

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



BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
January 12, 2015
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: Resident Trooper Humberto Henriques, Sue Dowdell, Director of the Library; Mike Krenesky, Town Treasurer; Gary Komarowsky; Luke Marshall, Citizens News, Chief Jim Trzaski and Asst. Chief Brian DeGeorge; and 3 members of the public.

C. Bielik asked for a motion to rearrange the agenda to accommodate the Resident Trooper who is present at the meeting tonight. Agenda item 17a, Introduction of New Resident Trooper – Trooper Heriberto Henriques, would become Agenda item 2 and move everything down one item.

Motion to change Agenda item 17a to Agenda item 2 to accommodate Trooper Heriberto Henriques: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all eyes.**

2. Introduction of New Resident Trooper – Trooper Heriberto Henriques

C. Bielik introduced the Town of Beacon Falls' new resident Trooper who took over from Andy Burelli. Trooper Henriques gave background information to himself and indicated that he wanted to back into community policing. He indicated that he is available for questions and will have an open-door policy. He will be going to the locate businesses to introduce himself.

C. Bielik thanked Trooper Henriques for coming to tonight's meeting and welcomed him to the new position and to the town.

3. Comments from the Public

C. Bielik asked three times if there were any more public comment and there were none at this time.

4. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

The three members reviewed the five minutes from the regular monthly meeting on December 8, 2014 and special meetings on December 16, 2014; December 18 2014; December 29, 2014; and December 30, 2014.

Motion to accept the five meeting minutes from the regular monthly meeting and special meeting minutes as submitted for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

5. Resident Trooper/Police Report

Motion to accept the two reports submitted by the Resident Trooper/State Police for tonight's meeting: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

6. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report

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

7. Report of Public Works

P. Betkoski noted that he spoke with R. Pruzinsky regarding the bad runoff at the point where Old Turnpike Road meets the state. C. Bielik indicated that he hadn't heard of any complaints as of yet.

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

C. Bielik indicated that he will entertain a motion to add a new agenda item for tonight's meeting to accommodate a member of the public in attendance at the meeting. This would be Agenda item 8 and the remaining items would move down one item.

Motion to add a new agenda item to accommodate a member of the public regarding sewer hookup on Terese Lane: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

8. Sewer Hookup on Terese Lane Discussion/Questions by Homeowner

Greg Campbell, 29 Terese Lane, has some questions regarding the sewer hookup on his road. G. Campbell began by saying that Terese Lane is an old road and a new road with recent developments. The sewer was run from the development from the cul-de-sac and is running from the new development toward the old development and capped at the older development where it penetrates the old development. Gradually, people have been hooking up to the sewers and he has a bit of confusion regarding the sewer hookup. It is in the main road and the homeowners are being required to pay for the extension of the capped sewer in the main road. This is being done when the homes are hooking up to the sewer. He hasn't had the need to do this as of yet but his neighbor on the right needs to hook up due to a sewage problem. He found out yesterday that his neighbor needs this done and the road is going to be cut probably this week. He was told by the Chairman of the Sewer Board that if he doesn't do anything, he has to pay his neighbor because they are paying for the main extension since they would be going past his house. P. Betkoski indicated that they would have to look into this but he believes that that is correct. G. Campbell indicated that he needs a little bit of time to get his affairs in order and P. Betkoski noted that he would have time. He asked if G. Campbell spoke to his neighbor, he indicated that he has for the first time on Sunday. P. Betkoski mentioned that a lateral would be put in for his house and then go past his house, leaving an extension and not forcing him to hook up now. P. Betkoski noted that it may be a good idea to talk to the contractor.

G. Campbell indicated that he had had an opportunity back three or four years ago when his neighbor to the left hooked up and something was worked out then. G. Campbell said that he spoke with the gentleman at the pollution control board that, as an incentive to connect, the \$4,000 connection fee may be waived. C. Bielick and P. Betkoski both indicated that they have not heard of that. That money is the only collection that the town does for the hook ups. There is no incentive for the town to have people to connect to the sewer without collecting the fee that C. Bielick is aware of.

C. Bielick suggested having a lateral put in to G. Campbell's property and having it stopped before the final connection in order to give him more time. D. Sorrentino asked when he purchased the property and G. Campbell indicated it was January 2005. D. Sorrentino noted that houses were assessed when some of the sewers went through. The present owners paid the assessment fees and, at the sale, it was noted that there were monies in there and would have been part of the sale of house. G. Campbell also noted that his house was built in 1964. P. Betkoski suggested that he speak with the contractor, and others, to get pricing.

G. Campbell thanked the Board for their time tonight.

9. Report of the Fire Marshal

It was noted that Laurel Ledge is up and operating on time.

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

10. Report of the Finance Manager

The Finance Manager was not present at tonight's meeting.

C. Bielik indicated that the payroll process has started. He also indicated that the Finance Manager and himself will be meeting and going through line items for the transfers that will be needed to finalize 2013-2014.

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

11. Report of the Tax Collector

The Tax Collector was not present at tonight's meeting.

C. Bielik noted that approximately \$315,000 in back taxes has been collected so far. The budgeted planning figure was \$400,000 and we should pass this amount once the property is sold.

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

12. Report of the Town Treasurer

Mike Krenesky is present at tonight's meeting if the Selectmen have any questions regarding the Town Treasurer Report.

D. Sorrentino asked the Town Treasurer if he's making any headway in the 3-month quotes and M. Krenesky indicated that his conversation with Ion Bank did not pan out the way he thought it would. Because it's short term, the interest in doing it isn't there. He is still waiting for the brokerage firm to get back to him. The problem is the General Fund and it has to be readily available.

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

13. 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.

14. Report of the Library

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

C. Bielik would like to welcome the town's new Program Librarian Amy Enquist. She was hired and started on Friday, January 2, 2015.

S. Dowdell asked about a new carpet being put into the budget. The current one was installed in 1997. C. Bielik indicated that some bids are being compiled for all of town hall.

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

15. Report of the Fire Department

Chief Trzaski and Asst. Chief DeGeorge were present at tonight's meeting if the Selectmen have any questions regarding the Fire Department Report.

C. Bielik noted the chimney fire on Rimmon Hill and was an amazing efficient incident. It was a terrific event as far as everyone involved.

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

16. Any Other Reports

a. Report of the Custodian

It was noted that the log was not broken down by date and will be done in the future.

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

It was noted that the Town Nurse is in the process of acquiring a new cholesterol machine.

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

C. Bielik indicated that he will entertain a motion to add Agenda item 16c., Report of the Animal Control Officer.

Motion to add Agenda item 16c, Report of the Animal Control Officer: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

c. Report of the Animal Control Officer

There were reports for the months of September through December submitted for tonight's meeting.

Motion to accept the four reports submitted by the Animal Control Officer for tonight's meeting: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

The Town Treasurer asked for a copy of the reports since he has to file a report to the State of Connecticut.

17. Reading of Correspondence

1. One invoice from the Board of Selectmen Clerk was received for the regular meeting on December 8, 2014 in the amount of \$83.75.

Motion to pay the Clerk's invoice from December 8, 2014 as submitted in the total amount of \$83.75: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

2. An email was received from the Partnership for Strong Communities informing the Board about a forum on housing on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 in Hartford on Lawrence Street.

3. A message on Facebook was received from a resident on Beacon Valley Road. She has been noticing speeding down Beacon Valley Road and her concern was with the school buses. C. Bielik contacted Region 16 and asked if they were aware of any incidents. It was found that the buses have GPS tracking on board which allows the company to survey the performance of the drivers.

This was also forwarded to Naugatuck Public School System since they travel down Beacon Valley Road as well. Their buses also have the same GPS tracking and there have been no drivers out of compliance according to their records.

4. A request for a grant was submitted last year to CDBGDR which we thought that we were eligible for the waste water treatment upgrade costs. We were notified that we were not selected, having received 42 applications totaling \$70,000,000 and only \$26,000,000.

5. A note from Aquarion was received indicating that a monthly credit in the amount of 5.6% to the municipal water bills for the next three years. This is for water used at schools, parks, municipal offices, and other facilities run by the municipalities.

6. An invitation from the CT Interlocal Risk Management Agency was received for the annual meeting on Friday, January 30, 2015, being held at the Sheraton-Hartford Hotel, formerly the Rocky Hill Marriott. This will be posted to see if anyone is interested in attending.

7. An email from Len Greene, the Town Clerk was received. Town attorney, Linda Civatello has a number of boxes of files is still in her possession and is looking to return them to the rightful owners. A few years ago, a cleaning out of the Town Clerk's old records not needed were done and L. Greene contacted the place for a quote in doing the same service again. They need a lead time of six months' notice. The cost is approximately \$3,500 based on the amount of time anticipated and at \$50.00 per hour.

8. A letter dated 12/16/2014 from Sam Posick was received. The letter indicated his request for papers from P & Z. When he came in and dropped off the letter, he was given a letter from Atty. Steve Byrne that wasn't deliverable previously.

9. A letter from Bob Rich, owner of A Space Center, was received indicating his intent to expand. His permits have expired and wanted to give a heads up with his intentions in the future.

10. A package from Long River was received regarding Steve Ruhl and his request to have his students write letters regarding issues being faced in Beacon Falls or in Prospect. Some reoccurring themes were a community center, the reopening of the grocery store, and a Dunkin Donuts.

11. An email from Kathy Brown was received indicating that she has a nominee for the vacancy on the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission. Jamie Lillis, who lives on Bethany Road, is interested in filling the vacancy. She may also have a replacement for the vacancy on the Conversation Commission.

18. Old Business

a. Audible Cross Walk – Main Street

A town meeting will be held tomorrow at the Senior Center to vote on the audible crosswalk. The meeting starts at 6:30 PM.

P. Betkoski asked if there will be room for questions on this topic and C. Bielik indicated that the gentleman from NY-CONN will be there to make a brief demonstration and he will have questions for about 5 minutes.

b. MERF Discussion - Update

This is still in discussions. Additional discussions with the town labor attorney have occurred and he has been reading and rereading the state statutes to see if their interpretation is correct or not. This is going to remain on the agenda based on further investigations.

19. New Business

a. Board of Education Vacancy – Town Meeting – January 13, 2015

There are two candidates to be voted on at tomorrow's town meeting. One being Mike Krenesky and the other is being Dave Rybinski. Each will be given an opportunity to speak about themselves and then it will go to vote. C. Bielik indicated that his intention is to have the voting done by paper ballot and the registrars have been notified to attend the meeting.

The Board of Education is the only board where the vacancy is not handled by the Board of Selectmen.

b. Winter Conditions Ordinances - Discussion

Some discussions have been held with the Public Works Department. Information will be sent to the newspaper regarding the snow plowing and winter season ordinances that are on the books and will be enforced.

There is an ordinance that restricts to vehicular parking on highways in the Town of Beacon Falls between the hours of 12:00 AM to 6:00 AM. It is enforced from December 1st through April 1st. It is a significant problem when plowing is being done. There are a couple of roads that have habitual offenders and will be noted in the paper. Cars will be ticketed or towed that are in violation of the ordinance.

Ice and snow on the sidewalk to be removed is the responsibility of the homeowners in the proximity to the actual town sidewalk. They have 24 hours from the end of the event to complete. The town crew is responsible to clear the sidewalks around the municipal buildings and facilities.

c. Winter Conditions – Parks: Signage – Toby’s Pond, Fishing, Skating

There are signs for Toby’s Pond and for Matthies Park regarding fishing and ice skating, etc. D. Sorrentino indicated that the signs indicate that the events are unsupervised. The residents have to take the responsibility for their own safety. D. Sorrentino noted that the ice should be a minimum of 8” to 10” thick before it’s safe. P. Betkoski doesn’t believe that Toby’s Pond should be used for skating since it is big and deep. C. Bielik indicated that they should contact Rich Minnick regarding the proper notification of safety.

20. Appointments

There is a vacancy on the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission. Jamie Lillis from Bethany Road is interested in the position. C. Bielik indicated that he will entertain a motion to appoint J. Lillis to Inland Wetlands.

Motion to appoint Jamie Lillis to the vacancy on the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

21. Budget Transfer Requests

There is one transfer request for the water hookup at 12 Spruce Lane for work done that is an unbudgeted expense. The cost is \$5,400 and will be taken from the Contingency Fund to Highway Materials. C. Bielik indicated that he will entertain a motion for this budget transfer request.

Motion to request a budget transfer request in the amount of \$5,400 from Line Item 10-90-83-1170, Contingency Fund, to Line Item 10-90-59-1710, Highway Materials: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

22. Comments from the Public

Sue Dowdell, 32 Wolfe Avenue, heard that some people are wondering if the town is still picking up Christmas trees. C. Bielik indicated yes, the Public Works department will be continuing to pick up the Christmas trees through Friday, January 23, 2015.

S. Dowdell also informed the Board that the Friends of the Library will be having the annual Scrabble Tournament on March 19, 2015.

Mike Krenesky, 22 Maple Avenue, asked about the town web site and that the domain is under his name and should be changed. He noted that he does have to be under an individual, and not the town. The individual that should hold this domain should probably not be an elected position. The license is for 2 years and goes under a Social Security number.

M. Krenesky asked about the parking regulation that has been the town's unwritten policy has been that, unless there is an event forecasted, there is no enforcement of the parking on the street. The ordinance states that there is no parking on the streets. C. Bielik indicated that he will be enforcing the ordinance as it has been historically been done.

Ed Groth, 13 Laurel Ridge, asked if the departmental reports could be attached to the end of the Board's minutes going into the public records. C. Bielik indicated that this is easy to do.

E. Groth asked if the charging station operational. C. Bielik indicated that it is not because CL & P has not hooked it up to the grid. He has contacted them again for the third time since the middle of December and they have been dragging their feet.

E. Groth asked if the letters from the students have any questions about the Common Core and C. Bielik replied that none of them did.

S. Dowdell noted that in regards to E. Groth's request to have the reports added to the Board's minutes. The reports are electronically submitted by the clerks but the scanning of the department reports would be a burden on the Town Clerk's office. Also, what about the space available on the website and E. Groth indicated that it was unlimited.

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

23. Executive Session – If Needed

There was no Executive Session at tonight's meeting.

24. 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 8:58 P.M.:
Betkoski/Sorrentino *no discussion; all ayes.*

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

DRAFT