

**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting**  
**December 9, 2013**  
**MINUTES**

**(Draft Copy-Subject to Revision)**

(Recorded minutes – track 3 Olympus note corder DP-201)

First Selectman Chris Bielik called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: First Selectman C. Bielik, Selectmen P. Betkoski, D. Sorrentino

Also present: approximately 12 members of the public

**Proclamation from the Connecticut General Assembly to the Beacon Falls Police Department:**

C. Bielik read the proclamation of the General Assembly to the Beacon Falls Police Department that was recommended by St. Mary's Hospital. The proclamation was recognizing and applauding Beacon Falls Police Department for safeguarding the community and being revered emergency responders for St. Mary's Hospital. C. Bielik explained that this is basically a "thank you" from St. Mary's to the Beacon Falls Police Department. C. Bielik concluded this subject by thanking the Beacon Falls Police department for a job well done.

**Vote on Resolution:**

C. Bielik noted that this is basically normal business procedure when there is a changing of Administrations. He explained that it's basically a resetting of bank accounts and privileges. C. Bielik continued to read most of the resolution which is attached and filed with the agenda of this meeting.

**D. Sorrentino motioned to accept this resolution. P. Betkoski 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

Discussion: C. Bielik noted that he will have Karen Wilson distribute the resolution appropriately.

**Comments from the Public:** None

**Read and approve minute from previous meetings:**

It was noted that there were 5 meeting minutes to be approved. The special regular BOS meeting minutes from the last administration 11/12, and special meetings from 11/20, 25, 26 and 27. All meetings will be approved with one motion.

**D. Sorrentino motioned to accept the minutes from 11/12, 20, 25, 26 and 27. P. Betkoski 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All vote aye.**

**Resident Trooper Report:** None

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Report:**

**D. Sorrentino motioned to accept the Wastewater Treatment Report. P. Betkoski 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

**Fire Marshal Report:** None

**Finance Manager Report:** The BOS reviewed the Finance manager's report.

**D. Sorrentino motioned to accept the Finance manager's report to forward to the Board of Finance for their approval. P. Betkoski 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

**Tax Collector's Report:**

**P. Betkoski motioned to accept the Tax Collector's report and forward it to the Board of Finance for their approval. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

M. Krenesky explained that he developed the format of this report so that one could look at the report and see a rolling report meaning anyone could look back for 12 months and see the town's financial cash flow or trends, etc. The back of the report, the graphs, are most useful according to M. Krenesky.

M. Krenesky also informed the BOS that he has been researching different banks noting that the interest rates between all banks are very competitive and therefore he is looking into different banks to see who will provide more services to the Town of Beacon Falls. He noted that he hopes to have a package to present to the BOS in January.

C. Bielik noted that the Library Director has been looking into the use of credit cards and said that any type of savings that any upgraded services would give the town would always be a good thing.

**P. Betkoski motioned to accept the Treasurer's report to forward to the Board of Finance for their approval. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

**Town Clerk's Report:**

**D. Sorrentino motioned to accept the Town Clerk's report. P. Betkoski 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

**Library Report:**

**D. Sorrentino motioned to accept the Library Report. P. Betkoski 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

**Report of the Custodian:**

There are two reports, 1 dated November 1<sup>st</sup> for October and 1 dated December 1<sup>st</sup> for November. Both will be approved in one motion.

**D. Sorrentino motioned to accept the Custodian's Report. P. Betkoski 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

Discussion: C. Bielik noted that there has been an ongoing problem with the carpet downstairs and that the temporary fixes aren't really working any longer so they may be seeing an expense to fix the carpet in the near future.

**Correspondence:**

- 1. A letter regarding a refund of taxes was received**

**P. Betkoski motioned to approve a re-imbusement of \$1161.00 of over-paid taxes. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

- 2. A letter requesting a position on Parks and Rec was received and read by C. Bielik**
- 3. Another letter requesting a position on Parks and Rec committee was received and read by C. Bielik**
- 4. A letter of resignation from the Library Board was received and read by C. Bielik.**

**P. Betkoski motioned to accept Jeanmarie Petrino's resignation from the Library Board with regret. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

**Old Business**

C. Bielik explained that he attended an awards ceremony regarding clean energy noting that the Town of Beacon Falls received a \$5,000 grant for all their efforts thus far towards clean energy. He noted that it's a nice award and that the \$5,000 grant is intended to go towards furthering clean energy and conservation in the Town of Beacon Falls.

**New Business:**

C. Bielick read a letter from J. Galligan from Nafis and Young noting that Bonna Street has passed all of their requests and all punch items have been completed.

**P. Betkoski motioned to accept Nafis and Young's report and Bonna Street. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

**Appointments:**

**P. Betkoski motioned to accept Sharon Davis to the vacant position on the Library Board. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

**Brownsfield Position:**

C. Bielick noted that he spoke with R.Chernihoniak and R. Chernihoniak informed him that he would like to keep his position on the Brownsfield.

**P. Betkoski motioned to reappoint R. Chernihoniak to the Brownsfield position. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

**Board of Ethics:**

C. Bielick noted that Annelle Holzman is deciding whether she wants to continue her position on the Board of Ethics but that Brian Cloney would like to be re-appointed.

**D. Sorrentino motioned to reappoint B. Cloney the Board of Ethics. P. Betkoski 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

It was noted that they will continue to look for volunteers to fill positions on the Board of Ethics.

## **Homeland Security**

**D. Sorrentino motioned to reappoint all three members, Lt. E. Rodriguez, K. Novak and J. Rodrigo to the Homeland Security Board. P. Betkoski 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

## **Inlands Wetlands**

C. Bielik noted that R. Minnick is no longer interested in serving on this board. E. J. Smith, Jr., present at this meeting, noted that his will continue on this board. Even so, this board will be down 2 members. C. Bielik noted that he will reach out to the RTC and DTC to see if either committee knows of anyone wishing to volunteer on this board.

**P. Betkoski motioned to reappoint E. J. Smith, Jr., to the Inlands Wetlands Board. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

## **Municipal Agent/Elderly**

**P. Betkoski motioned to reappoint L. Mennillo to Municipal Agent/Elderly. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

## **Northwestern CT Public Safety Communications**

**P. Betkoski motioned to reappoint J. Rodrigo the Northwestern CT Public Safety Communications. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

## **Northwestern Regional Mental Health**

**P. Betkoski motioned to reappoint Clementine Cardow to Northwestern Regional Mental Health Commission. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

## **Open Space/Land Use**

Discussion: C. Bielik suggested that they postpone appointing anyone to this board until some research on this board is done.

**C. Bielik motioned to postpone any appointments to this board until research is done. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

## **Parks and Rec**

It was noted that Joe Rodrigo will be stepping down from the position of Chairman of Parks and Rec. C. Bielik noted that Joe has put in a lot of volunteerism and has done a lot for this department. It was noted that Joe will stay on through the end of January and it was decided that they will hold off appointing someone to this position until the end of January when J. Rodrigo resigns.

D. Sorrentino will be stepping down from his position on the Park and Rec commission as he has taken the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> selectman for the town of Beacon Falls.

**P. Betkoski motioned to appoint M. Fernandez to the Parks and Rec Commission. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

S. Osewieki is also stepping down from his position on Parks and Rec.

**D. Sorrentino motioned to appoint Maryanne Zollo to a position on the Park and Rec Commission. P. Betkoski 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

### **Planning and Zoning**

It was noted that D. Chadderton's position had expired but unbeknownst to him, the previous Board of Selectmen extended his position for one month; that extended month has now expired. C. Bielik noted that Rob Villano is interested in a position on P&Z. C. Bielik noted that Rob is a hands on kind of guy and is very good at technical stuff, etc.

**P. Betkoski motioned to appoint R. Villano to P&Z. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

**C. Bielik motioned to appoint P. Betkoski to the Safety Committee. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

**C. Bielik motioned to appoint D. Sorrentino to the Safety Committee. P. Betkoski 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

### **Tree Warden**

**P. Betkoski motioned to appoint R. Pruszinski to Tree Warden. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

### **Volunteer Fire/Ambulance Safety Award**

**C. Bielik motioned to appoint P. Betkoski to the Volunteer Fire/Ambulance Safety Award. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

**C. Bielik motioned to appoint P. Betkoski to the Water Commission. D. Sorrentino 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

**C. Bielik motioned to appoint D. Sorrentino to the Water Commission. P. Betkoski 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

With all the appointments completed, First Selectman Bielik congratulated and thanked all for their service.

### **Budget Transfers**

A transfer of \$1400 is being requested for clay fertilizer. The transfer request is a result of a software glitch last year that didn't do a proper carry over.

**D. Sorrentino motioned to send the transfer request of \$1400 to the Board of Finance for their review. P. Betkoski 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All voted aye.**

### **Public Comment:**

**M. Fernandez**, South Circle, asked the status of the Website and if any strides have been made on updating it.

C. Bielik explained that there has not yet been a volunteer for this task however they are still looking. He noted that in the case of no volunteer there is a line item in the budget for this task. He also noted that they may have to solicit bids.

**M. Fernandez** asked if there is anyone currently in the town hall who can do this task. Have posting of minutes added to their responsibilities? C. Bielik noted that this is a suggestion and it is up for discussion and consideration.

**D. Daigle** asked how the word is getting out regarding finding a volunteer. C. Bielik responded that they have been asking around.

**E. Groth**, Laurel Ridge, said that he thinks they should approach Lauren Classey about volunteering for this position because he knows she has a keen interest in the website and keeping it up to date. E. Groth also commented that a month or two prior to the election keeping the website up to date was apparently a big deal to the BOS and especially Lauren Classey with the Democratic Town Committee. He noted that now that the election has passed the website has gone untouched. E. Groth then said apparently the website has lost its importance however he noted it is important because it is our window to the world and businesses look at the website and see stale information it does not make the town look good. He then urged the BOS to get that volunteer position filled or get a paid position as soon as possible.

**D. Daigle**, Blackberry Hill, noted that M. Fernandez had a good suggestion about keeping the task in the town hall or maybe even someone from the high school can do it. C. Bielik responded by saying he appreciates the suggestion but he's not sure that is the direction he would feel comfortable going in.

**Susan Cable**, Blackberry Hill, wanted to make it clear for the record that Lauren Classey is NOT a member of the Democratic Town Committee nor is she a democrat. S. Cable noted that she just wanted that to be known for the record. S. Cable also noted that the

town was fortunate to have a volunteer take on the task of uploading minutes and that was very kind, however, it has always been noted in all other communities and past administrations that the task of uploading minutes belongs in the town clerk's office. The function should come directly from the town Clerk's office noting that there are 3 people in that office (a Town Clerk and 2 assistants) and the task of updating the website should come from that office. S. Cable noted that if they want to continue to look for a volunteer then so be it however this is a function that belongs in the Town Clerk's office again noting that there are 3 personnel in the town clerk's office.

C. Bielik noted S. Cable's points.

**Christine Brohme**, Beacon Mill Village, asked if there has been any follow up on the audible traffic signal on Burton Road/Main Street noting that at the last meeting they had discussed possibly lowering the volume or having dual switches so that it doesn't beep whenever anyone presses it. She noted that she is representing a lot of people at Beacon Mill Village. C. Bielik explained that he will need a bit more time to look into this as he noted that not only was there a change in administration but there was also a change in the Road Foreman of Public Works who has been on the job for one week now. C. Bielik noted that he appreciates the urgency of this matter with Beacon Mill Village and he shares that with them. C. Bielik explained that if they are going to implement a solution to this issue it is probably going to cost a bit of money so he is asking for a bit more time to research this issue to hopefully resolve it while maintaining safety. He noted it is on their attention and he will make sure that he does get an answer.

**M. Krenesky**, 22 Maple Ave., wanted to comment on S. Cable's comment noting that they did do a lot of work on the website while they were the BOS. M. Krenesky noted that the Town Clerk's office is a heavy user of the website especially since they do handle all the town's documents however he noted that the webmaster position is much larger than handling of documents in the town clerk's office. He said he is not sure that the task belongs in the town clerk's office and that maybe the town has to grow up and hire someone to manage the website if they intend to keep it up. He noted that there is another option and that would be to bring the site down.

**S. Dowdell**, 32 Wolfe Ave., noted for a point of order that when she contacted Virtual Town Hall she was told that there were two power users of the town's website and one of them is in the town clerk's office (has authorization to the website).

**E. Groth**, Laurel Ridge, said that just because someone has an ID to use the site does not mean they are using it. He noted that the library was one of the heaviest users with limited authority.

**E. Groth** said that he would like to remind S. Cable that she was in office when the website was implemented and then afterwards she had every opportunity to get to the town clerk's office to pass on that responsibility and she did not do so. According to E. Groth the website went vacant, empty and untouched for months until he volunteered to assume the responsibility.



**C. Bielik** interjected noting that there is too much past history that is coming into this discussion that is outside the bounds of what this meeting is actually about noting that he thinks we are done with this topic for tonight but he thanked everyone for their contributions.

**Lauren Classey**, Munson Road, (Recused herself from position of clerk for public comment), asked if there was an explanation as to why the Public Works monthly report was removed from the BOS monthly reports as it is the only department being excluded from reporting to the BOS at meetings. She noted that she thinks members of the public and tax payers are as equally interested in the Public Works department as other departments. **C. Bielik** noted that this change was made during the previous administration noting that this is the first time it was brought to his attention that there might be an interest in seeing this report monthly. **C. Bielik** noted that he will revisit this and we may see it come back at next month's meeting.

**C. Bielik**, 119 Rice Lane Extension, recused himself to speak on behalf of former Selectman D'Amico who stopped by **C. Bielik** office today and wanted it known for the record that he wants nothing but the best for the new administration. He offered his help in any way possible to ease the transition and any expertise that he has in continuing to serve the town.

With no further public comment and no need for an executive session

**D. Sorrentino** motioned to adjourn the meeting. **P. Betkoski 2<sup>nd</sup>** the motion. All voted aye. Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 P.M.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Lauren Classey**  
**Clerk for the Board of Selectmen**