

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Monthly Meeting  
November 9, 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 (arrived at 7:50 PM), and Selectman Dominick Sorrentino

Others present: Mike Krenesky, Town Treasurer/Selectman-Elect; Sue Dowdell, Library Director; Kevin McDuffie, Planning & Zoning; Tom Broesler, Finance Manager; Joe Rodorigo, Board of Finance; Wendy Rodorigo, Town Treasurer-Elect; Luke Marshall, Citizens News; and 18 members of the public.

**2. Comments from the Public**

Kevin McDuffie, Planning & Zoning, wanted to offer his thank you to Dom Sorrentino for all his years of service to the town of Beacon Falls.

Joe Rodorigo, Board of Finance, also wanted to offer his warm wishes and thank you to Dom Sorrentino as well.

Serio Felix, Pines Bridge Road, was present to see if there was any update on his request on the noise ordinance since he was last here in March. He noted that the noise ordinance was not approved by the Commissioner and therefore void. C. Bielik indicated that until the town ordinance is approved at the state level, the town ordinance follows under the state ordinance. S. Felix noted that it is getting worse and C. Bielik indicated that he will look into the issue for the update.

Chris Schwenger, Sharon Drive, was present to discuss the status of getting town service such as snow plowing, mail delivery, garbage pick-up, and equivalent services that other taxpayers receive to Sharon Drive, which is a private road.

C. Schwenger noted the issue with Oak Drive and would like the same services as Oak Drive. Also noted was that Sharon Drive is a paved road with public storm drainage and plenty of room for emergency vehicles to navigate and operate. He is hoping to have the equivalent services that are offered to the taxpayers.

C. Bielik noted that this item is not on the agenda and will have it included to December's agenda. C. Bielik noted the litigation between the town of Beacon Falls and Oak Drive. The services that are being provided to Oak Drive at this time were the direct ruling by a Supreme Court judge. C. Bielik indicated that it sets a precedent only for the people on Oak Drive for the specific condition that they were operating underneath. There is no like and kind relationship with any other privately owned road in town comparable to Oak Drive.

Jeri. Opuszynski, 5 Sharon Drive, asked if they are paying taxes and they are not receiving services. C. Bielik replied yes, just like any other private road in town. Beacon Falls is under the ruling from the litigation by Oak Drive and Beacon Falls did fight the litigation. J. Opuszynski asked if they're taxes are reduced because of that and C. Bielik indicate that the taxes are not reduced; you pay for the services that are embedded in the taxes.

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 meetings held in October 2015 – October 5, October 21, and October 30.

Motion to accept the minutes from the meetings held on October 5, 2015 and October 30, 2015 as submitted for tonight's meeting: Sorrentino/Bielik; no discussion; all ayes.

Motion to revise the minutes from the Special Meeting held on October 21, 2015 with the correction of the members present to include the names of the 3 members of the Board of Selectmen, the names of the 6 members of the Board of Finance, and Atty. Fred Stanek: Sorrentino/Bielik; 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: Sorrentino/Bielik; no discussion; all ayes.

5. **Wastewater Treatment Plant Report**

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Wastewater Treatment Plant for tonight's meeting: **Sorrentino/Bielik**; *discussion noted that the payment for the leachate went up; all ayes.*

6. **Report of Public Works**

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Public Works for tonight's meeting: **Sorrentino/Bielik**; *discussion noted that the signs are on order for the reserved parking. D. Sorrentino asked about step into the town hall and C. Bielik indicated that it is being worked on; all ayes.*

7. **Report of the Fire Marshal**

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

8. **Report of the Finance Manager**

The Finance Manager was present at tonight's meeting.

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/Bielik**; *discussion was that the reconciliation is done through June 2015 and T. Broesler indicated yes, the General Fund is done and all the subsidiary funds are up to date except for one; all ayes.*

9. **Report of the Tax Collector**

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/Bielik**; *no discussion; all ayes.*

10. **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: **Sorrentino/Betkoski**; *discussion was by C. Bielik indicating that a band will be rolling over in December; 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: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

## **12. Report of the Library**

Sue Dowdell was present at tonight's meeting.

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

## **13. Report of the Fire Department**

There was no report submitted by the Fire Department for tonight's meeting.

## **14. Any Other Reports**

### **a. Report of the Custodian**

Motion to approve the Custodian reports for the months of August and September 2015 as submitted for tonight's meeting: Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

### **b. Report of the Town Nurse**

The quarterly report was due to be submitted for tonight's meeting.

### **c. Report of the Animal Control Officer**

The quarterly report was due to be submitted for tonight's meeting.

## **15. Correspondence**

1. An invoice from the clerk in the amount of \$83.75 was submitted for the meeting held on October 5, 2015.

Motion to approve and pay the invoice from the clerk in the amount of \$83.75 as submitted: Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

2. Pictures of the Melbourne Scholarship awardees were received as well as a thank you letter for the town's participation.

3. A notification was received regarding the Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony being held at The Crystal Room in Naugatuck, on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 P.M. If anyone is interested in attending to please contact Wendy Hopkinson.

4. A reminder was received about the Veterans' Day service from American Legion Post 25. The services will be held at 11:00 A.M. at Matthies Park, at the Veterans Memorial.

5. A letter from Beacon Hose Co. 1 was received regarding the reactivation of Engine 1 Replacement Committee.

6. An email from the Library Director was received regarding the 2 media drops at the Town Hall. The front door media drop bin is not in compliance to fire codes being too big for the area that it is in and in relation to the door going downstairs. The suggestion is to move the one in the front hallway and relocate it to the outdoor drop bin area, and move the 2 outside drops bins by the lower entrance door to the front door area in the outside area that is blocked off.

Motion to move the media drop bins according to the Library Director's suggestion: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

7. A request of assistance was received from TEAM & Inc. in the amount of \$5,000. C. Bielik indicated that this will be kept for the budget discussion in February/March timeframe.

8. A request of assistance was received from Southwest Conservation District in the amount of \$1,500 and this is already in the budget.

9. There were communications received from various members of the Conservation Commission. The Commission is in the process of revamping since Diane Betkoski resigned as Chair and the rest of the current members are interested in staying on the Commission. There is a new application that was received from Ashleigh Doherty.

10. A letter was received from the attorneys for the Beacon Falls Energy Park LLC and will be discussed under the Old Business Agenda Item.

## 16. Old Business

### a. Fuel Cell Project – Update

C. Bielik noted that there were two public hearings held at the fire house on Thursday, November 5, 2015; one was at 3:00 P.M. which was a screening by the Citing Counsel of all of the members of the development group and the other one was at 7:00 P.M. which was for the members of the public.

The Citing Counsel will be accepting written questions regarding the project from now until December 5, 2015 (30 days from the public hearing). C. Bielik indicated that this hearing was for a declaratory ruling which means that due to the size of the project and it is a Tier 1 renewable energy project, the Citing Counsel will act as the Town's multi Boards/Commissions. It is an expedited way of getting through the process by clearing the hurdles only one time.

### b. Jenny Lane Two, Oxford - Update

The Selectmen discussed the issue by leaving it alone, cleaning up the slope, and stabilize the slope by the owner of the property of Jenny Lane Two.

Motion to inform the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission that the suggestions from the Board of Selectmen in regards to Jenny Lane Two is to clean up the slope, the owner of that property to stabilize the slope, and leave as is: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

### c. Community School Sale - Update

C. Bielik indicated that he had a conversation with Atty. Stanek earlier today regarding the sale of Community School. There are two courses of action that are being addressed by the town of Beacon Falls. One is a Freedom of Information Act complaint against Region 16 and the other is an injunction to stop the sale of Community School at the price agreed upon by the process that was used.

Atty. Stanek requested certain documents from Region 16 in regards to the FOI complaint and the timeframe is 4 business days to turnaround that request. They failed to do so and Atty. Stanek will be adding this to the FOI complaint.

The next step is to set a date for a district meeting for the two towns to vote upon whether they agree to push forward with the sale. Atty. Stanek is looking into if there are grounds to file an injunction prior to the vote or go to the vote first, and then file the injunction.

## **17. New Business**

### **a. Proclamation – Dominick Sorrentino**

C. Bielik read a Certificate of Recognition that was presented to Dominick Sorrentino based on all his years of service to the town of Beacon Falls.

### **b. Highland Avenue Parking – Discussion**

C. Bielik noted that the parking on Highland Avenue is extremely tight. The hope was to have the project to renovate Highland Avenue was going to solve the issue. There have been problems with getting authorization from OPM to move out on the STEEP Grant part. The construction of the two projects will be moving to the springtime. This does not help with the on-street parking problems.

Several complaints have been received regarding people dropping off/picking up students and blocking driveways, crosswalks, and parking in driveways. There have been a couple of requests asking to make Highland Avenue “resident only parking area”. P. Betkoski noted the question of enforcing that and D. Sorrentino suggested following the winter ordinance.

C. Bielik opened the agenda item to limited discussions by the public. Dave Brown, 33 Highland Avenue, indicated that teachers are using the street for parking their vehicles and see them go to the cars on their break to smoke. Christopher Brown, 17 Highland Avenue, noted that teachers should be parking on school property and a smoking area should be set on school property as well. There are cigarettes that are left behind on their property. Jen Doiron, 23 Highland Avenue, has had cars parked in their driveway and have contacted the principle to deal with this situation. C. Bielik noted that this will be dealt with at his level. Todd Doiron, 23 Highland Avenue, indicated that they have gone to the police department several times with pictures showing the license plate of the cars and it seems that it's the same cars doing it over and over again. C. Bielik noted that he will discuss this with Lt. Rodriguez. C. Brown mentioned that he has been down to the police department as way and was given a hard time. He also mentioned that people are blocking the crosswalks and blocking the fire hydrants. His brother lives at 37-39 Highland Avenue and cannot park in front of his house since there is a crosswalk in front of his house. Can the crosswalk be moved was asked and C. Bielik indicated that the crosswalk will be relocated under the road reconstruction project.

Paul Brennan, 13 Highland Avenue, indicated that they have been dealing with these issues for over a year and should be dealt with by the school. Teachers should be parking in the upper parking lot, where only one or two are parking now.

Gretchen Carlson, 21 Highland Avenue and a member of the Ambulance and Fire Department, has had a problem with parking while responding to a call. It was difficult getting the ambulance up Highland Avenue with the foot traffic, parked cars, and there was a delay in getting to the patient.

There was also a problem in getting the patient to the ambulance. With the cars on the sidewalk, it was difficult in bringing the patient to the ambulance and was a safety issue.

C. Bielik closed the open discussions at this time and thanked everyone for coming with their comments.

### **c. Vote – Regional ICE Program – State Grant**

This is a grant program that was developed by the State of CT to try to encourage regionalization approaches to solving problems at the municipal level. Beacon Falls has been working with the towns of Seymour, Oxford, and Derby. Derby has opted out of this.

A joint purchase of three pieces of equipment that was based on input by the three towns was discussed. The grant is equal to 80% of the cost of the equipment up to a maximum of \$375,000. Bids will be received and discussed by the three towns. The responsibility for the remaining 20% will be divided by the three towns.

A resolution is needed to have the town of Beacon Falls intention in participating in the Intertown Capital Equipment Purchase Incentive Grant Program.

Motion to accept the request of Beacon Falls participating in the Intertown Capital Equipment Purchase Incentive Grant Program with Seymour and Oxford, and pass along any and all information to the Board of Finance: **Betkoski/Sorrentino**; no discussion; all ayes.

### **d. Old Minibus Disposal – Opening of Bids**

C. Bielik indicated that only one bid had been received for the minibus and he opened the sealed envelope at the meeting to review the bid. The sealed bid was in the amount of \$859.00 from Mark Ziello, 58 Hewlett Street, Waterbury, CT.

Motion to reject the bid in the amount of \$859.00 from Mark Ziello: **Betkoski/Sorrentino**; no discussion; all ayes.



## **18. Appointments**

Motion to pass a blanket resolution to extend for one month all the terms for the members of all the Boards/Commissions/Committees in order to sworn in and have a quorum for the scheduled meetings: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

### **a. Conservation Commission**

Motion to reappoint the six members of the Conservation Commission – Lori Paradis Brant, Chairman; Bonnie J. Chevarella, Vice Chairman; Sophia Zyla, Secretary; Ruth Burritt; Tanya M. Gutierro; Michael B. Opuszynski; and Ashleigh Doherty to the open position on the Conservation Commission: Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.

### **b. Valley Regional Water Authority Representative**

Motion to reappoint Tanya M. Gutierro to a full term on the Valley Regional Water Authority: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

## **19. Budget Transfer Requests**

There were no new budget transfer requests presented for tonight's meeting.

## **20. Comments from the Public**

Ed Groth indicated that there used to be a sign on Skokorat Road when traveling from Seymour to Beacon Falls. C. Bielik indicated that they are aware of the sign being down and a new one will be installed soon. He also noted that he was helping the registrars during the elections and noted the bathrooms off the gym have not been touched. C. Bielik indicated that those bathrooms were not part of the renovation project.

Mike Krenesky, 22 Maple Avenue, asked on the update of the handicapped parking on Century. C. Bielik indicated that there are some folding signs and need to talk to Father Kvedas as to the best way of implementing the signs.

Joe Rodorigo passed along his congratulations to the three Board of Selectmen on their victory on Election Day.

C. Bielik asked three times if there were any further comments from the public and there were none at this time.

**21. Executive Session – If Needed**

There was no Executive Session at tonight's Board of Selectmen meeting.

**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 8:48 P.M.:  
**Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo  
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

DRAFT