

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
February 11, 2019
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag

First Selectman Chris Bielik called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

Members Present: First Selectman Chris Bielik, Selectman Mike Krenesky
Selectman Peter Betkoski
Others present: 7 Public,
Citizen News

2. Caroline O'Bar Presentation

CB: Need to postpone until the next meeting, due to the storm coming in.

3. Eagle Scout Proposal by Brian O'Connell

MK: I don't see a list of when the dates should be done by and most of them need to be done by their 18th Birthday. CB: his date of birth is 2005; I don't think he has much pressure right now. MK: Very commendable that he is that far ahead. Brian O'Connell did not come in his plan is to create an emergency respond board at river bend park, there would be life rings, and other items if someone on the river needs helps and no one is around.

4. Troy Banks Utility Co-Presentation by Gregg Welch

CB: Mr. Welch Company does an energy review of companies and looks for savings. Mr. Welch gave handouts to the public and the Board. Utilities cost reduction. The government reports that businesses are overcharged every year. Types of utilities they audit are. Gas, electric water and sewage, phone landline, cells, internet, cable. They started with two big companies, USPS, and Amtrak. Fees 100% are paid by the money we recover and reduce going forward after the town gets those fees. If they don't find anything there is no charge. It takes about 4-6 month.

Lori Paradis-Brant; which other municipals have Troy & Banks worked with?

GW: City of Norwich, East Hartford was previous, presently working with Prospect, Newtown, Derby, Oxford, and Fairfield.

Rich Cheoniack: Is there any one area you find the most error?

GW: compliance, taxes, and all different places.

CB: No upfront fee, and what is the percentage of the fee from us?

GW: It's a 50/50 split. The 50 percent we are doing more than 4 to 6 months if we don't find any money you don't pay for the audit. And then you have the peace of mind there are no overpayments. About 75% we do find something.

CB: There is no natural gas heating, so everything is done by oil, electricity, water bills, probably the best potential, cable, and internet?

GW: Yes we look at all of that.

RC: Almost like an accounting review, sound like you look at taxes also.

GW: Yes we look at taxes also, invoice inaccuracy, surcharges, sewer waste, street light audits, LED conversion, cable franchise audit. Cable companies they use the townland to run the cable and municipalities should get money for use of that land, and the same for the Utilities.

RC: Do you make recommendations on things?

GW: Yes we do.

Lori Paradis-Brant; is there any obligations to follow the suggested recommendations?

GW: No obligation to follow the recommendation. There is not a lot of time spent on your part; all we need is one current complete bill for each service provider. And a letter of authorization and we take it all to the utility companies, we do all the work. We can do most of the work off-site.

MK: Where is that location?

GW: The corporate office is in Buffalo, I'm in Southbury. We are a national company.

CB: I'm not sure if the Board is ready to make a decision tonight. We will look this over and bring it up at the next monthly meeting. Brochures will be available at the Town Hall.

Motion to move up Agenda Item 21D Open Space Funding Legislation, to Agenda #5;
Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; All Ayes.

5. Open Space Funding Legislation – Discussion - Action

CB: Vice Chairmen of Conservation Kristen Jabanoski, and Lori Paradis-Brant, Lori sent an email that deals with the potential for local initiatives for funding for open space.

LG: There was a public meeting it's called a Municipal space open funding, bill #HB5254; it's an option for the municipality that want to be involved they need to be named in this bill. So I asked Chris if BF would like to be involved in this. The idea that the municipal will participate in the pilot program can have the option to put a real estate conveyance fee on properties greater than \$150,000.00 up to 1%. That number is based on each individual municipality. That funding stays within that city or town and earmarked for open space and the stewardship of the open space. It cannot be taken by the state of Ct. As an environmentalist I whole heartily ask to have BF be on the bill. I feel it's a great opportunity to be on it, and we don't have much open space funding in this town. We don't have monies to acquire or to property steward our open spaces. And when a natural disaster happens we need some kind of resources for the town of taking care of. So this bill does the stewardship as well as the acquisition of open space.

KG: The only thing I often having open spaces trails system and trails, it actually increases real estate values and a bill to consider in that way. It would improve the community and recreation.

CB: I always like to show off the conservation commission, the first commission I got involved with was the conservation commission and I like how it's going forward. The passive use space on Lantern Ridge we did acquire open space on Lantern ridge. There is some intrusion sometimes. In

the actual town budget as a seed, we started allocating money into that open space fund. I think there is about \$3500.00 right now, more of an idea to raise awareness and saving in the long run and improving it. And this whole local funding invite will allow us to control what was happening in our own back yard. This house bill is a direct response by our big lobbying origination to do something. I'm very much in favor of us taking action tonight. Just the first step to get us on the recorded we are interested in participating. If the law is approved then it comes back to us and we then decide what the percent should be.

PB: Who presents this?

LG: if the board approves this you need to contact the state legislators to be incorporated into the bill.

CB: We should be taking as action tonight to demonstrate the interest in order to be included in this bill.

MK: This is a convince fee and that will be put on every real estate sale over \$150,000.00. We can set the amount higher. I look at this as an added tax; I don't see how this makes it friendly.

CB: The right now the little pittance we are putting toward it already, we are paying by property taxes. Demonstrate a commitment to open spaces. We think funding open space is worth it.

PB: We already charge a % already in their taxes? And how is that worked?

CB: It's a line item in our budget. We are saying the % and the amount. And we can adjust it later.

PB: If we don't get on the bandwagon, we may miss the boat?

MK: This is an added tax and I don't support it, we have an email from a resident saying the taxes are way too high. We have people all over town complaining about the roads. If the pilot works out there would be another time to join it and see what other municipalities are doing, I see this as a tax. And I don't support the pilot program.

CB: it's a convince fee, every time a piece of property changes hand on a sale.

PB: The attraction to open space for Beacon Falls. I don't think it would hurt us?

CB: once we take a vote tonight authorizing BF to be in the program it needs to go through both house and the governor. None of the rates are discussed tonight. All I'm saying is do we want to get in on the opportunity on the worthy goal to maintain open space and increase to get more. There is value in having open space.

PB: This print out where is it from?

CB: it came from the state CT website and all kinds of links with this information.

MK: HB5254 would enable local municipalities to make discussion through their local decision-making process whether to adopt this program, that's the taxpayers. Why are we enacting on it?

CB: We have the authorization to get BF to be included with this bill. And then would go to a town vote on how to enact it and usages.

PB: The town has the last say. It will go to a town vote.

CB: I understand the public doesn't like to hear taxes.

Motion the Town of Beacon Falls be included authorization to be included legislation

HB5254; Betkoski/Bielik: *no discussion*; only two ayes and 1 opposed; Mike Krenesky.

CB: Motion passes two to one.

CB: A one minute recess. 7:54 Back at 7:55.

CB: Thank you for your information, Kristen and Lori.

LG: And give you handouts on the open spaces. (See attached flyers)

6. **Comments from the Public – Limit to Three (3) minutes**

Peter Betkoski 196 Blackberry Hill; thank you, everyone, and to the town of Beacon Falls for your thoughts and my flowers.

Shawn Styfco 71 Lasky Rd; Chris with you as Police Chief and 1st selectmen since O'Bar is retired will you fill them with part times instead of full time, that would be a great opportunity to save the taxpayer costly benefits in retirements.

Sergio Felix 135 Pines Bridge Rd; I did get your email and thank you but it did not include the question I've been asking. How does NEJ specifically fit with the business the actual conduct within the industrial park, I believe it's under section 42, wholesale is not allowed without special exception, on the industrial district this side of the river that is allowed. And I ask you to show me if they went through the special exception, and so they would be allowed to use it as a wholesale, they need to meet requirements and actually have a buffer between industrial and residential. They were cutting the trees down and that was a little buffer. On Wednesday there was a truck there at 1:30 AM and it was idling older trucks, they are constantly making noise, and I've asked to have a noise study done and no one has taken that into action. And in the meeting they said they were going to work on that, the trucks no longer go in they just stay outside of the fence all night.

Kristen Jabanoski 2 North Main St.; So the update of Lantern Ridge, was to meet with Cody Muth tree expert and then the ice storm hit on the day we tried to meet, we are hoping to have this meeting soon. PB: Can we meet with you? KG: Sure I would be happy to have you there. And we will be getting an estimate for removing the trees.

Shawn Styfco 71 Lasky Rd; With the Chairmen of Finance, Marc Bronn wanting to resign and the VC has resigned and having no Finance Manager, who will be assisting with the town budget to keep it fiscally responsible? CB: is that a question Shawn? SS: yes it is. CB; I can't answer a question during public comment.

7. **Resident Trooper/Police Report**

Motion to accept the Resident Trooper/ Police Reports as submitted for January 2019 tonight's meeting: Krenesky/Betkoski; No discussion; all ayes.

8. **Wastewater Treatment Plant Report**

Motion to accept the report as submitted by the Wastewater Treatment Plants January 2019 for tonight's meeting: Betkoski/Krenesky; CB: Training issues, budget transfer request for Wastewater and Street and parks people; PB: when will we start the upgrade out of Hartford? CB: I believe its springtime would be the date. all ayes.

9. Report on Public Works

Motion to accept January 2019 report as submitted by Public Works for tonight's meeting:

Krenesky/Betkoski; MK: *I was at Pent Rd and where is this washout? CB: as you drive around the back side of the complex; all ayes.*

10. Report of the Fire Marshal

Motion to accept the report as submitted by Fire Marshal for January 2019 tonight's meeting:

CB: No report from our new Fire Marshal next month we will get a double report.

11. Report of the Finance Manager

Motion to accept the January 2019 report as submitted by the Finance Manager, and submit to the BOF

Krenesky/Betkoski; MK: *Will we be talking about the truck tonight? CB: Yes I believe we may be going with a lease and with the grant the first year's payments are taken care of, and then we have 4 years to go after that. Tom Bossler our Finance Manager who has been giving us additional time on a semiweekly base and he is moving so he won't be available, and the BOF is looking to interview 3 additional people for the job in the next week or so. MK: The surplus was reported by Region 16 to say \$300,000.00 and this line item say \$11,000.00? CB: yes it's about \$110,000.00 less then what we budgeted for. As we have done in the past. And that is the number we will be getting back from them this year. Hoping our Tax Collector will do well. MK: Will our Finance clerk is here to explain, Oak Ridge bought Winter Brothers contract it was nullified and it is causing us a substantial increase? CB: What we have had in place before was a two-tier for the trash in town, \$68.00 per ton for the trash, and the recycling pick up was free, and we were getting a rebate based on the amount on tonnage for the recycling. The problem is recycling are marked as a product that we in the united states have been transferring to China, as with the Tariff war China has closed their door for our recycling. So we have nowhere for our recycling to go until the tariff war is over. Every municipality has to deal with this. MK: We had a contract with Winter Brothers and they were sold how does it become null void? CB: we have not signed any contracts with Oak Ridge; we are having our attorneys look it over. MK: There is a place in North Haven had some good prices before the Tariff wars, and how we can be paying \$3,000.00-\$4,000.00 a month extra. CB: When I have an update for you I will pass it along. **all ayes.***

12. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

Motion to accept the minutes from the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting held on 01/14/ 2019, and Special Meeting on 01/28/2019

Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

13. Report of the Tax Collector -

Motion to accept the January 2019 report as submitted by the Tax Collector and submit it to the BOF, Betkoski/Krenesky; CB: Looking at the running total of property tax collection, we budget

\$250,000.00 in back taxes, 7 months into the year we have collected \$220,000.00 and projecting to exceed our annual number, and hope it helps with Region 16 shortfall;all ayes.

14. Report of the Town Treasurer -

Motion to accept the January 2019 report as submitted by the Town Treasurer and submit it to the BOF Krenesky/Betkoski;no discussion;all ayes

15. Report on the Town Clerk

Motions to accept the January 2019 report as submitted by the Town Clerk Krenesky/Betkoski;no discussion; all ayes.

16. Report from Economic Development -

Motion to accept the January 2019 report as submitted by the Economic Development for tonight's meeting; **Betkoski/Krenesky** MK: What does it mean, and the property next to the propane tanks they were supposed to develop it 3 lots and start building within a couple of years. Is either of these properties are them? PB: I think its Dr. Dey property. CB: And I will have Sadie follow up with Pioneer on their 3 lots. And have an update on next month. All ayes.

17. Report of the Library

Motion to accept the January 2019 report as submitted by the Library Director for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Krenesky**;no discussion. All ayes

18. Report of the Fire Department -

Motion to accept the January 2019 report as submitted by the Fire Department for tonight's meeting; **Krenesky/Betkoski**;PB: Keep these guys in your prayers in the winter months with the fires say an extra prayer for them all to keep safe. CB: we have a reserve 911 code red, and I put out updates during the storm and we had a big response and eversource we got off so lucky the few outages were responded to quickly, the most irritation I had was people who lost power and then it was shut off so they could make repairs. Prayers for all the first responders to keep safe, and the road crew also does a great job;all ayes.

19. Any Other Reports

a. Report of the Custodian

Motion to accept January 2019 report submitted by the custodian; **Krenesky/Betkoski**: CB: we had some leaks and DiGiorgi Roofing took care of the leaks and we will look into the spring for more permanent repairs;All Ayes.

b. Report on the Town Nurse – (Quarterly)

No report only quarterly

c. Report of the Animal Control Officer

Motion to accept the January 2019 report as submitted by the Animal Control Officer for tonight's meeting; **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

d. Report of the Community Media Center Building Committee

Motion to accept the Media Center Building Committee report; Bielik/Betkoski

*MK: Moving forward with getting Dawn Lasell with getting the need to see what the need is for the building committee. I'm still having a conversation with the Fire Department with the Wolf Ave Property, still, some research was done to prove or disprove to apply for a permit to do a controlled burn to take the house down. The last meeting about the oil tanks in the wolf ave, Superior gave a proposal for \$800.00 to come in and pump out the old oil, disconnect the tanks and remove the old tanks. Talked with our road Forman, we do have a pump to pump the oil out of the tank ourselves, and it seems to be still good if the oil is still good enough to use at the town garage. And Superior said they will move it to the town garage for us for \$300.00. CB: And it seems like a fair price and they would take the tanks. We will take this to the BOF. I'm on board with the concept. **all ayes.***

e. Report of the Grant Writer

Motion to accept the January 2019 report from the Grant Writer as submitted for tonight's meeting; **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

20. Reading of Correspondence

CB: From Keith Griffin, a very nice Thank you note for the plant he received. If we can keep him in all of our thoughts and prayers as he continues his fight, I'm sure that will go a long way.

CB: Invitation from BHC #1 June 15th will be the Fireman carnival weekend. With a 6:00 PM Parade steps off. Mark your calendars.

CB: From Every source notifying us, doing some tree work in the area, just an advisory us that the tree work does not interrupt your electricity, the crew may need to work longer hours.

MK: New Britain Harold, and New Bristol press and Willimantic Conical, is, excerpt from the CT 169 club, the book that the historical society is helping to sell, full read out from the book on the Town of Beacon Falls. The happenings of Beacon Falls and day trips to Beacon Falls.

CB: Letter from Mr. Allen Swartz, 13 Dogwood Ln, an alternate seat for the Municipal Building Committee, his resume is included and he would like to be considered for this position.

Motion to approve and pay the clerk for the invoices as submitted for tonight's meeting in January the amount of and \$67.00, and the Special BOS meeting on 01/28/2019 for \$51.00; **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

21. Old Business

- a. Town Sesquicentennial Celebration - Discussion Action;
MK: Gave the information on the brick selling to Chris B. Peter and I have not met any further on this and I put a feeler out on Facebook and they all liked the idea. We need to sit down and get a meeting together and open it up to the public and get a meeting going. CB: I'm a big supporter of brick selling.
MK: Putting the bricks around the new location of the Rimmon School House.
- b. Lopus Road O&G Property Sale Agreement – Discussion and Action
CB: Speaking with our engineer we will have background information by the end of February. Last Wednesday of the months is the 27th and see if I can book it. MK: We know the property I mention is very close to closing the sale.

22. New Business

- a. Appointments – None for tonight.
 - 1. Land Use/Open Space – Joe Fitzpatrick – Term Expired 11/08/2016–
Motion to add to the agenda the appointment of Allen Schwartz as Alternateto the building committee as a2; Krenesky/Betkoski;All ayes.
 - 2. Motion to appoint Mr. Swartz as the alternated to the Building Committee; Betkoski/Krenesky;no discussion; all ayes
- b. Reappointments –
 - 1. Town Historian – Steve Ruhl

Motion to reappointment Steven Ruhl as Town Historian for the Town of Beacon Falls. Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussionAll Ayes
- c. Removal of oil from oil tanks and salvage contract at 35 Wolf Ave
Motion to have the finance clerk to review where the funds would come from and approve the contract;Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes
- d. DERA Grant Purchase/New Plow Truck – Discussion and Action
CB: We will be referringthis to the BOF.
- e. Set up a meeting for BOS, BOF, EDC/Sadie to discuss economic planning
CB: We will be getting a meetingtogether for February 25th.

23. Budget Transfer Requests,

CB: *Training for CDL training for two public works people, and sending two people it's only \$2500.00 saving of \$1500.00. PB: Is this an upgrade for them, they all should have their CDL. CB: There is a reason why they need the training for their people. And we can save by having two go at the same time. Wastewater treatment has seasonal training and all three are due. Is to transfer \$2,000.00 from*

the legal line into education line, there was a glitch in the budget when he did it last year, and a line item got moved, we put \$24,000.00 into legal line. There is money to draw from there.

Motion to approve the transfer, From Line Item 10.90.03.1078 Legal Notices, in the amount of \$2,000.00 to Line Item 10.90.03.1495 Education in the amount of \$2,000.00:Betkoski Krenesky; all ayes.

24. Public Comments – Limit to Three (3) Minutes

CB: Asking 3 times if there were any other comments from the public.

25. Adjournment -

Motion to adjourn tonight's Board of Selectmen meeting at 8:55 P.M.: Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

The next regular March 11, 2019, starting at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Assembly Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Overby
Clerk, Board of Selectmen