made motion to add the Audible Crosswalk at Burton Road to be discussed under New Business, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.**
3. G. Smith noted a letter was received from S. Posick with regard to overstaffing in the Town Hall. Letter will be placed on file.
4. Letter from Richard Minnick noting he would be stepping down from the Inland Wetlands Commission and serving as representative to the CNVCOG. Board gave a verbal thank-you to R. Minnick, with G. Smith noting that he would like to devote more time to his role as Land Steward and his work at Toby's Pond.

5. G. Smith read letter from Library Director Marsha Durley asking the Board of Selectmen to rescind her letter of resignation dated April 2, 2013.
6. Letter from R. Minnick with questions about the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
7. C. Bielik made motion to pay the tax refunds totaling \$430.21, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.
8. Letter of resignation as Clerk of the Zoning Board of Appeals received from Mary Ann Kempa.
9. G. Smith read memo sent to all Department Heads, Boards and Commissions with regard to following procedure with Purchase Orders. Effective immediately, all Purchase Orders must be given to First Selectman for his action before any purchases are made. This should cut down on the budget transfers.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Town Hall Renovations. G. Smith noted that preliminary estimate to purchase a new boiler, make some changes in the Tax Collector and Town Clerk Offices, could cost up to \$162,000. He suggested putting together a small Sub-Committee to study this and come up with priorities on how to proceed. He also suggested re-paving the Town Hall parking lot, adding that two (2) people have fallen in the parking lot and have sued the Town. He also noted there are still unexpended funds in the Town's LOCIP funding, which could be used for these projects. He also added that the boiler is so old that parts are no longer available to repair it. S. Dowdell suggested that more energy efficient windows be installed in the Town Hall as well.
2. Discussion of a New Ordinance Regulating Building Permits and Plan Review Fees. Town Building Douglas Colter presented the proposed new Ordinance, noting this formalizes the existing policy that we've had all along, noting that fees did go up on August 1, 2013. He added that user fees would help with costs needed to run the Building Department, especially since it takes time and manpower to review plans and make necessary inspections, adding it costs from \$1,000 to \$1,500 to administer the building permit function. He noted that he generated this proposed Ordinance from what other Towns do. C. Bielik noted that proposed fee increases would affect both Chatfield Farms and Pond Spring Village. D. Colter felt the Town is justified, adding the Town loses money on small projects. Fee increases would mostly affect the larger projects, which would then offset the building department's expenses such as the Inspector's salary. M. Pratt suggested charging an inspection fee like is done in other Towns. D. Colter said it is best to set the fee relevant to each job, with G. Smith adding the Town should have an official document to use. **C. Bielik then made motion to refer this proposed Ordinance to Town Attorney for review and comments, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. D'Amico. All aye.** G. Smith noted that Town Attorney has already done a preliminary review of the Ordinance. Clerk will send document to Attorney M. McVerry

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Bond Resolutions. G. Smith noted that the Board of Selectmen has to review and adopt the following Resolutions:

1. Depot Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project Increase. Increase by \$420,000 the \$3,690,000 appropriation and bond and note authorization for the 2006 Depot Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project for a total of \$4,110,000.
2. Various Sanitary Sewer System Projects. Appropriate \$700,000 for costs in connection with various improvements to the Town's wastewater systems.
3. Beacon Hose Company No. 1 Volunteer Fire Department Fire Truck Acquisition. Appropriate \$700,000 for costs related to acquisition of a 75 foot quintuple combination pumper fire truck and related equipment.

Board of Selectmen also has to call a Public Hearing on the Sanitary Sewer System Projects and a Special Town Meeting to act on the Resolutions. Discussion on scheduling both meetings, with G. Smith noting a Public Hearing only has to be held on the Sanitary Sewer Projects. Once this is cleared, Special BOS meeting will be scheduled to act on the Resolutions and Schedule the Public Hearing and Town Meeting.

2. Audible Crosswalk – Burton Road. It was noted that an audible alarm keeps going off from the device. M. Pratt noted that in the past, the alarm has been turned off. Christine Browe who lives at Beacon Mill Village said the beeping is very bothersome and disturbs the peace of residents. She suggested using some other type of device, for example a tactile device, adding there must be ways to handle this while keeping blind persons safe in what could be a dangerous situation. G. Smith
3. G. Smith said asked clerk to contact Public Works to see what they could find out about the current Nikon device and if there might be some other way to take care of this rather than have the beeping going on forever.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

No Appointments made at this time.

### **BUDGET TRANSFER REQUESTS**

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

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

1. Susan Dowdell, 32 Wolfe Avenue, asked if the Ordinances were available on-line. Clerk noted that former Town Clerk was in the process of making this possible, but it did not get implemented. The Town's Webmaster E. Groth said it would be easy to get the updated Ordinance on-line. Clerk noted that Town Clerk's Ordinance Book is totally updated, with Clerk noting that she is trying to

- update all of the Ordinance Books. She suggested that S. Dowdell bring down the Library's copy of the Ordinance Book and she would make the necessary updates.
2. Michael Pratt, would like to see parking lines put in between the Firehouse and the Senior because people are parking all over the place, often ending up parking on the medians during an emergency. Clerk will also speak to Public Works about possibility of getting these lines painted in.

With no further business, **C. Bielik made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 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- August 12, 2013