

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
June 8, 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: Sue Dowdell, Director of the Library; Tom Broesler, Finance Manager; Fire Chief Jim Trzaski and Kenny George, Beacon Hose Co. 1; Gary Komarowsky; Robert Rich, A Space Center Self Storage; Charles Piwonski; Mike Krenesky, Town Treasurer; Mike Opuszynski, Chairman of Land Use Committee; Luke Marshall, Citizens News; and 4 members of the public.

2. Comments from the Public

Mike, Krenesky, 22 Maple Avenue, indicated that he was speaking as the Acting President of the Town Historical Society and wanted to have it on record that the Historical Society believes that the Wolfe Avenue house is worth renovating and worth saving,

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

C. Bielik indicated that he will entertain a motion to rearrange tonight's agenda to accommodate the public.

Motion to change Agenda Item 16a., Robert Rich – A Space Center Self Storage – Request for Fee Waiver, to Agenda Item 3a.; change Agenda Item 16d., Charles Piwonski Property – Update, to Agenda Item 3b.; and all other Agenda Items will move down one line: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

3. Old Business

a. Robert Rich – A Space Center Self Storage – Request for Fee Waiver

C. Bielik thanked R. Rich for his patience in this matter. R. Rich noted that Planning & Zoning will decide a reasonable solution and will make a recommendation. C. Bielik indicated that he spoke with Kevin McDuffie and tasked the Commission in doing some research on the ordinance in town and how it compares with surrounding towns. C. Bielik indicated that we will be holding this issue open for further discussion. R. Rich asked if P & Z would be able to discuss this at their next meeting and have a decision for July. C. Bielik noted that he is not sure and will keep R. Rich informed of any updates.

b. Charles Piwonski Property – Update

C. Bielik noted the Parks & Rec, as well as the Town Engineer, have been reviewing the property for possibilities of the property. C. Bielik indicated that an appraisal would need to be done. P. Betkoski asked how many acres is the property and the requested purchase price, and C. Piwonski indicated 5.17 acres and \$279,000. C. Bielik indicated that the roads in town are in need of improvements, as well as wastewater treatment plant upgrades. C. Bielik also noted the potential revenues if the fuel cell project is built but that would be several years down the road. P. Betkoski mentioned that the purchase would have to be brought to the town for a vote. D. Sorrentino also mentioned that this should be brought to the Board of Finance and asked for their input.

J. Lewonczyk indicated that they want to get this property sold but keep running into obstacles. They have had interested parties but get knocked down when they come to the town. J. Lewonczyk noted that they have been to the Zoning Board and has spent money to get the property changed. P. Betkoski asked what was the zoning when he purchased the property and C. Piwonski indicated that it was residential when he purchased the property and he requested it changed to light industrial.

J. Lewonczyk mentioned that C. Piwonski took advantage of the grant that was offered by the town and would like to see that dissolved when the property is transferred to the town. D. Sorrentino indicated that they cannot discuss that and it would be between the purchaser of the property and the seller.

C. Bielik wanted to confirm that when C. Piwonski purchased the property, it was bought as residential and he requested the zoning change. C. Piwonski confirmed that he requested the change. C. Bielik mentioned that the town will have to vote to purchase the property at a town meeting.

4. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

The three members reviewed the minutes from the three meetings held in May 2015 – regular meeting on May 11th, public hearing on May 11th, and the special town meeting on May 20th. There is a correction on the minutes for the public hearing. The date is indicated as May 12th but it should be May 11th.

Motion to accept the three meeting minutes held in May 2015 with the noted correction as submitted for tonight's meeting: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

5. Resident Trooper/Police Report

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Resident Trooper/State Police for tonight's meeting: Sorrentino/Betkoski; discussion was by C. Bielik indicating that there was a joint narcotics task force with Ansonia that found drugs present at a residence in Beacon Falls and in Ansonia; 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

D. Sorrentino asked about the department's ability with maintaining the schedule for June and July, and C. Bielik indicated that there are going to be vacations and going to be down. C. Bielik indicated that there have been discussions with neighboring towns (Oxford, Seymour, and Derby) regarding regionalizing things done in Public Works to lower costs and save money. One example is cleaning of the catch basins.

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

8. Report of the Fire Marshal

C. Bielik noted that it's not in the report but Eddie Rodriguez received a certificate for Emergency Preparedness Officer from UMass Amherst. The Selectmen pass along their congratulations.

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

9. Report of the Finance Manager

The Finance Manager was present at tonight's meeting.

T. Broesler noted that on the revenue side, the town may be showing a revenue surplus of approximately \$250,000 which is mostly from the interest and back taxes. On the expense side, there were some overbudgeted items that are reflected by bad policies and they have been cleaned up.

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:
Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

10. Report of the Tax Collector

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

C. Bielik noted that there has been approximately \$750,000 collected to date in back taxes.

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

11. Report of the Town Treasurer

The Town Treasurer was present at tonight's meeting.

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

12. 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.**

13. Report of the Library

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

S. Dowdell indicated that the library has been awarded LSTA Grant Funding in the amount of \$5,241.

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

14. Report of the Fire Department

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

C. Bielik reminded everyone that Thursday, Friday, and Saturday is the Firemen's Carnival and the parade on Saturday. Chief Trzaski indicated that they received an email from ISO, the Insurance Service Organization, indicating that the last audit was in 2007 and they want to do a new audit. This is the rating of the fire department.

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

15. 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

There was no report submitted from the Town Nurse since it is a quarterly report and not due until June 30, 2015.

16. Correspondence

1. There were three invoices from the Board of Selectmen's clerk that were submitted for payment at tonight's meeting. C. Bielik indicated that he would entertain a motion to approve payment on the invoices from May 11th for \$42.50; from May 11th for \$72.50; and from May 20th for \$42.50.

Motion to approve payment on the three invoices as submitted by the clerk for tonight's meeting: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

2. There was a letter from 06/01/2015 from Everett Shepard from the state's organization that sponsors the Boys' State. C Bielik had discussions with E. Shepard and was invited to speak on behalf of small towns. C. Bielik will be going with Bob Mezzo, mayor of Naugatuck.

3. There was a letter from 05/27/2015 from the Chairman of the Board of Trustee of the Library requesting a budget transfer of \$100.00. C. Bielik noted that this will be addressed under Budget Transfers.

4. There was a 2nd letter received from Dave Dobbler, 4 Snyder Drive in Oxford. His neighbors reside in Beacon Falls and the dogs are being considered harassment. C. Bielik has addressed this issue with the animal control officer and police lieutenant.

5. A notification from the State Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection was received indicating the last year's annual cost for the resident state trooper. The bill is just under \$110,000 and the line item has enough to cover this cost.

6. A letter from Mary Ellen Gill was received indicating that she is expecting her 2nd child and will be resigning as a substitute librarian. S. Dowdell noted that there is a recommendation of a candidate for the position.

Motion to accept the resignation of Mary Ellen Gill with deep regret: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

7. A letter from Bob Doiron, Secretary of the Board of Finance, was received indicating that he is resigning due to his work load and would like to have the opportunity to come back in the future.

Motion to accept the resignation of Bob Doiron with deep regret and thanks for his many years of service: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

8. An email from Jim Huk was received indicating that he would be interested in an opening on the Board of Finance.

17. Old Business

a. Nutmeg Network – Update

C. Bielik indicated that the connection run the place on Burton Road and branching off to Laurel Ledge was done. Wiring in the town hall building has been done within the past month or so. Digital Back Office was in over the past weekend and did some work in the old server closet. C. Bielik indicated that they are on track.

b. Winter Brothers – Update

C. Bielik indicated that a follow-up meeting is being scheduled for June 26th to discuss with Ansonia and Winter Brothers the numbers to see if it is worth going forward with going to a one driver automated truck.

c. Fuel Cell Project – Update

C. Bielik indicated that he has been corresponding with Mike Opuszynski, Chairman of the Land Use Committee and discussed on having a series of presentations. The first one was going to be on June 24th but that is the same night as the Woodland graduation. There are fewer requirements on the town side based on the regulations and there will be one large meeting instead of a number of smaller meetings. The target date is for July 7th and will be held at the auditorium at Woodland High School.

d. FY 2015/2016 Budget – Update

C. Bielik indicated that the new mil rate will be 33.4 mils and has been set.

18. New Business

a. Roads Presentation: Highland Avenue and Noe Place; bonding discussion including Burton Road

b. Vote on the following resolution: That First Selectman, Christopher J. Bielik is empowered and authorized to execute and deliver in the name of the Town of Beacon Falls Board of Selectmen in executing this Contract with the Connecticut State Library, State of Connecticut, for an LSTA grant in the category: Programs for Older Adults.

Motion to accept the resolution as stated: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

19. Appointment

Motion to appoint Jim Huk to the Board of Finance: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

Motion to appoint Lori Ewen and Joanna Mas as Substitute Librarian Assistants: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; discussion was about the number of assistants needed. Carine Greene is one of the assistants and Martha Melville is another one of the assistants and she cannot do evening; all ayes.**

20. Budget Transfer Requests

The first budget transfer request was from the Library Board of Trustees.

Motion to request a budget transfer in the amount of \$100.00 from Line Item 10-90-69-1807, Copier, to Line Item 10-90-69-1040, Clerk: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

The second and third budget transfer request was from the EDC.

Motion to request a budget transfer in the amount of \$150.00 from Line Item 10-90-21-1385, Consultants, to Line Item 10-90-21-1040, Clerk, and a budget transfer in the amount of \$2,900.00 from Line Item 10-90-21-1385, Consultants, to Line Item 10-90-21-1295, Marketing: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

The fourth budget transfer request was from the Fire Department. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the amount was going to increase from \$1,382.52 to \$1,000.00 to have a buffer so that any further transfer requests would not need a town meeting.

Motion to request a budget transfer in the amount of \$2,382.52 from Line Item 10-90-44-1490 to Line Item 10-90-44-1472: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

21. Comments from the Public

Mike Opuszynski, 132 Back Rimmon Road, indicated that during the weekend of June 6th, the CT Trails Weekend at Lantern Ridge, the Girls Scout troop was presented with a plaque for the help that they provide at Lantern Ridge. M. Opuszynski asked about the container size for the new Winter Brothers proposal to an automated truck, if there was going to be a survey sent to people asking what size they would like. C. Bielik indicated that the bins would be provided by Winter Brothers but if the homeowner would like a different size, then they could call Winter Brothers and request a specific size.

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

22. Executive Session – If Needed

There was no Executive Session at tonight's meeting.

23. 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 9:18 P.M.:
Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Board of Selectmen