

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
March 14, 2016
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 Mike Krenesky

Others present: Tom, Broesler, Finance Manager; Sue Dowdell, Library Director; Luke Marshall, Citizens News; and 1 member of the public

2. Comments from the Public

Greg Campbell, 29 Terese Road, was present to discuss the sewer connection issue at his property. He noted that WPCA no longer has his name on their agenda. G. Campbell requested a document that tells him that he needs to pay his neighbor. C. Bielik indicated that he was at the wrong meeting, and that G. Campbell should attend a WPCA meeting. C. Bielik also indicated that the Selectmen sent his request, through the town attorney, to WPCA. G. Campbell mentioned that he has called the Chairman of WPCA and have spoken to him. C. Bielik asked if G. Campbell has attended a WPCA meeting and G. Campbell replied no, that he has not attended a WPCA meeting.

G. Campbell questioned the Selectmen as to their knowledge of the situation and asked where they got their knowledge. G. Campbell asked if there was a town ordinance, statute, or law. P. Betkoski indicated that the next WPCA meeting is scheduled next Tuesday, starting at 7:30 PM. C. Bielik indicated that he has forwarded the correspondence that G. Campbell sent to the Selectmen to WPCA and to the town attorney. The Commission needs to hear your situation at a scheduled meeting.

G. Campbell indicated that he has sent a written formal request for information to the Selectmen and that the Selectmen has a week to reply. C. Bielik noted that the request needs to be sent via the Freedom of Information Act and not through an informal request to the Selectmen's office. The informal request was forwarded to the town attorney and to WPCA.

P. Betkoski asked about the conversation that G. Campbell had with Jeff Smith, Chairman of WPCA. G. Campbell indicated that J. Smith gave a couple different options that G. Campbell could choose to follow – 1. Choose to connect to the sewer now and split the cost with his neighbor or 2. In the future, if he chooses to connect, G. Campbell would need to pay the neighbor whatever he wants. C. Bielik and P. Betkoski indicated that the neighbor would not be able to charge whatever they want, that the price would be a fair price according to what they paid. G. Campbell wanted to know where is the document that stipulates this and C. Bielik noted that he needs to attend the WPCA meeting next week.

C. Bielik wanted to clarify the situation by indicated that where the lateral ended, the neighbor who was experiencing the emergency situation paid for the entire cost for the main to be run in front of G. Campbell's house. The main was run from the lateral from one neighbor where it ended, past G. Campbell's house, and to the house having the problem in order to connect to the lateral. The town of Beacon Falls did not pay for any costs. G. Campbell noted that his neighbor before him did not pay for his line. P. Betkoski noted that the developer must have paid for the line.

After a brief discussion, C. Bielik asked if G. Campbell has been charged for work that has occurred on the sewer line and G. Campbell indicated no, he hasn't been charged. C. Bielik asked if G. Campbell has a fully functioning septic system that keep he separate from the town sewer system and G. Campbell indicated yes, the septic system is functioning and asked what would happen if he does have a problem. G. Campbell asked what keeps his neighbor from setting the price to whatever he wants. C. Bielik suggested that he needs to attend a WPCA meeting since they know how the process works.

C. Bielik asked three times if there were any public comment and there were no further comments at this time.

3. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

The three members reviewed the minutes from the meetings held in February 2016 – regular meeting on February 8th, a special meeting on February 16th, and a special meeting on February 24th.

Motion to accept the minutes from the meetings held on February 8, 2016 and February 16, 2015 as submitted for tonight's meeting: Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

Motion to accept the minutes from the meeting held on February 24, 2016 as submitted for tonight's meeting: Krenesky/Betkoski; discussion was by M. Krenesky asking to correct the motion under Executive Session that states "Motion to exit Executive Session". M. Krenesky indicated that you cannot make a motion to do anything in Executive Session.

Motion to accept the minutes from the meeting held on February 24, 2015 with the noted correction: Krenesky/Betkoski; no further discussion; all ayes.

4. Resident Trooper/Police Report

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

5. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report

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

6. Report of Public Works

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

7. Report of the Fire Marshal

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Fire Marshall for tonight's meeting: Krenesky/Betkoski; 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 forward to the Board of Finance for their next scheduled meeting: Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

9. Report of the Tax Collector

Motion to accept the reports from January 2016 and February 2016 as submitted by the Tax Collector for tonight's meeting and forward to the Board of Finance for their next scheduled meeting: **Krenesky/Betkoski; 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 forward to the Board of Finance for their next scheduled meeting: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

11. Report of the Town Clerk

Motions to accept the monthly report as submitted by the Town Clerk for tonight's meeting and forward to the Board of Finance for their next scheduled meeting: **Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

12. Report of the Library

The Library Director was present at tonight's meeting.

Sue Dowdell indicated that she is applying for a Matthies Grant for a projector and motorized screen for the Assembly Room. Also, S. Dowdell asked the Selectmen for the best way to request a transfer for the Professional Development budget line item. S. Dowdell indicated that the Library has gone overbudget on this budget line item based on conferences and future professional development. C. Bielik indicated that the request should come from the Contingency line item.

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

13. Report of the Fire Department

C. Bielik noted that the Fire Department has been doing a lot of training and the Legislature will be cutting funding for the fire schools. They are 5 or 6 that are on the drawing boards that are needed and Beacon Falls' fire school was Number 3 on the list. Now, it appears that funding for all the schools is going away.

Motions to accept the report as submitted by the Fire Department for tonight's meeting: **Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

14. Any Other Reports

a. Report of the Custodian

M. Krenesky asked if the screen at the Senior Center had been taken down yet. He noted the concern of someone getting hurt if it completely comes down.

Motions to accept the report as submitted by the Custodian for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

b. Report of the Town Nurse

There was no report submitted by the Town Nurse for tonight's meeting since it is a quarterly report and not due until March 31, 2016.

c. Report of the Animal Control Officer

M. Krenesky noted that the Town Treasurer needs to file a report with the State and the report from the Animal Control Officer needs to be more timely.

Motions to accept the report for January 2016 and for February 2016 as submitted by the Animal Control Officer for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

15. Correspondence

1. Two invoices from the clerk were submitted – one for the regular meeting held on February 8, 2016 in the amount of \$68.75 and one for the special meeting held on February 16, 2016 in the amount of \$53.75.

Motion to approve and pay the two invoices from the clerk in the amounts of \$68.75 and \$53.75 as submitted: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

2. There was a request for a tax refund to be paid to Ion Bank in the amount of \$3,288.40.

Motion to approve the tax refund request to Ion Bank in the amount of \$3,288.40: Krenesky/Betkoski;no discussion;all ayes.

3. A memo from the Assessor was received regarding the re-evaluation of the Grand List for the year 2015. There was an increase of 2.15%.
4. A form from the Friends of the Library was received for the Scrabble Tournament. C. Bielik indicated that the Selectmen will have a team of 5-6 players.
5. A letter from the Friends of the Library requesting permission to use the Assembly Room, starting on June 2nd in the early evening for the Boys Scout to help set up for the Annual Spring Book Sale. It will run on Friday, June 3rd, and Saturday, June 4th.

Motion to allow the Friends of the Library to use the Assembly Room on June 2nd to set up for the Annual Spring Book Sale: Betkoski/Krenesky;no discussion;all ayes.

6. A package of information was received from Sam Posick pertaining to contaminated sites/potential contaminated sites.
7. A letter from the State Citing Council was received regarding the intent to modify an existing tele-communication facility at 664 Rimmon Hill Road.
8. There was a question regarding the applicability of the town election ordinance by the Board of Finance regarding the filling of vacancies on the Board of Finance. The ordinance is at odds with the statutes and a request to research to be done was made. C. Bielik indicated that the ordinance is based on a special act of the CT Legislature – Public Act 159-1949. The town ordinance is technically correct.
9. An email was received back in November 2015 and held until the March 2016 meeting to announce the resignation of Sophie Zyla from the Conservation Commission effective after their March 2016 meeting.

Motion to accept the resignation from Sophie Zyla from the Conservation Commission with regrets: Betkoski/Krenesky;no discussion;all ayes.

10. An email was received from the Chairman of the Conservation Commission, Lori Paradis Brant, indicating that her and her husband are moving and will be resigning from the Conservation Commission.

Motion to accept the resignation from Lori Paradis Brant from the Conservation Commission with regrets: **Betkoski/Krenesky**;no discussion;all ayes.

11. An email from Kathy Brown was received recommending Dave Farley to the Conservation Commission. C. Bielik directed D. Farley to speak with L. Brant in regards to becoming a member of the Commission.
12. A letter dated 02/29/2016 from the Business Manager of Region 16 indicating that there was a surplus in the operating budget for the past year identified in the audit. The surplus was approximately \$1.26 million which would be approximately \$501,833 credited back to Beacon Falls based on the 60/40 split with Prospect. The credit will be taken with the payment to Region 16 in this month's billing cycle.
13. A letter from the International Fire Chief was received regarding a Summit in Meriden scheduled for April 1st and April 2nd of this year. The presentation is the same for the dates.
14. A certified letter from CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection regarding their search of municipal comment on draft comprehensive materials management strategy, an update to the statewide solid waste management plan.

16. Old Business

a. Community School Sale - Update

The town of Prospect accepted the proposed purchase price of \$873,000 and terms at a town meeting. A district meeting to vote on the authorization of the sale to go forward has been set for Wednesday, March 23rd, at Long River Middle School, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Voting will be by paper ballot.

As noted by the Selectmen, the district meeting was scheduled at that time since there is a Board of Education at Long River Middle School at 7:00 PM. M. Krenesky noted that this is not convenient for everyone in the district to be there for 5:30 PM during the week. C. Bielik also noted that, be that it is convenient for the Board of Education, it is not in the best interest in getting a wide response from the voting public.

b. 27 Railroad Avenue

John Smith, Chairman of the Inland Wetlands Commission, was planning on attending the meeting tonight to discuss the activity at 27 Railroad Avenue that is in violation to the Regulations of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses.

C. Bielik indicated that the Commission is beginning the process of fining and issuing citations to the owner and tenant of the property. Once the fines are levied, they are appealable and the parties involved would be heard by a Hearing Officer. C. Bielik indicated that he spoke with Rich Minnick who has volunteered to be the Hearing Officer.

C. Bielik asked for a 5-minute recess in order to get copies of a letter from the Tax Collector in order to discuss the next agenda item under New Business.

Motion to enter into a 5-minute recess at 8:40 PM: Krenesky/Betkoski;no discussion; all ayes.

The Board of Selectmen meeting resumed at 8:45 PM.

17. New Business

a. Eviction/Foreclosure Notification and Procedure: Discussion and Possible Action

A letter from the Tax Collector was received regarding evictions and foreclosures and where the removed items go. A request for the town in getting a storage bin for the removed items. C. Bielik believes that the individuals have up to 60 days to collect their removed items. A suggestion of a site at Public Work would be convenient since it would be close to the transfer station. C. Bielik noted that this is a good idea and would like to look into the cost associated. T. Broesler indicated that \$8,000 was appropriated for the replacement of the Pent Road one that was damaged. Crushed stone was spread and was included in that cost. M. Krenesky noted that the Marshall should be contacting the Selectmen in regards to the removed items after an eviction/foreclosure. The Selectmen agreed that this suggestion was one to discuss with the Board of Finance as a consideration for the 2016/2017 budget year.

b. Service Awards Board Discussion and Possible Action

C. Bielik met with Mike Brennan and there is a concern with the Board Ordinance. There is an amendment to the ordinance dated 1998 as well as procedure book with revision adopted within the past 3 or 4 years. The thought is that everything should be consolidated into one overall governing document.

C. Bielik recommended that the Town Attorney review all the documents and revise into one document. M. Krenesky and P. Betkoski agreed to this recommendation.

c.FY 16/17 Budget Discussion and Possible Action

An electronic, working version was sent earlier in the day. The medical insurance still needs to be received.

A joint budget workshop with the Board of Finance is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16th, at 7:00 PM, in the Library. A proposed recommendation will be a review done of all the department requests by the members of the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen. Then, on Friday, there will be a mini-working group comprised of C. Bielik, the Chairman of the Board of Finance, and Tom Broesler.

d. TIGER VIII Grant: Rt. 67/42 Connection Project Discussion

C. Bielik indicated that he had a monthly COG meeting in Waterbury last Friday. TIGER VIII grant is an economic development transportation fund that comes down from the federal level. The Rt. 67/42 Connection Project has been in discussion for many years. The recommendation is for the towns of Seymour and Beacon Falls to reach out to their Congress representatives and to the commissioner of CT DOT.

At this time, no action was taken under this agenda item.

M. Krenesky noted that he would like an agenda item added to next month's agenda. He would like to start the discussion about participating in the town's 150-year anniversary. M. Krenesky indicated that he spoke with the Town Historian who is in support of the idea of moving forward with this event.

18. Appointments

There were several appointments made at tonight's meeting.

Motion to appoint the following people to the Service Awards Board for a term of 2 years – Peter Betkoski, Mike Brennan, Paul Brennan, Joe Dowdell, Ken George, and Edmund Grace: Krenesky/Betkoski;no discussion;all ayes.

Motion to appoint Dave Farley to the Conservation Commission: Betkoski/Krenesky;no discussion;all ayes.

M. Krenesky asked about the Blight Committee. Doug Bousquet is interested in becoming a member of this Committee. C. Bielik indicated that the appointments are to be addressed at the next meeting scheduled in April. M. Krenesky also noted that each of the Boards and Commissions should be informed of the number of members that must be in attendance at a meeting in order to meet the quorum.

19. Budget Transfer Requests

There was a total of 12 budget transfer requests to be voted on and brought to the Board of Finance's next meeting.

Motion to approve the budget transfer requests as follows and pass it along to the Board of Finance:

- 1) From Wage Salary Adjustments – Line Item 10.90.13.1235 – to Wages– Overtime – Line Item 10.90.07.1049 – in the amount of \$1,183.71
- 2) From Wage Salary Adjustments – Line Item 10.90.13.1235 – to Wages- Longevity – Line Item 10.90.13.1045 – in the amount of \$200.00
- 3) From Contingency – Line Item 10.90.83.1070 – to Workers Compensation – Line Item 10.90.13.1255 – in the amount of \$30,750.00
- 4) From Heating Fuel – Line Item 10.90.44.1122 – to Electricity – Line Item 10.90.44.1121 – in the amount of \$5,000.00
- 5) From Heating Fuel – Line Item 10.90.61.1122 – to Electricity – Line Item 10.90.61.1121 – in the amount of \$1,500.00
- 6) From Contingency – Line Item 10.90.83.1070 – in the amount of \$11,400.00 to Wages-Drivers – Line Item 10.90.77.1041 – in the amount of \$10,300.00 and to Gas/Maintenance – Line Item 10.90.77.1470 – in the amount of \$1,100.00
- 7) From Mileage – Line Item 10.90.55.1020 – to Dept. Supplies – Line Item 10.90.55.1550 – in the amount of \$800.00
- 8) From Contingency – Line Item 10.90.83.1070 – to Audit Line – Line Item 10.90.19.1380 – in the amount of \$3,000.00
- 9) From Fire Marshal-Computer Support – Line Item 10.90.45.1526 – in the amount of \$805.00 and from Planning & Zoning Expense – Line Item 10.90.25.1220 – in the amount of \$510.00 to Town Hall-Education – Line Item 10.90.03.1495
- 10) From Contingency – Line Item 10.90.83.1170 to First Selectman's Expense – Line Item 10.90.01.1220 – in the amount of \$500.00

11) From Contingency – Line Item 10.90.83.1170 – to Office Supplies – Line Item 10.90.03.1090 – in the amount of \$1300.00

12) From Nitrogen Credits – Line Item 10.90.67.1776 – to DEP Discharge – Line Item 10.90.67.1175 – in the amount of \$4,000.00

Betkoski/Krenesky; *discussion was by M. Krenesky in regards to the electricity expense being so high and T. Broesler will have E. Schwartz look into this. M. Krenesky also noted with the chairs in the conference room, should the Selectmen also consider other upgrades in Town Hall; all ayes.*

20. Comments from the Public

Sue Dowdell, Library Director, indicated that the intern from Southern that was helping out in the Library noted that the floor in the hallway upstairs is cracked, and tiles are apart. She noted that in regards to Wolfe Avenue, the Library Board of Trustees did a 5-year plan and she is not sure what their recommendation would be.

S. Dowdell also noted that Rich Minnick was not appointed to Hearing Officer back under Appointments. She questioned about the selling of the property that was removed from the evictions/foreclosures and placed into storage after the 60 days.

S. Dowdell also indicated that this year is the Friends of the Library's 25th year and will be having an Open House on April 16th and will be sending an email to request C. Bielik in doing a proclamation.

Greg Campbell, 29 Terese Road, indicated that he believes he is in the right place. G. Campbell indicated that he would like the document that stipulates that he needs to pay his neighbor and that the neighbor gets to set the price. G. Campbell does not feel that he wants to attend the WPCA meeting based on previous conversations that he has had with several members of the Commission.

C. Bielik asked three times and there were no further comments from the public at this time.

21. Executive Session

The Board of Selectmen did not enter into Executive Session at tonight's 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 9:40 P.M.:

Betkoski/Krenesky. The motion was made and seconded but not voted on at this time.

G. Campbell requested the documents from the Selectmen and indicated that he will not be attending the WPCA meeting next week.

C. Bielik indicated that the Selectmen need to revisit the Agenda Item 18 – Appointments – in order to appoint Rich Minnick as Hearing Officer.

M. Krenesky called for a Point of Order. A motion was on the floor to adjourn and another motion cannot be put on the floor. P. Betkoski withdrew his motion to adjourn.

23. Appointments

Motion to appoint Rich Minnick to the position of Hearing Officer:

Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

24. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn tonight's Board of Selectmen meeting at 9:44 P.M.:

Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Board of Selectmen