

Beacon Falls Board of Selectmen
10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
October 6, 2014
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag

First Selectman Chris Bielik called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Members Present: First Selectman Chris Bielik, Selectman Peter Betkoski, and Selectman Dominick Sorrentino

Others present: Mike Yamin, Superintendent of Region 16; Atty. Fred Stanek; Sue Dowdell, Director of the Library; Joe Rodorigo; Gary Komarowsky; Luke Marshall, Citizens News; and 6 members of the public.

2. Comments from the Public

C. Bielik asked three times if there were any comments from the public and there were none.

3. Introduction of the New Regional School District No. 16 Superintendent – Michael Yamin

C. Bielik introduced the new Superintendent of Region 16 Mike Yamin. M. Yamin indicated that he was here at the meeting to let everyone know that he has an open-door policy, that the community can email him, call him to schedule a time to meet. He thanked the Board for their time and look forward to working with the region. C. Bielik asked if anyone had a question for M. Yamin and no one had any questions.

C. Bielik indicated that there was an error in the agenda for tonight's meeting. The agenda indicated that tonight's meeting as a "rescheduled" when, in fact, it was originally on the schedule and is a regular scheduled meeting.

C. Bielik indicated that he would entertain a motion to move an item on tonight's agenda: under Line Item 22, Executive Session, Item a. and Item b. to Line Item 4. This is to discuss legal matters.

Motion to move Line Item 22, Executive Session, Item a. and Item b. to Line Item 4: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

4. Executive Session

a. Pending Litigation – DeCampos vs. Seymour Sand & Stone Company et al.

b. Pending Litigation – Krokosky vs. Town of Beacon Falls

Motion to enter Executive Session regarding Donna Krokosky, et al vs Town of Beacon Falls and the pending action of Edgar DeCampos, et al vs. The Seymour Sand & Stone Company, et al.:

C. Bielik read the motion "I move that the Board of Selectmen enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations with respect to the pending actions of Donna Krokosky, et al vs. Town of Beacon Falls and Edgar DeCampos, et al vs. The Seymour Sand & Stone Company, et al. in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-225(f) and 1-200(6)(B). I further move that Atty. Frederick D. Stanek be allowed to participate in the Executive Session."

Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

The people in attendance and the Clerk left the Assembly Room at 7:35 P.M. in order for the Board of Selectmen to go into Executive Session to discuss the legal matters as stated in the motion.

The Board of Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 8:02 P.M. and invited the people in attendance and the clerk back into the Assembly Room.

C. Bielik indicated that he would entertain a motion to move an item on tonight's agenda: under Line Item 20, New Business, Item a. Small Cities Grant – Discussion with Lisa Low to Line Item 5.

Motion to move Line Item 20, New Business, Item a. to Line Item 5:
Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

5. Small Cities Grant – Discussion with Lisa Low

C. Bielik indicated that Lisa Low, the grant administrator on the small cities grant program, was going to talk to the Board in regards to the contractors doing work in town. Lisa Low started that she spoke with C. Bielik a couple of weeks ago about paying the contractors from the General Fund due to delayed payments from the state. A new director with the state indicated that they are no longer going to allow escrow accounts. Money was going to be locating available for 6 months. There was no warning to their disallowing of escrow accounts and as a result, payments have been delayed. This has happened on 2 jobs in town where the contractor was not paid and pulled off a job. The 2 requests actually did come in today and hopefully the payments would be moving more smoothly in the future. L. Low is looking to have the towns pay for the small amounts and the town would be reimbursed within a few weeks after that. They are looking for timely payments to contractors if funds are delayed at the state.

C. Bielik indicated that he has some issues with this. The state is asking the municipalities to front loans for them on programs not run by the town. Paying money ahead of time that we will eventually get reimbursed on in the future but bailing them out now doesn't seem right. Secondly, procedural wise, we would be taking money out of the General Fund and fronting it to contractors. We have requirements in town for when checks are cut. There is flexibility for checks up to \$19,999.99 and a town meeting is required for expenditures over \$20,000.00. This is how he is interpreting that.

D. Sorrentino indicated that he doesn't want to pay someone else's bills. P. Betkoski indicated that he doesn't feel comfortable with putting money up front and paying contractors. Most contractors know that when they are working for the state, they need to wait for the money. C. Bielik understands that there are 2 incidents where contractors are waiting for reimbursements and have to pull workers off the job.

C. Bielik mentioned that perhaps the best course of action may be research. L. Low wanted to mention that it is common for a grant structure to be by reimbursement. C. Bielik noted that when we have programs like that, for example Depot Street Bridge, and know about them up front is a normal course of business. This is putting us as "the middle man" in this case. L. Low also noted that the state looks at this as local projects because Beacon Falls has made an application for these funds and C. Bielik did not agree with her because we are not the ones getting the money up front initially. L. Low asked if he would entertain a change in the way it is run to be more typical grant process. C. Bielik asked if there are any other towns that made the decision that you are proposing and the answer given was no.

L. Low indicated that the new director investigated federal policies and discovered that the 6 month escrow is not allowable and wants to bring the state in alignment with that. He feels as if he is stating on federal law with that.

L. Low indicated that they will report back to C. Bielik after their meeting.

6. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

The three members reviewed the minutes from the regular monthly meeting on September 8, 2014 and special meeting on September 24, 2014.

Motion to accept the minutes from the regular monthly meeting on September 8, 2014 and special meeting on September 24, 2014: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

7. Resident Trooper/Police Report

There was no report submitted by the Resident Trooper for tonight's meeting. Due to the schedule change, the Resident Trooper thought the meeting was next week and did not prepare the report for tonight. He will provide a report by the end of the week and we will include it in next month's meeting.

8. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Wastewater Treatment Plant for tonight's meeting: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

9. Report of Public Works

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Public Works for tonight's meeting: Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

10. Report of the Fire Marshal

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Fire Marshall for tonight's meeting: Betkoski/Sorrentino; discussion was by C. Bielik regarding the 2Com program. Wendy Olivera stepped down from the committee and a new representative who can step into that role is needed. If anyone or know of anyone interested can contact C. Bielik; all ayes.

11. Report of the Finance Manager

There was no report submitted by the Finance Manager for tonight's meeting. The data has not compiled as of yet.

12. Report of the Tax Collector

There was no report submitted by the Tax Collector for tonight's meeting. The data has not been compiled as of yet.

13. Report of the Town Treasurer

There was no report submitted by the Town Treasurer for tonight's meeting. The data has not been compiled as of yet.

14. Report of the Town Clerk

Motions to accept the report submitted by the Town Clerk for tonight's meeting and submit it to the Board of Finance for their next meeting: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

15. Report of the Library

Sue Dowdell is present at tonight's meeting if the Selectmen have any questions regarding the Library Report.

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Library for tonight's meeting: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

16. Report of the Fire Department

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Fire Department for tonight's meeting: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

17. Any Other Reports

a. Report of the Custodian

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Custodian for tonight's meeting: Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

b. Report of the Town Nurse

Motion to accept the quarterly report submitted by the Town Nurse for tonight's meeting: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

18. Reading of Correspondence

1. A letter from Hannah Deegan was received thanking the Board of Selectmen for the scholarship that she received back in June.
2. Animal Control Officer reports for the past 10 months were received. There was one incident in July and two in August. One of those was with a pit bull.
3. A flyer from the American Legion Post 25 advertising their Armistice Day Dinner at St. Michael's on Saturday, November 8th at 6:00 P.M. It is BYOB, cocktail hour, buffet dinner, and the cost is \$25.00 per person. The public is welcomed.
4. A letter from Rick Dunn, the Executive Director of the Valley COG, was received and responded to MaryAnn Holloway's request for help on the delinquent tax situation on the property on Blackberry Hill – the old landfill. The property is owned by two separate entities and there are taxes that have gone a decade without being paid. R. Dunn authorized A. Bogan to help us with this situation.
5. An inquiry from the town land use attorney regarding the expenditures the town made at 144 Blackberry Hill and the property has been sold by the bank. The town had liens on the property and the bank was asking for a reduction on the amount. The payment was received for the full amount of the lien.
6. A letter from MIRMA was received regarding the liquidation of the assets. The town received a check from the liquidation in the amount of about \$6600.00.
7. Two letters from Sam Posick were received. The letters were read by C. Bielick and he indicated that he will be looking into the issue.

19. Old Business

a. Audible Cross Walk – Main Street

The Board is not ready to move forward on this yet. It is an unbudgeted request and they need to complete the 2013-2014 Budget Transfers. It will remain on the agenda until that time to see what funds are available.

b. Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade – Discussion

A meeting with the Board of Finance is scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, October 7th, with the representative from Woodard & Curran. This is going to be done before going to the public. There is a tentative date of Wednesday, October 22nd at 7:00 P.M. for an informational meeting for the public.

20. New Business

C. Bielik noted that there is a typographical error in the numbering of the Items under New Business. They should be a, b, c, and d and Item b should be stated as “Library Director Hours – Discussion”.

Motion to change the listing of Items under New Business to b, c, and d, and to change Item b to read “Library Director Hours – Discussion”:

Betkoski/Sorrentino; *no discussion*; all ayes.

b. Library Director Hours – Discussion

Sue Dowdell, the Library Director, submitted a request for 2 additional hours per week due to Shari Garcia’s maternity leave of absence as Program Librarian until December 20th. During the past month, her job is being done by Carine Greene, a non-union employee working up to & not including 20 hours. This is filling in some of the gaps. S. Dowdell needs additional hours to complete a state report due in November and the newsletter, as well as other duties. Since S. Garcia is taking unpaid leave, there will be money in the salary line item to be used towards the additional hours. C. Bielik asked about the hours going into overtime hours and S. Dowdell indicated that they will not go into overtime. D. Sorrentino asked what would happen if they don’t do this. S. Dowdell responded that her hours can only be done for what she is being paying for and the other part-time employees cannot do this upper level work.

C. Bielik indicated that a normally staffed library would have 3 full-time employees working 30 hours per week, equaling 90 hours per week. C. Greene’s hours vary per week but do not go over 19 ¾ hours. If using a benchmark of 105 hours per week, there are 60 hours per week for the 2 full-time employees and the part-timers, and we are short by approximately 5 hours per week. There is room for the 2 additional hours that S. Dowdell is requesting for the time that S. Garcia is out and the state report must be done.

D. Sorrentino mentioned that the town is down 1 employee in the Street Department and there is an issue to maintain Toby’s Pond. He understands that is only 2 hours but is having a hard time with it. He is trying to look at it from both ends.

C. Bielik indicated that he would entertain a motion to extent the option for up to 2 additional hours per week for the Library Director in accordance to her submitted plan from the week of October 6, 2014 to no later than December 20, 2014.

Motion to extent the option for up to no more than 2 additional hours per week for the Library Director in accordance with her submitted plan:
Betkoski/Bielik; no discussion; 2 ayes and 1 nay (D. Sorrentino).

c. Homeland Security Grant Program – Vote on Resolution

C. Bielik read the Authorizing Resolution of the Town of Beacon Falls.

Motion to accept the resolution as read by C. Bielik: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; not discussion; all ayes.**

d. Transit Oriented Development – Vote on Resolution

C. Bielik read the In the Transit-Oriented Development Grant Program Resolution.

Motion to accept the resolution as read by C. Bielik: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; not discussion; all ayes.**

21. Appointments

There were no appointments at tonight's meeting.

22. Budget Transfer Requests

Gary Komarowsky, the Chairman of the Board Assessment Appeals, is requesting that the Line Items 1010 and 1220 of the budget be restored to the previous years because he did not clearly articulate the need and failed to include the stipend that has been historically paid to the Board of Assessment Appeals. The Line Item is called out as Wages – Clerk and should be noted as Stipend Paid to Board.

G. Komarowsky is requesting a transfer for \$1,000 from the Contingency Fund to be restored in the Line Item 10-90-17-1010 for a total of \$2,000. He indicated that the Board now does have a clerk as of April 2014.

Motion to submit to the Board of Finance a Budget Transfer request of \$1,000 from Line Item 10-90-83-1170, Contingency Fund, to Line Item 10-90-17-1010:
Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

23. Comments from the Public

Sue Dowdell, 32 Wolfe Avenue, asked about the crosswalks going across Burton Road at the end of Wolfe Avenue. C. Bielik indicated that this will be discussed with the audible crosswalk discussion. He also indicated that the Town Engineer is looking at having a crosswalk going across Main Street from the Senior Center.

G. Komarowsky, 15 2nd Street, would like to thank the town and the state legislators for the work done on the walls on Rt. 42. C. Bielik agreed with the work done.

C. Bielik asked three times if there were any further questions from the public and there were none at this time.

24. Payment of the Clerk's Invoices

Motion to pay the Clerk's invoice for September 8, 2014 as submitted in the amount of \$68.75: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

25. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, C. Bielik asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting.

Motion to adjourn tonight's Board of Selectmen meeting at 9:10 P.M.:
Sorrentino/Betkoski no discussion; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Board of Selectmen