

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
August 10, 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; Kevin McDuffie, Planning & Zoning; Helen Mis, Registrar of Voters; Luke Marshall, Citizens News; and 3 members of the public.

2. Comments from the Public

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

3. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

The three members reviewed the minutes from the three meetings held in July 2015 – special meeting on July 9th, town meeting on July 9th, and special meeting on July 8th.

Motion to accept the minutes from the three meetings held in July 2015 as submitted for tonight's meeting: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

4. Resident Trooper/Police Report

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Resident Trooper/State Police for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Sorrentino**; discussion was by C. Bielik indicating that Beacon Falls now has two officers that are D.A.R.E. certified after attending training by another one of the town's officers. C. Bielik also indicated that there have been a rash of vehicle break-ins and one vehicle was stolen, which is still under investigation and could not comment further. C. Bielik noted that everyone should empty their cars of all valuables and lock the vehicle even if parked in your own driveway; all ayes.

5. 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.

6. Report of Public Works

C. Bielik noted that the next bulky waste will be the last Saturday in August and September but not sure if there will be one in October.

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

7. Report of the Fire Marshal

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Fire Marshall for tonight's meeting: **Sorrentino/Betkoski**; discussion by C. Bielik indicating that, not in the report, but last week, the fire system was tested at Laurel Ledge. The system in the new part worked but the system in the old part did nothing. It is being worked on in order to meet the deadline; all ayes.

8. Report of the Finance Manager

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

It was noted that there were no budgetary numbers run since we are only one month into the new fiscal year.

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.

9. Report of the Tax Collector

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

The report submitted for tonight's meeting was for the month of June 2015. The preliminary numbers for July show that more than half of the expected taxes to be collected have been.

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.*

10. Report of the Town Treasurer

The Town Treasurer was not 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: **Sorrentino/Betkoski;** *no discussion; all ayes.*

11. Report of the Town Clerk

Motions to accept the monthly report and yearly report as submitted by the Town Clerk 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 Library

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

S. Dowdell indicated that there is something to report that is not in the report. Amy Enquist using the Assembly Room for Programs and is having a scheduling conflict with the Republican Town Committee. The Chair of the RTC has not returned S. Dowdell's calls as of yet and she would like to reserve the Assembly Room for the 1st Tuesday and Thursday of the month for the Library Programs.

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

13. Report of the Fire Department

The Board of Selectmen passed along a reminder of the Firemen's Convention that Seymour and Beacon Falls is co-hosting. It will be held on the weekend of September 18th through September 20th. The parade will be held in the town of Beacon Falls on Sunday, starting on Lancaster Drive and ending in Murtha Industrial Park.

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

14. Any Other Reports

a. Report of the Custodian

C. Bielik indicated that the custodian supervised the installation of the new door on Town Hall. Since there were no spare parts for the old doors, new ones were installed.

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

b. Report of the Town Nurse

There was no report from the Town Nurse submitted for tonight's meeting. It is a quarterly report and the next report is due September 30, 2015.

c. Report of the Animal Control Officer

There was no report from the Animal Control Officer submitted for tonight's meeting.

15. Correspondence

1. There was an invoice from the Board of Selectmen's clerk that was submitted for payment at tonight's meeting. C. Bielik indicated that he would entertain a motion to approve payment on the invoice dated July 6, 2015 for \$115.00.

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

2. A letter was received on 07/09/2015 from Brian Horrigan, 38 Gruber Road, looking for answers on the fuel cell project. C. Bielik indicated that he met with B. Horrigan and discussed his questions. The Developers answered all the questions that were presented to them at the presentation that was held on 07/07/2015. These have been posted on the town's website
3. An email was received on 07/27/2015 from Donald Ferretti indicating that he is interested in the open position on the Parks & Rec Commission. Steve Ruhl endorses this person as a Commissioner.
4. A copy of a letter was received on 07/22/2015 from the Office of Policy and Management regarding creating an office in the Senior Center for the Senior Center President. This was not included in the budget since it was something that could go under a LCIP grant. A grant application in the amount of \$5,000 has been approved by OPM and forwarded to the Finance Dept.
5. An email request was received from the Sunshine Kids Motorcycle Ride regarding their route through Beacon Falls on 10/03/2015. This is a motorcycle ride for charity and the second year for their request to go through the town of Beacon Falls. The ride starts in Cheshire and ends at Quassy in Middlebury.
6. A letter was received on 07/29/2015 from the Office of the Secretary of State regarding the new certification program for the registrars to participate in. This is a requirement and the towns must pay for the tuition for the classes for the 2 registrars. The deputies may participate but the towns are not required to pay for them. It was take approximately 18 months to complete and cost about \$3,200. This was an unbudgeted item and will be discussed with the Board of Finance.
7. A letter was received on 07/27/2015 from the Worker's Compensation Commission regarding the Safety and Health Committee audit. The town of Beacon Falls received the certification that we are in compliance with the regulations.
8. A letter from the Upper Valley 2015, the committee for the Firemen's Convention. This is a conventions being cohosted by Seymour and Beacon Falls over the weekend of September 18th through the 20th. The parade will take place in Beacon Falls on Sunday, September 20th.
9. A letter was received on 07/28/2015 from the CT Community Foundation indicating that 4 scholarships to Beacon Falls college students this past year. The recipients are Stephanie Amato, going to Albany College; Zachary Monti, going to Holy Cross; Joseph Poeta, going to Central CT State University, and Monica Vitzoski, going to Boston College. Congratulations to the students.

10. A letter was received from the Upper Room Experience Ministry announcing their submission as a new tenant for the property at 79 Old Turnpike Road. Rev. Page is looking to have the building as a house of worship.

11. A letter was received from Region 16 indicated that the renegotiations for the teachers union are this year. By statute, they are required to provide for a meeting between the Board of Education and the fiscal authorities of the respected towns involved. The meeting has been set for Wednesday, August 19th, at Long River Middle School, at 8:00 PM.

12. A notification was received from the Region 16 school district regarding the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Prospect Elementary School that is being held on Saturday, August 22nd, at 10:00 AM.

16. Old Business

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

Robert Rich was not present at tonight's meeting. John Fernando, a registered professional engineer who did the site plan, was present for R. Rich. Kevin McDuffie was present for tonight's meeting as Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission. P & Z has agreed to fee of \$2,130 and R. Rich will be attending the next P & Z meeting with a check for the payment. D. Sorrentino has for the paperwork to be forwarded to the Selectmen. K. McDuffie indicated that he will do that.

Motion to support and approve the recommended decision by Planning & Zoning for A Space Center Self Storage fees of \$2,130: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

b. Fuel Cell Project – Update

C. Bielik indicated that he has 5 pages of questions and answers from the presentation of the fuel cell project. The project is ready getting ready to head to the citing council for their declaratory ruling process. They expect a date before the citing council sometime this month.

c. Road Bond Package – Update

Bids for Noe Place has been received and closed as of last Friday. Bids for Burton Road will close as of 10:00 AM tomorrow morning. A change has been made after review of the depth of the surface of the road. The depth of the surface will support the heat and reclaim the entire length of Burton Road, which will bring the cost down.

d. Municipal Trash Pick-up – Update

The numbers have been recalculated for the combination of Ansonia and Beacon Falls under the single driver pick up for trash. C. Bielik indicating that they are trying to schedule a meeting between the three parties involved.

e. Z-REC Solar Project – Update

C. Bielik indicated that he heard from Jordan Energy and the program approved the potential solar panels on the land allocated by the Public Works garage and Wastewater Treatment Plant. The site was walked last Wednesday.

C. Bielik indicated that he will entertain a motion to add Agenda Item e., Review of Globele's Proposal under New Business.

Motion to add Agenda Item e., Review of Globele's Proposal under New Business:
Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

17. New Business

a. Noe Place Bid award

Two bids have been received – one from Cocchiola Paving and one from A & J Construction. After review of the proposals by Nafis & Young, the recommendation is to award the bid to Cocchiola Paving.

Motion to support the recommendation from Nafis & Young and award the bid to Cocchiola Paving in the amount of \$223,105.00: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; discussion was by D. Sorrentino questioning the line painting down the center of Noe Place being included in the proposal. C. Bielik will verify if this must be done since Noe Place is a resident access road and if it is included in the proposal; all ayes.**

b. Open Space Fund Ordinance – Discussion

Diane Betkoski, Chair of the Conservation Commission, sent a request to the Board regarding the Open Space Fund Ordinance. The request is to update the existing ordinance based on recommendation by Atty. Steve Byrne, the town's land use attorney.

Motion to submit the changes to the Open Space Fund Ordinance for review by the Town Council, Atty. Fred Stanek: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

c. Matthies Park – Jenny Lane 2, Oxford – Soil Issue – Discussion

An email from Dave Keating, Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer, was received on 08/22/2015 regarding the fill going into Matthies Park from Jenny Lane 2. D. Keating's email indicates that Oxford's Planning & Zoning is asking for the fill to remain in place rather than moving it. Many of the recommendations from several commission chairs, as well as the town engineer, is that more harm would and could be by bringing in equipment to remove the fill rather than keeping the fill where it is now.

After a discussion by the Selectmen, a recommendation to Oxford is to have a stabilization plan in place for the erosion of the fill. Inland Wetlands Commission is to review this plan and make recommendations as necessary.

d. Beacon Falls EDC Forum – at Chatfield Farms – Discussion

A Beacon Falls business breakfast forum is being cohosted with the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce similar to the one held last year. C. Bielik contacted Matt Gilchrist of EG Homes for the use of the clubhouse at Chatfield Farms. The proposed date of the breakfast forum is Thursday, September 10th, from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM. Invitations will be sent to all Boards and Commissions in town as well as surrounding towns.

e. Review of the Proposal by Globele Energy

Globele Energy submitted a proposal to the town to act as an agent for the Z-REC Solar Project and for the Fuel Cell Project. A fee schedule is enclosed with the proposal and the Selectmen will have to review the proposal and fee schedule. It is an unbudgeted expense and the Board of Finance will be asked to input their inputs as well. P. Betkoski also would like the town attorney to review the proposal as well.

The Selectmen would like some time to review and go through the proposal a little more before going forward with it.

18. Appointment

Motion to support Steve Ruhl's recommendation of Don Ferretti to the open position on the Parks & Rec and approve the appointment: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

19. Budget Transfer Requests

There were no budget transfer requests at tonight's meeting.

20. Comments from the Public

Sue Dowdell, the Library Director, indicated that the library will be closed for training on Bibliomation on 10/13/2015. This was left out of the report that she submitted for tonight's meeting. D. Sorrentino asked if there was a fee for it and S. Dowdell indicated that there was and will absorb it in the computer line item in the budget. She would also like to receive an invitation to the Beacon Falls business breakfast forum.

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

21. Executive Session – If Needed

There was no Executive Session at tonight's meeting.

The court dates for Oak Drive have been set for 08/27/2015 and for 08/28/2015 to be held in the Milford Supreme Court.

22. 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 8:51 P.M.:
Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Board of Selectmen