

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
November 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: Kevin McDuffie, Chairman of Planning & Zoning; Joe Rodorigo, Chairman of the Board of Finance; Sue Dowdell, Library Director; Dave Prickett; Walter Opuszynski, Wastewater Treatment Plant; Chief Jim Trzaski, Asst. Chief Brian DeGeorge, and Ambulance Coordinator Kenny George, Beacon Hose Co. 1; Luke Marshall, Citizens News; and 3 members of the public.

2. Comments from the Public

Kevin McDuffie, Hayley Ridge, indicated that he attended the special Board of Finance meeting about a week ago. He noted that the disrespect given to the First Selectman and the use of the "f" word was wrong. K. McDuffie also noted that he will not participate at another Board of Finance meeting again. K. McDuffie indicated that he had tried to explain the situation with the solar panel project, and update the Board of Finance on the discussions with Jim Galligan and Dave Prickett. K. McDuffie also noted that the letter that was emailed to the members of Planning & Zoning from the Board of Finance should not have been done. K. McDuffie stated that the Board of Finance should not interfere with P & Z issues and taint any type of vote coming up. K. McDuffie indicated that he spoke to the town attorney and it was wrong since P & Z has not discussed everything. K. McDuffie asked the Selectmen to address this issue with the Board of Finance.

C. Bielik mentioned that comments need to be kept to no more than three minutes.

Doug Bousquet, Cedar Circle, indicated that he read the minutes from the special meeting and noted that the Chairman of the Board be censored, removed, or asked to step down from being the Chairman for using such language as was used during the special meeting.

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

C. Bielik indicated that he would entertain a motion to rearrange the agenda to accommodate the people in attendance for tonight's meeting.

Motion to change Agenda Item 16a – Wastewater Treatment Plant Study - Discussion to new Agenda Item 3, and then and move the other agenda items up one letter: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

3. Wastewater Treatment Plant Study - Discussion

Dave Prickett and Walter Opuszynski gave a quick update in regards to the wastewater treatment plant study. D. Prickett indicated that they have been looking on a regional alternative, namely the Seymour plant and the costs associated with that. D. Prickett noted that he is working with Jim Galligan on this since he knows the people in Seymour better than he does. With Seymour, a pipe and pump station would need to be constructed going to their system. An upgrade to Seymour's pipe and pump station would also need to be constructed to accommodate Beacon Falls' flow. D. Prickett noted that draft costs will be available at the next monthly meeting.

After a brief discussion, W. Opuszynski noted that there is an issue with pH values and the phosphorous may not be adequate and may not meet the criteria of the State of CT. Problems will have to be fixed so the town is not in violation with the State requirements.

4. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

The three members reviewed the six sets of meeting minutes from the meetings held in October 2016 – the regular monthly meeting held on 10/03/2016; the special meeting held on 10/11/2016; the two separate special meetings held on 10/18/2016; the special meeting held on 10/12/2016; and the special meeting held on 10/26/2016.

Motion to accept the six sets of minutes from the meetings held in October 2016: **Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

5. Resident Trooper/Police Report

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

6. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report

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

M. Krenesky asked about the spare pump and the special building that was purchased but not constructed. C. Bielik indicated that the costs to construct the special building was not approved in this round of Capital Projects and will be presented during the next round of discussion.

7. Report of Public Works

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

8. Report of the Fire Marshal

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

9. Report of the Finance Manager

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

10. Report of the Tax Collector

Motions to accept the monthly report 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.

M. Krenesky indicated that the Selectmen should request a Back-Tax Report from the Tax Collector after the January tax collections.

11. Report of the Town Treasurer

Motions to accept the monthly report as submitted by the Town Treasurer 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 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: Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

13. Report of the Library

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

Sue. Dowdell noted that there are approximately 30 young children that are involved in the Youth Theater in connection with Parks & Rec. M. Krenesky indicated that he had a question on the funding for the strategic plan after reading the minutes from the Library Board. S. Dowdell noted that the strategic plan is for the Library's goals over the next five years.

M. Krenesky asked questioned the ability of closing town hall due to inclement weather and emergencies. C. Bielik indicated that he needs to do a follow up on this item before the first snowfall.

14. Report of the Fire Department

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

15. Any Other Reports

a. Report of the Custodian

Motion to accept the September and October reports as submitted by the Custodian for tonight's meeting: Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

b. Report of the Town Nurse

There was no report submitted by the Town Nurse for tonight's meeting. The next quarterly report is not due until 12/31/2016.

c. Report of the Animal Control Officer

There was no report submitted by the Animal Control Officer for tonight's meeting. The next report to be submitted is for 11/30/2016.

16. Correspondence

1. A list of tax rebates to be refunded was submitted by the Tax Collector. The total of names is 8 and the amount totals \$2,350.20, and it is as follows:

William Dellinger in the amount of \$126.14

Hyundai Lease Titling Trust in the amount of \$190.72

Karen Jennings in the amount of \$5.31

Douglas E. Melville in the amount of \$38.78

Toyota Motor Credit Corporation in the amount of \$736.00

USB Leasing LT in the amount of \$392.00

Honda Lease Trust in the amount of \$804.48

Charles M. Larowe in the amount of \$56.77

Motion to approve and pay the tax rebate refunds to the individual and/or organizations as listed previously, and as submitted for tonight's meeting by the Tax Collector for a total of \$2,350.20: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

2. C. Bielik indicated that there were a string of emails from an Eversource representative in regards to the possible upgrade of the street lights at no cost to the town to LED. After a brief discussion, C. Bielik indicated that he would entertain a motion to add this item for discussion under tonight's agenda item 18 – New Business.

Motion to add under Agenda Item 18, d – LED Street Light Conversion – Discussion & Possible Action: **Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

3. C. Bielik indicated that he has received several letters/emails from various people noting their interest in serving vacancies on the Boards/Commissions.

Pat Hinman, Cal Brennan, and Robert Villano have expressed their interest in the vacancies on Planning & Zoning. Denzel Smith has expressed interest in the vacancy on the Library Board of Trustees. C. Bielik forwarded D. Smith's letter of interest to Chairman Eric Dey and E. Dey endorses D. Smith for the vacant position.

4. A notification was received last week indicating that the \$5,000 check from the Bright Ideas Grant. This was a program under the Clean Energy at Eversource where LED lights were installed in some of the municipal buildings.
5. There were two invoices from the Board's clerk that were submitted for payment – one dated 10/03/2016 in the amount of \$68.75 and one dated 10/26/2016 in the amount of \$76.25.

Motion to approve and pay the clerk for the two invoices as submitted for tonight's meeting for a total of \$145.00: Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

M. Krenesky indicated that he received a piece of Correspondence from a Prospect resident, John Blesse, thanking everyone from the Woodland Jr. Hawks for their support at the Woodland Jr. Hawks day at Woodland Regional High School.

17. Old Business

a. Highland Avenue Construction Project - Update

C. Bielik indicated that paving the road is complete and driveways still need to be completed. The driveways will begin on Wednesday and hoping to be complete by the end of the week.

M. Krenesky noted that there was a complaint from one of the residents who had cleaned the leaves from their property and then a blower was used to clean the street, blowing sand, leaves, and debris back onto the property.

b. Study Committee – Wolfe Avenue – Multi-Use Community Center – Discussion – Finalize Charge

C. Bielik distributed three printouts for review: the charge from the previous Building Committee; a copy of the Town Coventry's charge that was given to their Library Building Committee; and a reworked version for consideration from the last meeting.

M. Krenesky noted a change in Section 1 on Page 1 from "term of office...until project is complete and accepted by the town..." to "term of office...until project is complete, accepted, rejected by the legislative body of the town...". C. Bielik suggested "members shall continue until the Board is discharged by the Board of Selectmen".

M. Krenesky also noted a change to Item 4 from "the committee shall choose its officers annually..." to add "no restriction on the number of terms served...".

C. Bielik noted a change to Section 2 Sub-Section B, substituting "may" for "will".

After a brief discussion, C. Bielik indicated that he would entertain a motion to accept the Charge with the noted changes. C. Bielik also reminded the Selectmen that a fifth member is needed since one of the members has moved out of Beacon Falls.

Motion to accept the Charge with the noted changes as discussed at tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

c. Ordinance Relating to Taxes/Issuance of Permits - Discussion

C. Bielik indicated that there is no update at this time and asked to keep this on the agenda for the next monthly meeting.

d. Hop Brook Development/Plan of Conservation & Development Amendment – Discussion with Planning & Zoning Chairman & Possible Action

K. McDuffie presented a drawing for the Selectmen to review and discuss. It was noted that this is a rough proposal. The plan is to change the number of units from approximately 270 to approximately 100 units or so. Hop Brook is looking to have more open space than originally planned.

After a brief discussion, C. Bielik reminded everyone that the Board of Selectmen is on record as not endorsing the plan.

Doug Bousquet asked if the Selectmen could amend the agenda to accommodate the public since he needs to leave and would like to make a comment. The Selectmen indicated that they did not have a problem with this and C. Bielik indicated that he would entertain a motion to change Agenda Item 19 – Comments from the Public to new Agenda Item 18.

Motion to change Agenda Item 19 – Comments from the Public to new Agenda Item 18: Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

18. Comments from the Public

Doug Bousquet, Cedar Circle, indicated he was not happy with the way the Ethics Board handled the complaint and the meeting. D. Bousquet noted that no one was allowed to present the information during the meeting and Jim Tucciarone has paperwork that he presented to the Selectmen. C. Bielik indicated that he would like the papers from J. Tucciarone included in the minutes.

Sue Dowdell, Wolfe Avenue, endorsed the idea that the Selectmen are not endorsing the Hop Brook Development Plan because it would be another community in our community and not part of our entire town. S. Dowdell noted that people from Chatfield Farms indicate that they are from Chatfield Farms, not from Beacon Farms.

19. New Business

a. Beacon Hose Co. Medical Insurance Proposal – Discussion & Possible Action

After a brief discussion, the Selectmen decided to postpone taking action on this agenda item tonight in order to obtain further information and to discuss it with the Board of Finance.

b. Resolution on FFY 2016 Homeland Security Grant Program

After a brief explanation, C. Bielik read the Resolution and asked that a copy is to be submitted with tonight's meeting for the record. C. Bielik indicated that he would entertain a motion to approve the Resolution as presented.

Motion to approve the Resolution regarding the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security as presented at tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

c. IT Support Vendor – Discussion & Possible Action

There were several proposals submitted for consideration. The Selectmen reviewed and discussed the proposals. After a brief discussion, the Selectmen agreed that a needs assessment should be done in order to compare the proposals equally. The Selectmen will also like to discuss the proposals with the Board of Finance.

d. LED Street Light Conversion – Discussion & Possible Action

After a brief discussion, C. Bielik indicated that he would entertain a motion to have C. Bielik contact Eversource to authorize them to begin the conversion of the street lights to yellow LED.

Motion to have C. Bielik contact Eversource to authorize them to begin the conversion of the street lights to yellow LED: **Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

20. Appointments

a. Town Historian – Steve Ruhl – Term Expires 11/04/2016

Motion to reappoint Steve Ruhl as the Town Historian:
Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

b. Planning & Zoning – Joseph Fitzpatrick (in his 3rd and final term) – Term Expires 11/08/16 / Ed Groth – 2nd Term Expires 11/08/2016 / Robert Villano – 1st Term Expires 11/08/2016

Motion to appoint Pat Hinman to the vacancy on Planning & Zoning by Joseph Fitzpatrick: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

Motion to appoint Cal Brennan to the vacancy on Planning & Zoning by Ed Groth: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

Motion to reappoint Robert Villano to Planning & Zoning:
Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

c. Land Use/Open Space – Joseph Fitzpatrick – Term Expires 11/08/2016

The appointment to this Committee will be postpone until the Chairman speaks with his Board and finds someone interested in the vacancy.

d. Library Board of Trustees – Denzel Smith

Motion to appoint Denzel Smith to the Library Board of Trustees:
Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

21. Budget Transfer Request

C. Bielik indicated that there are three budget transfer requests to be addressed tonight.

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

1. From Contingency – Line Item 10.90.83.1170 – in the amount of \$19,648.00 to Non-Recurring – Line Item 10.90.90.2500 – in the amount of \$19,648.00.

Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

2. From Guardrails/Line Painting – Line Item 10.90.59.1714 – in the amount of \$2,800.00 to Education – Line Item 10.90.03.1495 – in the amount of \$2,800.00.

Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

3. From Contingency – Line Item 10.90.83.1170 – in the amount of \$7,462.52 to BAN Interest – Line Item 10.90.85.1985 in the amount of \$7,462.52.

Betkoski/Krenesky; discussion was by M. Krenesky asking where the numbers come from and C. Bielik indicated that the numbers were presented to the town and were underestimated; all ayes.

22. Executive Session

The Selectmen did not enter into Executive Session tonight.

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 9:42 P.M.:
Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

The next regular monthly meeting for the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, December 12, 2016, starting at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall Assembly Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

DRAFT

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION OF THE

Board of Selectmen, Town of Beacon Falls, CT

CERTIFICATION:

I, Leonard C. Greene Sr., the Town Clerk of Beacon Falls, CT, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by The Board of Selectmen at its duly called and held meeting on November 14, 2016, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Christopher J. Bielik, as First Selectman of The Town of Beacon Falls, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Beacon Falls and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

The undersigned further certifies that Christopher J. Bielik now holds the office of First Selectman and that he/she has held that office since November 16, 2015.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has executed this certificate this day of
November 2016.

Leonard C. Greene Sr., Town Clerk

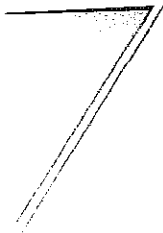
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(or "L.S." if
no seal)

Board Of Selectmen Meeting

11/14/16

Complaint against Joe Rodrigo

- About 3 months ago (May-June) I observed Joe Rodrigo (**Chairman of Finance Board**) going through my filing cabinets searching Building Inspection reports. **Rodrigo had the Camio Product Inspection file in his hand.** I asked what he was doing and he stated that Camio wanted to expand their foot print and he was looking to make a deal with the owner of the adjacent lot for Camio.
- A month later Rodrigo was observed once again by Kevin McDuffy (**Chairman of the Zoning Board**) going through my filing cabinets searching Building Inspection reports. When asked by Kevin McDuffy “ why are you going through the Inspection File”, Rodrigo did not answer. **Kevin is here to confirm that he saw Rodrigo going through my files.**
- In July, Rodrigo decides to move the Finance Department into my office space and move me out to a smaller room. I put up a fight to keep my office. Finance decides to move back into their original office which was remodel.
- In August 2016, Rodrigo is upset with me and tells Chris get an evaluation/report from the Zoning Board asking if I’m doing my job as a Zoning Enforcement Officer.

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- On August 18, 2016. (Zoning Board meeting) my job performance was discuss during executive session. Kevin McDuffy (**Chairman of the Zoning Board**) writes a letter to Chris Bielik and tells him that the **Zoning Officer is doing a great job.**
 - Also on August 18, 2016, during this Zoning Board Meeting, Dough Bousquet (Resident) who had previously receive information from Kevin McDuffy about observing Rodrigo going through Building Inspector files, makes a complaint at the meeting about Rodrigo being unethical and going through the Building Inspector's file cabinets and viewing inspection reports. Everyone on the Zoning Board agreed that Rodrigo has no right to go through the Building inspectors files.
 - August 25, 2016, Dough Bousquet (Resident) files an **Ethic Complaint** against Joe Rodrigo. **When Rodrigo finds out about the Ethics complaint he immediately calls Kevin McDuffy and tells him that he is going to fire the Building Inspector.** Rodrigo believes that the Building Inspector is involved in the Ethics complaint. **Kevin can testify to this conversation.**
 - August 26, 2016, **Rodrigo opens up** an Investigation on the Building Inspector and begins to review my time sheets for the past year. **Not sure what authority Rodrigo has to look through my pay sheets**
 - On August 30, 2016, I was then called into office by Chris Bielik and told that I am being placed on administrative leave.
 - Rodrigo was trying to get me fired because I knew about his unethical behavior of him going through my inspection for his realestate business.

Conclusion: Rodrigo was going through my Inspection reports for his **personal gain.** He was trying to set up a real-estate deal with Camio Products.