

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
December 12, 2016
REVISED 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: Sue Dowdell, Library Director; Tom Pratt and Brian Ploss, Board of Finance; Chief Jim Trzaski and Ambulance Coordinator Kenny George, Beacon Hose Co. 1; Jeremy Rodorigo; Mary Ellen Fernandes; Luke Marshall, Citizens News; and 7 members of the public.

2. Comments from the Public

Sam & Katie Dalton, Highland Avenue, was present to inform the Selectmen of the conditions of his driveway and walkway after the construction on Highland Avenue. He noted that the walkway is not finished, the curb is blocking the walkway, as well as a ditch in front of the walkway. S. Dalton is concerned for the safety of everyone. S. Dalton also noted that the slope is too steep and one of their vehicles bottoms out when exiting their driveway. C. Bielik indicated that there is an update on the construction project later in the agenda and will address this at that time.

Ken & Dawn Dokla, Timber Ridge, was present to question the Selectmen on the road ownership of Timber Ridge – when will the developer turn the road over to the town. C. Bielik indicated that the developer has not approached the town on this to date. K. Dokla also inquired on the pump at the end of Oakwood, noting that the water pressure on his road dribbles. K. Dokla asked for the town to get involved since Aquarion indicates that it's the developer and the developers indicate that it's Aquarion. C. Bielik indicated that the situation is outside the control and the responsibility of the town – it's the developer and the utility company.

K. Dokla questioned TV and cable line being pulled into the road so the homeowners could tie into those since they are not getting any answers from the owners/developer. C. Bielik indicated that they should attend the next Planning & Zoning meeting.

K. Dokla noted that there are no fire tanks and no fire hydrants on the road. C. Bielik indicated that they should attend the next P & Z meeting. S. Orłowski, Timber Ridge, indicated that he is also having the same problems on his property.

Dino Verrelli, Project Purple, was present to inquire on his request to have a crosswalk installed from the post office to the plaza where his business is located. A letter was sent back in May/June 2016 to the Selectmen requesting the crosswalk. His business uses the post office quite often and had spoken to Eddie Rodrigues to have this put on an agenda. C. Bielik indicated that this request was discussed at a Selectmen meeting and apologized that he was not contacted in regards to the decision. C. Bielik noted that if a crosswalk was installed where D. Verrelli suggested, there would be no parking on the street for the post office patrons. The sight lines would be compromised as well and there would be a significant impact. C. Bielik noted that they will do some research and will notice him when a meeting is scheduled regarding this.

D. Verrelli questioned the lack of 24-hour police coverage in the town. He noted his decision to have his business in this town and had the alarm in his office go off on 09/02/2016. The response time was approximately 39 minutes for the police to arrive at the office. D. Verrelli noted that the state trooper was in Shelton on Rt. 8. C. Bielik indicated that he could have this topic added to the January agenda and that there is a complex answer to this topic.

Jim Trzaski, Burton Road, wanted to thank Stacey Tiano for her good job in walking around town and picking up garbage. J. Trzaski noted that she walks all over town and picks up trash, and she wants nothing for this.

Mary Ellen Fernandes, South Circle, was present to discuss the traffic circle that was taken out on South Circle. She noted that two of the issues that were factors to having the traffic circle taken out was plowing and a town liability since the engineer's plan removed the traffic circle. ME Fernandes indicated that she was upset to see a traffic circle installed at Highland Avenue and Burton Road. There was never one there previously and now there is one; and why is that one not a liability. ME Fernandes would like the stop sign at South Circle revisited since no one is adhering to the new stop sign and asked if the residents were notified of this new stop sign. C. Bielik indicated that he will look into this.

Brian Ploss, Skokorat Road, noted the issue of the drains on Burton Road, with having drains on one side and not on the other side. B. Ploss indicated that the rain is causing drainage problems. P. Betkoski indicated that this was addressed.

B. Ploss noted that there is should be some help for people with disabilities with tax breaks. B. Ploss noted that there are not retroactive and there should be something for people filing for disabilities. After a brief discussion, C. Bielik indicated that there are state statutes that must be adhere to and would have to be changed at a higher level than the town for the town do to something.

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 17b – Naugatuck River Greenway/Streetscape Extension - Discussion to new Agenda Item 3, and then and move the other agenda item up one letter: **Betkoski/Krenesky;no discussion;all ayes.**

3. Naugatuck River Greenway/Streetscape Extension - Discussion

Aaron Budris, Naugatuck Valley COG, was present to discuss the Naugatuck River Greenway/Streetscape Extension. A. Budris noted that Beacon Falls submitted paperwork to have work done on the streetscape – extending the Greenway to Riverbend Park. Drawings were presented and reviewed by the Selectmen.

After a brief discussion, A. Budris indicated that the program is 80/20 and the cost is approximately \$3,000,000. Since Beacon Falls is a small urban area, the town would have to split the money with the Danbury area. The town of Beacon Falls would be responsibility for approximately \$620,000. A. Budris noted that the grant is very competitive. M. Krenesky mentioned the Capital Projects that the town is considering and should prioritize these projects.

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 17a – Streetscape Lighting – Rick Cherhoniak to new Agenda Item 4: **Betkoski/Krenesky;no discussion;all ayes.**

4. Streetscape Lighting – Rick Cherhoniak

Rick Cherhoniak was present to discuss the LED lighting that was authorized at last month's Board of Selectmen meeting. R. Cherhoniak discussed the difference of the two options of lighting and suggested going to the 4,000K, which is more of a down light.

After a brief discussion, C. Bielik indicated that he will entertain a motion to execute the waiver that is necessary for the installation of the 4,000K LED lights.

Motion to execute the waiver that is necessary for the installation of the 4,000K LED lights from North Main Street at Church Street down to South Main Street at Rt. 42: Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

5. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

The three members reviewed the two minutes from the meetings held in November 2016 – the regular monthly meeting held on 11/14/2016 and the special meeting held on 11/14/2016.

Motion to accept the two minutes from the meetings held in November 2016: Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

6. Resident Trooper/Police Report

C. Bielik noted that the report was prepared by Humberto Henriques, not Wayne Petralito, as noted on the report.

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

7. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report

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

8. Report of Public Works

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

9. Report of the Fire Marshal

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

Chief Trzaski updated the Selectmen on Pioneer Gas and noted that the Fire Dept. is happy with all the safety features that have been installed at the facility.

10. 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: **Krenesky/Betkoski; no further discussion; all ayes.**

11. 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: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

12. 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.**

13. 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.**

14. 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.**

S. Dowdell noted that a service call has been placed for the crackling noise coming from the speaker in the ceiling of the Assembly Room. S. Dowdell indicated that she will be proposing a liaison for the Community Media Building Committee to the Friends of the Beacon Falls Library at the next board meeting.

15. 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.**

Chief Trzaski noted that the utility truck is up and running. Chief Trzaski also noted the tremendous job done at the structure fire on Pines Bridge Road. Chief Trzaski would like to recommend the employee benefits for the administrative assistant and would like to discuss this with the Selectmen. C. Bielik indicated that he would entertain a motion to add this discussion to the agenda as Agenda Item 18d. Discussion of Benefits for Beacon Hose Co. 1 Administrative Assistant.

Motion to add Agenda Item 18d. Discussion of Benefits for the Beacon Hose Co. 1 full time Administrative Assistant: **Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

16. Any Other Reports

a. Report of the Custodian

Motion 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. The next quarterly report is not due until 12/31/2016.

c. Report of the Animal Control Officer

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

17. Correspondence

1. There were two invoices from the Board's clerk that were submitted for payment – one dated 11/14/2016 in the amount of \$91.25 and one dated 11/14/2016 in the amount of \$46.25.

Motion to approve and pay the clerk for the two invoices as submitted for tonight's meeting for a total of \$137.50: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

2. There were several emails over the past couple of weeks regarding the drought conditions in the state. The Governor announced that the state was under a drought advisory and a Drought Coordinator needs to be appointed. Tanya Gutierro indicated that she would be willing to fill that position.

3. An email from Mary Ellen Fernandes was received indicating that she was interested in filling the position of Alternate on the Community Media Building Committee.
4. C. Bielik had several conversations with Arlene Brumer regarding her interest in filling the position of Member on the Community Media Building Committee.
5. There was an email from the clerk of the EDC expressing the EDC's thanks to the Board of Selectmen for keeping on top of the blight conditions at 27 Railroad Avenue.
6. There was a long string of emails over the past week from Brian Ploss in regards to establishments being made aware that service dogs are allowed by federal laws into eating and food-handling establishments. B. Ploss supplied a list of questions and answers from the ADA regarding service animals. The list was shared with the Police Force and will be posted on the town's website. C. Bielik indicated that he will provide a copy for the clerk to have attached to the minutes from the tonight's meeting. C. Bielik will be training town hall employees on the laws of service animals.

18. Old Business

a. Wastewater Treatment Plant Study – Costs - Discussion

C. Bielik indicated that he will be having a follow-up meeting with Dave Prickett sometime after the first of the new year.

b. Highland Avenue Construction Project - Update

C. Bielik indicated that he spoke with the Town Engineer in regards to the concerns that the residents have. C. Bielik noted that part of the hold-up is due to the concrete vendor and the vendor wants to visit the site once to address everything at that time. In regards to the telephone poles, Eversource needs to relocate the two poles and have tried twice.

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. Discussion of Benefits for the Beacon Hose Co. 1 full time Administrative Assistant

Chief Trzaski noted that he disagrees with holding this discussion during the public session of the meeting and not under Executive Session.

Chief Trzaski indicated that a letter was generated and the Board of Selectmen discussed the possibility of providing benefits to the full-time position. After a brief discussion, C. Bielik indicated that they will discuss this topic with the Board of Finance to let them know what the Selectmen are thinking.

After further discussion, C. Bielik indicated that he would entertain a motion to move forward and adopt the Beacon Hose Co. 1 Administrative Assistant Health Insurance Proposal as presented.

Motion to move forward and adopt the Beacon Hose Co. 1 Administrative Assistant Health Insurance Proposal as presented:

Betkoski/Krenesky; *discussion was by M. Krenesky asking that the motion being made tonight is being adding to the contract and C. Bielik responded yes; all ayes.*

C. Bielik indicated that he will entertain a motion to add under Old Business, Agenda Item 18e – Community Media Building Committee Update.

Motion to add under Old Business, Agenda Item 18e Community Media Building Committee Update: **Betkoski/Krenesky**; *no discussion; all ayes.*

e. Community Media Building Committee Update

M. Krenesky indicated that Building Committee held a meeting last week and went over their mission. M. Krenesky also indicated that a site visit was done and a schedule of the 2017 meetings was done. At the next meeting, a Chairman will be appointed for the committee.

19. New Business

a. Small Cities Loan Program – Discussion and Possible Action

C. Bielik indicated that 13 families have benefited from the Small Cities Loan Program and is making a positive difference in town for families in need. C. Bielik also indicated that there are 13 more individuals that have already submitted an application and ready for when funding is available or an application under review.

C. Bielik asked if the Selectmen are will be to pursue this program again for the town. After a brief discussion, a motion was made to pursue the program again.

Motion to contact the Small Cities Loan Program to express the town's interest in the program again: **Betkoski/Krenesky;no discussion;all ayes.**

20. Appointments

a. **Community Media Center Building Committee – Member – Arlene Brumer**

Motion to appoint Arlene Brumer as a member to the Community Media Center Building Committee: **Betkoski/Krenesky;no discussion;all ayes.**

b. **Community Media Center Building Committee – Alternate – Mary Ellen Fernandes**

Motion to appoint Mary Ellen Fernandes as an Alternate to the Community Media Center Building Committee: **Betkoski/Krenesky;no discussion;all ayes.**

c. **Land Use/Open Space – Joseph Fitzpatrick – Term Expired 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. **Inland Wetlands – to Replace Jamie Lillis – Term Expires 11/07/2017**

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

e. **Town Drought Coordinator – Tanya Gutierro**

Motion to appoint Tanya Gutierro as the Town Drought Coordinator: **Krenesky/Betkoski;no discussion;all ayes.**

21. Budget Transfer Request

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

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

1. From Line Item 10.90.90.2500 in the amount of \$3,000.00 to Line Item 10.90.15.1280 – in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion;all ayes.

2. From Line Item 10.90.90.25 in the amount of \$11,288.00 Line Item 10.90.03.1140 – in the amount of \$11,288.00.

Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion;all ayes.

22. Public Comment

Sue Dowdell, Wolfe Avenue, asked the Selectmen for an update on the Assembly Room renovations and C. Bielik indicated that he will get back to her. S. Dowdell noted that EDC is concerned with the area on Main Street from Rt. 42 down to Riverbend Park and would like to see more being done especially with parking. S. Dowdell also noted that a gentleman that viewed the Lewis House on Wolfe Avenue and indicated that there is asbestos in the building. M. Krenesky noted that a concern was raised about asbestos in the building and that no one should be entering the building. It was noted that the fire department uses the building for training. C. Bielik indicated that a report has not been received regarding asbestos and will get with the Fire Marshall to see if they could make a recommendation in getting testing done.

Mary Ellen Fernandes, South Circle, asked if leaves could still be brought to Public Works and C. Bielik indicated that he will get back with that information.

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

23. Executive Session

The Selectmen did not enter into Executive Session tonight.

24. 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 9:43 P.M.:
Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

The next regular monthly meeting for the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2017, starting at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall Assembly Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

DRAFT