

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
January 09, 2017
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag

First Selectman Chris Bielik called the meeting to order at 7:39 P.M.

Members Present: First Selectman Chris Bielik, Selectman Peter Betkoski, and Selectman Mike Krenesky

Others present: Sue Dowdell, Library Director; Captain Howard Leeper, Beacon Hose Co. 1; Joe and Wendy Rodorigo; Luke Marshall, Citizens News; and 12 members of the public.

2. Comments from the Public

Jason Palmieri, JP Construction, and Kevin & Dawn Dokla, Lot 23 Timber Ridge Lane, were present at tonight's meeting to ask some questions on the status of getting a CO for the Dokla's new home. J. Palmieri indicated that the Dokla's are living at the Mill in Beacon Falls and their lease runs out on January 24th. Their house has been complete for a while now, but a CO will not be issued by the town. J. Palmieri had the house reinspected by Jim Baldwin today and received a final inspection ticket that indicates the house is ready to have the CO issued. J. Palmieri indicated that it is his understanding that the CO will not be issued due to the water tanks/holding tanks for the fire hydrants is not in place. J. Palmieri noted that he has money being held at the bank since the Dokla's cannot close on this property and he has 30-days to file a mechanics lien, which is this Friday. J. Palmieri also noted that he is friends with the Dokla's and does not want to file a mechanics lien against them but will have to in order to protect his business. J. Palmieri wants to know what the town can do to help the Dokla's with dealing with the developer, who is responsible for installing the holding tanks.

C. Bielik noted that Public Comment is not an interactive portion and would like to entertain a motion to add this topic to tonight's agenda under Old Business.

Motion to add Lot #23, Timber Ridge Lane – Discussion, under Agenda Item 16 – Old Business, as 16e: **Krenesky/Betkoski**;no discussion;all ayes.

C. Bielik also noted that an agenda item was left off and would entertain a motion to add IT Vendor Support under Old Business.

Motion to add IT Vendor Support – Discussion& Possible Action, under Agenda Item 16, Old Business, as 16d: **Betkoski/Krenesky**;no discussion;all ayes.

Dino Verrelli, 33 Kalea's Way, is the founder of Project Purple and wanted some information that pertains to the resignation of Jim Tucciarone and his office space located at 94 North Main Street. D. Verrelli indicated there was a meeting at his office on 04/27/2016 pertaining to the legality of his occupying the space at 94 North Main Street. The landlord is Mario Trepca and was in attendance of that meeting as well as C. Bielik, Fire Marshall E. Rodriguez, and J. Tucciarone. D. Verrelli was informed that the proper paperwork needed to be completed by himself and D. Verrelli was leaving on a trip that evening and could complete that paperwork when he returned. D. Verrelli returned back the first week of May and he was informed by J. Tucciarone that there was no paperwork to be completed.

D. Verrelli also commented on the issue of the crosswalk on North Main Street as was discussed at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting. D. Verrelli noted that a meeting was going to be held with the Traffic Authority. C. Bielik indicated that the meeting has not been scheduled as of yet. D. Verrelli researched the state mandate of the definition of a crosswalk and read this at the meeting. D. Verrelli noted that there is a sign where the crosswalk was located and sent a picture to attorney's in Hartford. According to their interpretation, the crosswalk is still valid. C. Bielik asked for the documentation that D. Verrelli received.

Joe Rodorigo, 42 Bonna Street, was present at tonight's meeting noting that J. Tucciarone asked to have paperwork attached to the public record and this is improper. J. Rodorigo indicated that the paperwork slandered his name and presented a letter to the Selectmen and the clerk, and asked for this letter to be attached to tonight's meeting minutes by the clerk.

J. Rodorigo also indicated that the December meeting for the Planning & Zoning Commission did not have a quorum and C. Bielik arrived at the meeting accepting the position as a member of P & Z, and acted as a member of P & Z. This was in violation of the town ordinance since an Ex Officio member is not considered a member and cannot vote on any matters unless there is a tie and then would be able to vote. A quorum must be established by the Board/Commission itself.

J. Palmieri wanted to add that House #2 and House #4 were issued a CO by J. Tucciarone. The Dokla's house is #10 and asked why their house was not issued a CO since they are on the same street as #2 and #4. C. Bielik indicated that they will discuss this under the agenda item later in the agenda.

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 move Agenda Item 17b – Blue Star Memorial Marker– Discussion& Possible Action to new Agenda Item 3: Krenesky/Betkoski;no discussion;all ayes.

3. Blue Star Memorial Marker–Discussion& Possible Action

Jay Wilson was present at tonight's meeting to discuss the placement of a Blue Star Memorial Marker on the streetscape on Main Street in Beacon Falls. The Beacon Falls Garden Club was also present. J. Wilson explained that the Blue Star Memorial Marker recognizes anyone that served in the Armed Forces and any of the Branches. It's for the veterans across the United States and would like permission by the Selectmen. A condition to the purchase of the Blue Star Memorial Marker is that a local garden club would sponsor this marker. The Laurel Garden of Beacon Falls has agreed to sponsor the marker for Beacon Falls. Y. Posick explained where the marker would be placed on the streetscape – behind the wall of the streetscape, to the right as you cross the Depot Street Bridge, being visible to both sides. J. Wilson noted that it takes 16 weeks for the marker to be made.

After a brief discussion, C. Bielik indicated that he will entertain a motion to approve the placement of the Blue Star Memorial Marker on the streetscape.

Motion to approve the placement of the Blue Star Memorial Marker as discussed by Jay Wilson: Krenesky/Betkoski;no discussion;all ayes.

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 move Agenda Item 16e – Lot #23, Timber Ridge Lane - Discussion to new Agenda Item 4: Betkoski/Krenesky;no discussion;all ayes.

4. Lot 23, Timber Ridge Lane – Discussion

C. Bielik indicated that there is a safety difference between House #2 and House #4 on Timber Ridge Lane and House #10. C. Bielik noted that he had spoken to the Fire Marshall in regards to this issue and the correct fire protection must be available for the fire department to properly protect the property and its homeowners. The two lots on the corner of Timber Ridge Lane are able to be served by the existing cistern on Oakview Drive. J. Palmieri requested copies of that documentation.

C. Bielik indicated that his understanding is that when the developer was seeking to develop the rest of Timber Ridge, it was a requirement of that developer to have an additional cistern be put in in order to serve the remainder of the houses farther up the road. After a brief discussion, C. Bielik mentioned that Planning & Zoning is a better forum for this discussion. C. Bielik indicated that the developer was looking at an alternative and was told on numerous occasions that the alternative is not viable. The developer has been told that he must follow through in putting in the additional cistern and the Fire Marshall will not sign off on CO's since there is not adequate fire safety protection for the remainder of the houses down the road.

J. Palmieri asked how the town could force the developer putting the holding tank in or if a cease & desist could be issued against the developer. J. Palmieri noted that the developer should be held accountable in this situation. K. Dokla asked how could the developer have the cistern install as the last thing in the development when it was on the plans 7 years old.

After a brief discussion, C. Bielik indicated that many of the questions being asked need to be answer by the town's Land Use Attorney Steve Byrnes. C. Bielik indicated that within the next couple of days, he will contact the Fire Marshall and gets some answers for everyone.

5. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

The Selectmen reviewed the two minutes from the meetings held in December 2016 – the regular monthly meeting held on 12/12/2016 and the special meeting held on 12/21/2016. C. Bielik noted that a correction needs to be made to the minutes from the regular Board of Selectmen's meeting. On Pg. 5, Section 14, it should indicate that the liaison would be from the Friends of the Beacon Falls Library, not from the Library Board.

Motion to accept the two minutes from the meetings held in December 2016 with the noted corrections stated above: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

6. Resident Trooper/Police 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; discussion was by C. Bielik indicating that the crane truck that was donated has some issues with passing the state inspection and there are going to be some costs involved getting the truck to pass inspection; all ayes.

8. 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.

9. Report of the Fire Marshal

Motion to accept the report as submitted by the Fire Marshal for tonight's meeting: Krenesky/Betkoski; discussion was by C. Bielik noting that there was a meeting on December 13th and a follow up on December 19th, and information was provided to JT Concrete on December 15th with specifications to the underground water tank; all ayes.

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: Betkoski/Krenesky; no 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

S. Dowdell was present and indicated that the production of "Toy School" was a success. S. Dowdell noted that the patron's laptops were in need of replacing and asked the Selectmen if her request under the Capital Plan be switched. M. Krenesky indicated that he did not see a problem with that and C. Bielik agreed.

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

15. Report of the Fire Department

C. Bielik noted that there is a problem with one of the ambulances and this will be addressed under Correspondence and Transfers. Captain Leeper submitted a budget transfer request for the ambulance repairs.

Motion to accept the report as submitted by the Fire Department for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Krenesky; 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: **Krenesky/Betkoski; discussion was by M. Krenesky indicating that more details are needed in the reports since he maintains multiple buildings; all ayes.**

b. Report of the Town Nurse

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

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.**

d. Report of the Community Media Building Committee

M. Krenesky gave an update verbally.

Motion to accept the report as submitted by the Community Media Building Committee Chairman at tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Bielik; no discussion; two ayes and one abstention by M. Krenesky.**

17. Correspondence

1. There were two invoices from the Board's clerk that were submitted for payment – one dated 12/12/2016 in the amount of \$83.75 and one dated 12/21/2016 in the amount of 35.00.

Motion to approve and pay the clerk for the two invoices as submitted for tonight's meeting for a total of \$118.75: **Betkoski/Krenesky;no discussion;all ayes.**

2. A letter from Beacon Hose Co. 1 was received requesting a budget transfer for repairs on one of the ambulances.
3. C. Bielik indicating that he is expecting a letter of resignation from Rob Villano, a member of Planning & Zoning.

C. Bielik noted that he would like a short recess in order to check his emails for the letter.

Motion to enter into recess at 9:04 PM for 2 minutes: **Betkoski/Krenesky;no discussion;all ayes.**

The Selectmen came back from recess at 9:04 PM. C. Bielik indicated that he did not receive an email from R. Villano as of yet.

4. Two letters of interest for positions on Planning & Zoning were received from Robert Starkey and from Brian Horrigan.
5. There were two requests from the clerk of the Community Media Building Committee. One of the request was for information from the Belfore Restoration Committee be forwarded to the Building Committee once it is received. The other request was for a complete accounting of bond funding in relation to the Wolfe Avenue house transaction. C. Bielik noted that a copy was given to the Finance Dept. and they are beginning the process of answering that request.

18. Old Business

a. Wastewater Treatment Plant Study – Costs - Discussion

C. Bielik indicated that a meeting was held on 01/04/2017 and the discussion was on the overall rate of costs if the town considers regionalization plant with Seymour. A follow up meeting is scheduled for 02/01/2017 and a list of numbers may be presented at the February Board of Selectmen meeting.

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

C. Bielik indicated that a legal opinion was received from Atty. Stanek. It was noted that towns operating under a Charter is different than towns operating under Ordinances, as Beacon Falls does. Atty. Stanek indicated that if the Selectmen have any questions to be contact him directly. M. Krenesky mentioned that he did not received the email today and would like some time to review the information.

c. Small Cities Loan Program - Update

C. Bielik noted that the Selectmen voted on this agenda item at the December meeting, giving their intention to proceed with this program. It was indicated that a public hearing needs to be held then the Selectmen can process. The plan is to have a public hearing prior to the Board of Selectmen's monthly meeting in February.

d. IT Vendor Support – Discussion& Possible Action

The Selectmen received and reviewed two proposals. After a brief discussion, C. Bielik indicated that he would entertain a motion to accept the proposal from MIST – Matrix Information System Technologies.

Motion to accept the proposal from MIST as the town's IT Support Vendor: Krenesky/Bielik; discussion was that while Logical has been providing excellent service, the town has outgrown their services. M. Krenesky would like to have the motion include that the proposal will be signed for a one-year contract; all ayes.

19. New Business

a. Rate for Board/Commission Clerks – Discussion and Possible Action

C. Bielik indicated that a budget line item was set up for every Board/Commission and that a policy was established by the Board of Selectmen that all clerks were to be paid a certain rate as determined by the Board of Selectmen.

After a brief discussion, C. Bielik indicated that he will entertain a motion to set the hourly rate of \$16.00 and a meeting rate of \$35.00 for all Board/Commission clerks and have this retroactive as of 01/01/2017.

Motion to set the hourly rate of paid for all the Boards/Commission clerks at \$16.00 and a meeting rate of \$35.00 retroactive as of 01/01/2017: Bielik/Krenesky; discussion was by M. Krenesky asking if the clerk budget lines would support this increase and C. Bielik indicated yes it would; all ayes.

20. Appointments

There were no appointments made at tonight's meeting.

21. Budget Transfer Request

C. Bielik indicated that there are two budget 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, Non-Recurring Projects, in the amount of \$10,000.00 to Line Item 10.90.44.1472 in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

2. From Line Item 45.90.90.2138, Fire Dept. Utility Vehicle Purchase, in the amount of \$2,368.00 to Line Item 45.90.90.2153, Ice Rescue Suits, in the amount of \$2,368.00.

Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

22. Public Comment

C. Bielik asked three times if there were any public 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 9:54 P.M.:

Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

The next regular monthly meeting for the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2017, starting at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall Assembly Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

1/9/2017

Members of the Board of Selectmen:

I am responding to the inclusion of the narrative submitted by Tucciarone in your minutes for the BOS meeting held in November 2016. It is my opinion that by accepting this narrative in your meeting and including it fully in the minutes, you have actively participated in Tucciarone's attempt to slander me. Furthermore, by remaining silent on the matter and not disclosing facts of which he is fully aware regarding the case, Mr. Bielik is himself supporting the attempted slander and making himself complicit in that activity.

Though I am under no obligation to explain myself, as the complaint has already been dismissed, I am taking this opportunity to outline the facts of the incident here, which I presume you will also include in your minutes, following the precedent you have set with Mr. Tucciarone

The incident identified in the complaint involved my need for a map of available properties in the Industrial Park, which I required to assist with a potential expansion of an existing owner at the Industrial Park, Cameo Metals. This is an opportunity I presented to First Selectman Bielik and the Economic Development Committee as a strong lead, though to the best of my knowledge they did not follow up. James Tucciarone, the building inspector at the time, provided me with the name and number of Jim Cormier, who represents Mark IV & Bargas Construction, an owner of multiple lots in the park. I can provide the document given to me by Mr. Tucciarone if you would like to see it. I made clear to Mr. Tucciarone that my interest was for the town and I had no financial interest in the project. Furthermore, Mr. Bielik, upon receiving the complaint, could have vouched for my activity to Mr. Bousquet as he was fully aware of why I was seeking the maps and that I clearly wanted to remove myself from the discussions as it was not in my role to speak on behalf of the town in this matter. I was simply trying to facilitate this discussion for the benefit of the town. For some reason, Mr. Bielik chose not to clear up this matter with Mr. Bousquet or Mr. Tucciarone and accepted the complaint.

There are additional issues with both the complaint and the actions of many parties since it was first filed.

- As the Chair of the Board of Finance I am often in the Finance Manager's office, which was temporarily located in the same space as the Building Inspector's. In all of the times I have been there, I have never seen Mr. Bousquet present. How he was able to witness the events he details in his complaint remains a mystery to me.
- The contents of the files are all public information. Any citizen has the right to view them. Subsequently there is no potential for wrongdoing by my opening any of the file cabinets.
- Mr. Bousquet and Mr. Tucciarone have failed to provide any evidence of my using Mr. Tucciarone's computer, which would require me to know his password. This would be a simple matter of reviewing the PC's log files and showing access at a time when I was in the office and Mr. Tucciarone was not. To the best of my knowledge, it is not illegal to sit in the Building Inspector's chair while having discussions with the Finance Manager, consistent with my role on the Board of Finance.
- Mr. Bousquet and Mr. Tucciarone have failed to provide any evidence of potential financial gain on my part from the engagement in question.
- It is not in the power of the Chair of the Board of Finance to combine the building Inspector's office with the Finance office. This decision was made by the First Selectman.
- It is also not in the power of the Chair of the Board of Finance to investigate the issues surrounding the Zoning Enforcement Officer position and the timecards. That decision was also initiated by the First Selectman, after I brought my concerns around the duplicate time entries to him. Timecards are public information.
- Mr. Tucciarone was hired as the ZEO by Mr. Bielik, despite the fact he had no relevant certification that I am aware of to qualify him for the position. When I asked Mr. Bielik about his reasons he told me, "I have a soft spot when it comes to Jim Tucciarone." Though it was initially meant to be a temporary position, Mr. Tucciarone remained in the role for 15 months, interrupted only by the investigation into his timecards.

- Mr. Bielik failed in his responsibilities as the chief administrator of the town by not reviewing or signing submitted timecards, performing any oversight of Mr. Tucciarone, and allowing the town to pay Mr. Tucciarone twice for the same hours filed on his time cards. This is further concerning as Mr. Tucciarone, while being paid for two roles by the town, is also performing work at the Montessori School in Bethany, which is owned by the First Selectman and his wife.
- Mr. Tucciarone indicated in his narrative that he was in contact while on leave of absence with Mr. McDuffie. He also indicated in his conversation that he was in contact with Selectman Betkoski which raises potential concerns about how his review was handled and is, at best, an inappropriate handling of the situation.
- After being reinstated by the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Tucciarone again failed to complete his timecards correctly.

I will not allow Mr. Bousquet to continue his slander campaign against me unanswered, and I will also identify all those that have enabled him to do so, including Mr. Bielik, who could have resolved the issues outright by clarifying the facts he was aware of that made it clear there was no violation on my part. By staying silent and allowing now a second false complaint to be brought forward in a highly public manner, he has now made himself complicit in Mr. Bousquet's attacks, which is not the behavior I would expect of a First Selectman.

Sincerely,

Joe Rodorigo