

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Special Town Meeting
November 25, 2014
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag

First Selectman Chris Bielik called the meeting to order at 6:49 P.M.

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

Others Present: 21 members of the public

2. Purpose for the Town Meeting

To vote on the following: prior to July 1, 2014, there shall be no encumbrance under this Resolution while a request is pending under the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

3. Clerk Reads Call

C. Bielik asked for the temporary clerk to read the call. Marla Scirpo, clerk for the Board of Selectmen, read the legal notice for the Town of Beacon Falls for the Special Town Meeting as posted in the newspaper.

Motion to accept call: Joe Rodorigo/Carol McMahon; no discussion; 14 ayes and 0 nays. (14 votes from the public in attendance, as well as the Board of Selectmen). Dom Sorrentino and Joe Rodorigo acted as the counters for the voting process by show of hands.

4. Nomination of Permanent Clerk for Town Meeting

C. Bielik asked for a nomination for a permanent clerk for tonight's town meeting. Joe Rodorigo nominated Marla Scirpo and the nomination was seconded by Ned Grace. C. Bielik asked three times for any other nominations. There were no other nominations for the permanent clerk and one ballot was cast for Marla Scirpo as the Permanent Clerk for tonight's town meeting.

5. Nomination of Permanent Moderator for Town Meeting

M. Scirpo asked for a nomination for a moderator for tonight's town meeting. Joe Rodorigo nominated Chris Bielik and the nomination was seconded by Jeremy Rodorigo. M. Scirpo asked three times for any other nominations. There were no other nominations for the moderator and one ballot was cast for Chris Bielik as the Permanent Moderator for tonight's town meeting.

6. Discussion for Method of Voting

C. Bielik asked for a motion for the method of voting for tonight's town meeting. Joe Rodorigo made a motion for the method of voting by show of hands. Kevin McDuffie seconded the motion.

Motion for the method of voting to be by show of hands: **Joe Rodorigo/Kevin McDuffie; no discussion; all ayes** (21 votes from the public in attendance, as well as the Board of Selectmen). D. Sorrentino and Joe Rodorigo acted as the counters for the voting process by show of hands.

C. Bielik indicated that he will give a little background to the town meeting tonight in case there was any confusion. Back in September of 2013, there was a town meeting to vote on pursuing the purchase of a replacement fire truck, a 'quint'. The intent of that vote was for the town to pursue a grant under FEMA regulations, and if that FEMA grant failed to be rewarded to us, then the town would pursue to purchase the truck on our own. Through a series of missteps and a combination of getting late information, it was discovered that by combining those two processes under one vote took us out of the ability to pursue the FEMA grant under their perspective. Under FEMA perspective, the town was already agreeing to buy the truck and it eliminated any possibility of pursuing the FEMA grant.

We did not apply for the FEMA grant last year and we are in the process of pursuing it right now for this year. In order to set the slate clean and to give us a free and unencumbered approach to getting that FEMA grant, we have to rescind the vote from a year ago.

C. Bielik noted that the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance all agree that the town needs this fire truck and will support presenting it to the public for approval at some future date. We cannot do that now, but later. Tonight is all about clearing the decks and getting us ready to move forward on the FEMA Grant. C. Bielik asked if there were any questions and there were none at this time.

C. Bielik indicated that he will entertain a motion to approve the resolution as presented.

*Motion to approve the resolution as presented at tonight's town meeting: **Gary Komarowsky/Kevin McDuffie**; discussion was by Chief Trzaski, 106 Burton Road, thanking the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance, and reiterated the need for the fire truck for the safety of the public and firefighters. Gary Komarowsky, 15 Second Avenue, asked if the resolution was an elimination of the town pursuing the purchase a truck in the event that the claim failed. C. Bielik indicated that the only thing we are doing tonight is rescinding the vote from September 3, 2013, and we do not need the approval of the town to pursue the FEMA grant. Once the situation resolves itself and if it's affirmative, then we do not have to worry about anything. If it is turned down, then we will come back with a new town meeting with a newly worded resolution. C. Bielik asked if there were any further questions and there was a motion by Joe Rodorigo to move the call with Carol McMahon seconding the motion to move the call. The vote was 20 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention; **21 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.***

7. Voting of the Ordinance

By a show of hands, C. Bielik indicated that tonight's vote to rescind the vote taken at a Special Town Meeting held on September 3, 2013 to appropriate \$700,000 for costs related to acquisition of a 75-foot Quintuple combination pumper ('quint') fire truck and related equipment for use by Beacon Hose Co. 1 Volunteer Fire Department, and for related bond and note issuance and other financing costs; the appropriation may be spent for acquisition and delivery costs, equipment, consultants' fees, legal fees, net temporary interest and other financing costs, and other costs related to the project was passed with a vote of 21 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. D. Sorrentino and Joe Rodorigo acted as the counters for the voting process by show of hands.

8. Adjournment

With completion of the voting, C. Bielik asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting.

Motion to adjourn tonight's Board of Selectmen Public Hearing at 7:05 P.M.:
Kevin McDuffie/Jeremy Rodorigo; *no discussion*; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

DRAFT