

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



**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Monthly Meeting
December 11, 2017
Minutes
(Subject to Revision)

1. Call to order/pledge to the Flag

First Selectman Chris Bielik called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

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

Others present: Public (4), Citizen News

2. Comments from the Public:

Ted Goodman, 68 Fieldstone lane, more of a question, why isn't there an item for reports from the grant writer and EDC?

C. Bielik indicated he will take that under advisement, and will try and adjust the agenda.

3. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

Motion to accept the minutes from the meetings held on October 02, October 05, October 30, November 20, November 21; M.krenesky/P.Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

4. Resident Trooper/Police Report

Motion to accept the resident Trooper/Police Reports, September, October and November. M.Krenesky/P.Betkoski; all discussion; all ayes.

5. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report

Motion to accept the reports as submitted by the Wastewater Treatment Plant for September, October, November. **M.Krenesky/P.Betkoski**; no discussion; **all ayes.**

6. Report of Public Works

Motion to accept the reports as submitted by the Public Works for September, October, November. **P.Betkoski/M.Krenesky**; no discussion; **all ayes.**

7. Report of the Fire Marshal

Motion to accept the reports as submitted by the Fire Marshal for September, October, November, **M.Krenesky/P.Betkoski**; C. Bielik noted: That the, SER Team, a group of volunteers who receive a level of training to assist with our first responders in an emergency situation, Bill MaCaslin has volunteered to take it over. Thank you Bill for taking over the program. **all ayes.**

8. Report of the Finance Manager

Motion to accept the reports as submitted by the Finance Manager for October, November, and a December run off ending as of November 30, 2017. **M.Krenesky/P.Betkoski**; no discussion; **all ayes.**

9. Report of the Tax Collector

Motion to accept the reports as submitted by the Tax collector, September, October, November

C. Bielik asked the Tax collector MaryAnn if she had anything to add.

MaryAnn stated that November shows the back taxes we collected from the properties auctioned off. M. Krenesky asked if anyone has come forward to pay them off. MaryAnn said no one has come forward. MaryAnn stated there is an overage on one of the properties, and the overage goes into a special interest bearing account and then the Tax collector will contact the owner and let them know about the overage. P.Betkoski asked if the people that make a deposit on an auctioned property get interest. MaryAnn stated no they do not.

C.Bielik stated that the running back tax collection total \$285,000.00 and we budgeted for \$300,000.00. **P.Betkoski/M.Krenesky**: all ayes.

10. Report of the Town Treasurer

Motion to accept the reports as submitted by the Town Treasurer, September, October, November. **M.Krenesky/P.Betkoski**; no discussion; **all ayes.**

11. Report of the Town Clerk

Motion to accept the reports as submitted by the Town clerk, September, October, November P. Betkoski/M. Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

12. Report of the Library

Motion to accept the reports as submitted by the Library Director, for October and November M.Krenesky/P.Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

13. Report of the Fire Department

Motion to accept the reports as submitted by the Fire Department for September, October, November, M.Krenesky/P.Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

14. Any other Reports

a. Report of the Custodian

Motion to accept the reports as submitted by the Custodian for September, October, November. **M.Krenesky/P.Betkoski**

C.Bielik, noted that Peter has been running a little bit of overtime. Front door malfunction, also noted while our regular mini bus driver is recovering from surgery, Kurt Novak and Peter has been driving the mini bus, to help out. And everyone has enjoyed the travels. **All ayes.**

b. Report of the Town Nurse

Motion to accept the reports as submitted by the Town Nurse for September, October, November. P.Betkoski/M.Krenesky;

C. Bielik noted that the Town Nurse attended a professional development training. **All ayes.**

c. Report of the Animal Control Officer

Motion to accept the reports as submitted by the Animal Control Officer for September, October, November. M.Krenesky/P.Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

d. Community Media Center Building Committee

M. Krenesky presented copies of the September and November meeting there was no October meeting.

M.Krenesky stated maybe getting a survey for the committee should it keep moving forward. Or should the committee be suspended until we have funds to move forward. Sue Cable suggested we start a GoFundMe page for the Media Center. M. Krenesky likes the idea, but wants to look into it. We discussed possibly another road trip, and then the holidays came upon us. Unless this Board decides to suspend the committee meeting.

C. Bielik we are not ready to make a decision on that yet, let's put it in the January 2018 agenda item for future steps to take in the interest of the town.

Motion to accept the September and November reports submitted by the Community Media Center Building Committee. P.Betkoski/M.Krenesky; no discussion; all **ayes**.

Motion to adjust agenda and make new business item number 17 D to agenda item 15. P.Betkoski/M.Krenesky; no discussion; all **ayes**.

15. Town Clerk and Tax Collector Elected Official Status - Discussion and Possible Action

C.Bielik, this goes back to the 2011 administration. Some research has been done to determine if it was the best interest of the town to remain as elected officials or to make them direct hire. At the time it was decided not to do it. And now it has come up again and some research has been done about this. The BOF looked at similar towns and to see how much each position gets paid. What we did find out any action the town will take is we will need action from the State Legislation to do that first. Because the election positions of Beacon Falls were established by a special act by the State Legislation in 1947. We need something from the Legislation to unbind us and then we can move forward. In a nonbinding way to hold a public meeting in order to give our Legislature a sense of show if the town wants to do it or not. If the town is behind it they could introduce it and push it through.

M.Krenesky thinks its 1949 not 1947. I support the whole idea to make them full time positions. I have no issues with us doing that and moving forward.

P.Betkoski, do we need to bring it to a town vote?

C. Bielik, Yes we need a town meeting to move it forward and make sure the town agrees with it all.

C. Bielik: Possible schedule meeting and vote in one day before Legislation goes into session. Let's target Wednesday January 3, 2018.

C. Bielik: MaryAnn any questions on what you feel about this:

MaryAnn: When I first became the Tax Collector everyone said it's easy it's only a couple of hours a day. But since I've been doing this I realized for the Town of Beacon Falls, they need to have a full time Tax Collector, and every time someone gets elected there is a learning curve, it's just more responsibility, it would benefit the town to have someone here full time.

C. Bielik: Mark your calendars for January 3, 2018.

P. Betkowski: Does it also say anything about the First Selectman being full time.

C. Bielik: I haven't been able to find anything in the State Statues about that.

Discussion continued.

Motion to move Agenda Item 17 B, 3 to Agenda Item 16, M.Krenesky/P.Betkoski; no discussion; All Ayes.

16. Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission - Shawn Styfco

C. Bielik has a piece of correspondence for this agenda, on November 15, 2017 I received a letter from Doug Bousquet stating if there is any vacancy seat for the Inland Wetland boards he would like to serve on that board. And we do have a vacancy on the inland Wetland Board. Mr. Styfco extension expired the end of November and we need a replacement for that.

M. Krenesky I would like to make a motion to reappoint Shawn Styfco for that position he said he wanted it still.

Peter Betkoski: I would like to abstain from this vote, for personal reasons.

C. Bielik, we have a motion and we don't have a 2nd.

C. Bielik: Therefore considering we do have a vacancy, is there a motion for the current vacancy. P. Betkoski makes a motion to put Doug Bousquet in the vacancy. M. Krenesky 2nd it, no discussion; **all ayes.**

17. Reading of Correspondence

C. Bielik; WPCA have some invoices for the Board of Selectmen to consider, WPCA normally approves them, however there are two invoices for work that was performed and or a purchase by the sitting members of the board, So they would like the Board of Selectmen to approve the invoices, September 19, 2017 \$1,785.00 work performed by EJ Smith Co on August 31, 2017 details are on the invoice. Do I have a motion to pay it?

P. Betkoski/Krenesky ; no discussion; all ayes

C. Bielik: Purchase from the Komar construction a sander, excess equipment which will be deducted from a previous invoice \$625.00 credit.

Discussion: sander equipment, Komar construction wants to buy the sander \$625.00.

We are just approving the Credit for \$625.00 right now. To sell the extra equipment for \$625.00. **P. Betkoski/M. Krenesky; no discussion: all ayes.**

C. Bielik: I have a letter dated December 4, 2017 Carl Gandarillas, as an alternate on the zoning board of appeals, his resignation, I will take a motion to accept is resignation.

M Krenesky/P. Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

November 29th, 2017: Jim Huk, presenting his resignation for the BOE. He received an offer for a promotion from his regular job and won't let him be able to fulfill his duties. Motion to accept with great regret from BOF and BOE. **P.Betkoski/M.Krenesky;** M. Krenesky this is an election position, we have no authorization to approve this, and I believe this needs to go through the town clerk and Secretary of State.
C. Bielik, Yes he has given the Town Clerk a letter. **All ayes.**

December 3, 2017 C. Bielik was cc on a letter from Rich Minnick, on Liberty Screen Printing Co., would like to thank for the two banners you donated for Toby's Ponds. Thank you for being a good business.

C. Bielik received a letter dated November 30' 2017 from, Martha Melville, resignation as a part time substitute library assistant. Martha Melville has been filling in as the office administrator and was offered and she has accepted this full time position in this job. Motion to accept Martha Melville resignation.
P.Betkoski/M.Krenesky; no discussion; **all ayes.**

18. Old Business

a. Town Ordinance Relating to Heavy Truck Traffic and Processing of Materials – Update

C. Bielik, BOF, P & Z were involved and lots of research, bottom line on O&G, there is a court judgment and it allows them to continue to operate as they have been. The agreement does not allow us to collect taxes on the process material.

K. McDuffie, 2028 end of that and ask for an extension, but if they sell the property the new owners can work the property for a short period of time and then it ends.

b. Proposed Changes to Permit Fee Charges - Update

Bielik, ask for an update from Jim Baldwin, and they are moving forward with it but we don't have an update as of now. We will keep it on the agenda for January 2018 meeting.

19. New Business

a. Appointments

1. Land Use/Open Space - Joseph Fitzpatrick - Term Expired 11/08/16

No one yet.

2. Northwest Regional Mental Health Rep to replace Joyce Krenesky

3. No one yet. Anyone that has prior experience in that the BOS would find useful to fill that positions.

4. Board of Finance to replace Jim Huk

Bielik, we have had three individuals express interest, Michael Opuszynski, Land & Use Chairman, Brian Horgan, Zoning Board of Appeals, and James Carroll.

Do we have a recommendation from the Board? P. Betkoski would like to nominate James Carroll. M. Krenesky would like to 2nd it. No discussion; **all ayes.**

James Carroll, Thank you very much, I have been a Chief Financial officer, and I have done this in other larger towns.

M.Krenesky motions to break for recess to swear Mr. James Carroll in as a new member for the Board of Finance. **P.Betkoski 2nd** it. No discussion; **all ayes.**

5. ZBA - Alternate to replace Carl Granadillas

Bielik, No one yet, Keep on for next month's agenda.

b. Reappointments

1. **Ethics Board - Edmund Grace and Peter Christensen as member to replace James O'Dell**

Bielik, Edmund Grace Term has expired, need a motion to reappoint him for two more years. **P.Betkoski/M.Krenesky**; no discussion; **all ayes.**

Bielik, James O'Dell has expired, he has done three consecutive and he can't be reappointed again. Peter Christensen serves as an alternate member on that board. **M.Krenesky** motions to appoint Peter Christensen as a permanent member of the board. **P.Betkoski 2nd** it; no discussion; **all ayes.**

2. **Homeland Security - Lt. Eddie Rodriguez, Director, Brian DeGeorge, Jeremy Rodorigo**
Bielik, they usually don't change. Motion to reappoint Lt. Eddie Rodriguez, Brian DeGeorge, Jeremy Rodorigo. P.Betkoski/M.Krenesky; no discussion; **all ayes.**

3. **Water Pollution Control Authority - David Finn & Rich Komar**

C. Bielik, Water pollution control authority David Finn and Rich Komar: WPCA, Rich Komar does want to be reappointed. Motion to reappoint Rich Komar, **P. Betkoski/M.Krenesky**; no discussion; **all ayes.**

Bielik. WPCA, David Finn is ready to take a break. Brian Swan and Walter Opuszynski have both expressed an interest in filling this position. The Chairman has reconfirmed that Brian Swan has been waiting for a position for a long time. Motion to appoint Brian Swan to the WPCA, **P.Betkoski/M.Krenesky**; no discussion; **all ayes.**

c. **Set Date for Town Meeting to Fund Capital Projects from Unassigned Fund Balance**

Bielik, we had a town meeting where there \$125,000.00, 4 capital project that were voted down that night. Part of the feedback we received the people were reluctant to spend even though they high property projects due to the State not having a budget. Now the State has a budget, we would like to move it forward address these. C.Bielik lets combine those two things January 3, 2018 voting.

M.Krenesky/P.Betkoski agree to combine the two in the January 3, 2018 voting.

d. 2017 Homeland Security Grant Program Memorandum of Agreement Resolution – Discussion and action.

Bielik, the Town of Beacon Falls, is in the Region Emergency and Planning Team 5, the district we are in is District 5. And every year in order for the region to pursue federal grants money, the town needs to vote for the grant money, and if we don't do it we don't receive the funds.

Bielik is reading:

The proposal will be that the Board of Selectmen will approve this resolution, resolve that the Town of Beacon Falls may enter into with and deliver to the State of Ct Department of emergency services and public protection, the vision of emergency services and Homeland security any and all documents deemed necessary or appropriate further resolved that Chris Bielik the First Selectmen of Beacon Falls, is authorized and directed any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Beacon Falls and do and preform all things he finds necessary or appropriate to carrier out the terms of such documents which are limited to executing and delivering all agreements with documents completed by contemplated by such documents.

Motion to approve resolution as presented. **P.Betkoski/M.Krenesky**; no discussion; **all ayes.**

e. Cease and Desist on 113-119 S. Main St per WPCA – Discussion

P. Betkoski, The owner only paid for one sewer hookup and there are two units there. K.McDuffie, The owner has two units, he's has a renter that wants to rent the whole building. So the original agreement during the whole building process, he said I don't mind paying for two hooks up if I have two separate renters. But if I have someone who want take over the whole building, I should only be paying for one, but if I do split it and I have two renters in there, I will gladly pay the additional fee. So if it comes down the road I will gladly pay for two hookups.

C. Bielik, WPCA is their own organization, they stand beside us not under us.

C. Bielik, Let's send it back to WPCA, no action taken, will revisit it in January.

f. Regional Water Authority Annual Report – Discussion

P. Betkoski, Gave both M. Krenesky and C. Bielik a copy of the annual report and gave a brief description describing how the Regional Water Authority is committed to helping our region.

20. Budget Transfer Requests- None to be done.

21. Comments from the Public.

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

22. Executive Session

The Selectmen did not enter into an Executive Session tonight.

23. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, C.Bielik asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting at 9:05PM; **P. Betkoski/M. Krenesky**; no discussion; **all ayes.**

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Tuesday January 8, 2018 starting at 7:00P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joann Smith Overby
Clerk, Board of Selectmen