

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Special Town Meeting
January 13, 2015
REVISED MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag

First Selectman Chris Bielik called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

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

Others Present: 63 members of the public

2. Purpose for the Town Meeting

To Discuss and vote on the following: 1) Vote for Board of Education Vacancy; 2) Vote on the 2013/2014 Budget Transfer Requests; and 3) Vote for an Expenditure of Approximately \$12,500 for the Audible Crosswalk on Main Street/Burton Road

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: Helen Mis/Ned Grace; no discussion; 63 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. Kevin McDuffie and Gary Komarowsky 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 Susan Cable. 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 Moderator for Town Meeting

M. Scirpo asked for a nomination for a moderator for tonight's town meeting. Len Greene nominated Chris Bielik and the nomination was seconded by Helen Mis. 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 Moderator for tonight's town meeting.

6. Discussion for Method of Voting

C. Bielik explained that the method of voting will be separated by the questions as listed in the call for tonight's meeting.

C. Bielik asked for a motion for the method of voting for Question 1. Susan Cable made a motion for the method of voting by ballot. Mike Pratt seconded the motion.

Motion for the method of voting for Question 1 to be by Ballot: **Susan Cable/Mike Pratt; no discussion; 63 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.** Kevin McDuffie and Gary Komarowsky acted as the counters for the voting process by show of hands. C. Bielik indicated the motion passes for Question 1 to be by paper ballot.

C. Bielik asked for a motion for the method of voting for Questions 2 and 3. Susan Cable made a motion for the method of voting by show of hands. Ned Grace seconded the motion.

Motion for the method of voting for Questions 2 and 3 to be by show of hands: **Susan Cable/Ned Grace; no discussion; 66 ayes, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions.** Kevin McDuffie and Gary Komarowsky acted as the counters for the voting process by show of hands. C. Bielik indicated the motion passes for Questions 2 and 3 to be by show of hands.

7. Voting of Question 2 – Vote on 2013/2014 Budget Transfer Request

C. Bielik indicated that there are spreadsheets on the tables that were distributed. He explained the spreadsheet columns and the letter keys. He indicated that the line items where there was a positive, that line item was used to shift over to zero out the negative balance on a line item. He asked for everyone to review and asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, C. Bielik asked for a motion to accept the Budget Transfer Requests as presented for tonight's meeting.

Motion to accept the 2013/2014 Budget Transfer Request as presented for tonight's town meeting: **Dave Rybinski/Arthur Norton**; discussion was by C. Bielik indicating that only registered voters and/or taxpayers for the town of Beacon Falls can vote on this question, as well as Question 3; **58 ayes, 0 nays, 4 abstentions.**

By a show of hands, C. Bielik indicated that the 2013/2014 Budget Transfer Request passed with a vote of 58 ayes, 0 nays, and 4 abstentions. Kevin McDuffie and Gary Komarowsky acted as the counters for the voting process by show of hands.

8. Voting on Question 3 – An Expenditure of Approximately \$12,500 for the Audible Crosswalk on Main Street/Burton Road

C. Bielik introduced Andy Mastrogiannis from The NY-Conn Corporation. A. Mastrogiannis gave a brief demonstration and explanation to the new audible crosswalk that is being proposed for the intersection on Main Street and Burton Road.

C. Bielik indicated that this has been explored for better part of a year or more. This is a two part fix for the town. The first part being that the crosswalk is only going across Main Street and not across Burton Road. This part of the fix would be approximately \$3,300 and must be done. The additional cost to replace the system currently in place is approximately \$8,000. C. Bielik noted that there is a 10% contingency in what is being presented at tonight's town meeting. C. Bielik indicated that he would entertain a limited amount of comments from the public at this time. Bill Classey, Wolfe Avenue, indicated that his concern is that drivers will not stop at the crosswalk and that they will not hear the sound. C. Bielik thanked him for his comment. He also indicated that he received a letter from the property manager of Beacon Mill Village apartments, who could not attend the meeting. The property manager explained the difficulty in renting units near the crosswalk due to the sound and their support of the new system.

C. Bielik asked if there were any more comments. Dave Rybinski, Coventry Lane, asked about the transfers that were accepted going to impact the budget now or wait until July. C. Bielik indicated that if the public is willing to make the expenditure, the intention is to use approximately \$8,000 from the surplus from the 2013/2014 budget. B. Ploss, Skokorat Road, asked if it gets voted down, would it be re-presented in next year's budget considerations. C. Bielik indicated yes, it could be a capital expenditure possibly. Ned Grace, Cedar Lane, thinks that the residents of Beacon Mill Village are customers of downtown and to keep the apartments full, it would be good for business in downtown.

C. Bielik indicated that there is time for one more comment. Joe Dowdell, Wolfe Avenue, indicated that as a member of the Board of Finance, this expenditure should have been brought to the Board of Finance, should have been voted on in the budget, instead of taking approximately \$12,500 out of our surplus. We have a \$13,000,000 sewer project hanging over our head; our roads are in need of repair. The fact that the cost is approximately may be illegal and you can't vote on approximately; it has to be a set number. C. Bielik indicated that it is a "not to exceed" figure and it is legal. C. Bielik closed comments at this time and called for the vote.

Motion to accept the expenditure of approximately \$12,500 for the audible crosswalk on Main Street/Burton Road: **Ned Grace/Helen Mis**; discussion was by Jack Levine, White Birch Lane, calling for a Point of Order. J. Levine indicated that this is illegal based on State of Connecticut General Statute because any and all business of money must come to the Board of Finance and the Board must agree to come to a town meeting. He would like the Selectmen to check with the town attorney and C. Bielik indicated that he would. Ned Grace asked how much would that cost and C. Bielik indicated that depending on the numbers of hours of research, it could be anywhere between \$300-\$600 ; **47 ayes, 17 nays, 3 abstentions.**

By a show of hands, C. Bielik indicated that the Expenditure of Approximately \$12,500 for the Audible Crosswalk on Main Street/Burton Road passed with a vote of 47 ayes, 17 nays, and 3 abstentions. Kevin McDuffie and Gary Komarowsky acted as the counters for the voting process by show of hands.

9. Voting on Question 1 – Board of Education Vacancy

C. Bielik reminded everyone that Question 1 will be voted on by paper ballot and the registrars are set up in the front of the room. C. Bielik introduced both candidates that are endorsed by their respected parties. He asked three times if there were any other nominations and there were none.

C. Bielik introduced Mike Krenesky and Dave Rybinski and noted that the position on the Board of Education will be filled until November 2015. Each candidate spoke to the public before the vote.

By paper ballot, C. Bielik indicated that the Board of Education Vacancy will be filled by Dave Rybinski with a vote of 41 for Dave Rybinski and 27 for Mike Krenesky.

10. 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 7:25 P.M.:
Susan Cable/Ned Grace; no discussion; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Board of Selectmen