

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



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

**1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag**

First Selectman Chris Bielik called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

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

Caroline O'Bar and husband, Eddie Rodriguez, and other officer's from the Town of Beacon Falls.

**2. Caroline O'Bar Presentation**

CB: Welcome Caroline O'Bar, and would like to thank Carline for everything she has done for the town of Beacon Falls and on behalf of the entire town and the BOS a very small token to be given to you. BOS gave her a plaquerecognizing her 16 years on the Beacon Falls Police force.

PB: She was always one of the best officers to cry on, and scold you, and I will always remember when I saw her running down Railroad Ave with a box of cereal for a needed family. , Caroline.

MK: Caroline and I have a special bond, we both have a fondness for recuses animal, and she took care of the people and the people with animals. It was an amazing thing and we miss this right now in Beacon Falls, don't be afraid to sneak back into town and have coffee and reminisces.

CB: Shared a personal story, 16 years of service, I've been here 15 years, and I remember the first time I had a personal interaction with Caroline O'Bar, it goes all the way to Via Main, we were new to town and I happened to have my dad's car an old car and it was very easy to lock your keys in and we had dinner in Via Main, and I realized that I had locked the keys in the car. And I saw Caroline and waved her over and told her I locked my keys in my car, she got the door unlocked, and it went very easy and I knew at that moment it was a good place to live. She has hundreds of incent like this. Thank you.

Caroline O'Bar: Thank you for recognizing me it was a pleasure and it was a good time to retire after 28 years of service, and working with Lt Rodriguez was a pleasure I believe I worked with you my whole time at Beacon Falls, and other officer'sthank you for coming and be safe out there.

**3. LT. Eddie Rodriguez – Presentation**

CB: It's a privilege on behalf of the Department of Emergency Service and Public Protection, a division of emergency management presents him with a certificate as a nominee for the Northeast State Emergency Consortium manager of the year award. A small token of our appreciation for all of his time effort sweat blood with the emergency Eddie put in with the tornado. He is our emergency management director as well as, Eddie was in complete control with the tornado. He established the local Emergency Operation Center, coordinated with Beacon Hose Company #1, with municipal public works department and with the First Selectmen. Working with all the first responders, ever source and everyone, But it was thanks to Eddie and all of his resources to get our power back quickly to 85% of the town restored back to power within 72 hours.

**4. Eagle Scout Proposal by Brian O'Connell**

CB: Boy Scout Brian O'Connell, has an Eagle Scout project to present to the BOS for our review and approval.

Brian O'Connell: I am part of Troop 104, at Riverbend park I want to bring in a drowning mitigation system would help any drowning that may occur in the future. My timeline is, late spring to start and finish by early summer, and I would like to help the first responders ensure that people would be safe as possible at certain times.

CB: There are kayakers there and fly fishermen and lots of activity there so this would be a great asset to have there. This is a board with a rescuer ring on it to help keep someone alive until the first responder can get to them. We've done some work with Park and Rec's., Mr. Ruhl and Mr. Egan and they like the idea, so I think for tonight the blessing for the BOS is all we need tonight.

MK: I'm ready to make a motion to approve.

LT Rodriguez: If you need help with anything on this let the First Responder or the Police Department know and maybe they can help you.

**Motion to approve the Eagle Scout project as present; Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

**Motion to adjust the agenda to switch 5 and 6; Bielik/Krenesky; No discussion; all ayes.**

**5. Recovery specialist and Sustainable Tomorrows.org - Network Presentation by Barbara Rompre**

CB: She saw the minutes that we did on Troy Banks Utilities in February and asked to give a presentation to us.

Barbara Rompre: Listening to what was going on with the awards given tonight, there is a lot of caring going on, I'm a registered nurse and I love the profession of caring, I am retired from nursing's but I still like to find things to help people. The company name is ST NETWORK, Barbara gave a presentation on how this company can possibly save the town in utility cost. They work on a 50/50 split.

**6. Tax Incentive Ordinance Update – Discussion**

CB: Invited Sadie from EDC.

Sadie: Explained the amendment the Tax Incentive program.

Page 2, C&D, this would allow for personal property tax specific for wholesale and retail. Comes up is NEJ since they were looking for new equipment. We targeted them with this. And any other companies that may need that. Manufacturing, retail and wholesale state only allows for those only.

Page 2, 3&4, wording change. Capital improvement with \$150,000.00 with a net gain of \$150,000.00 to the grand list.

CB: When the application is submitted, it's the applicate that gives the value it would be, the final number will be used is going to come from the assessment process, so if someone estimates it at \$500,000.00 and it comes in at \$350,000.00 they would get it at the \$350.000.00 and comes from actual data and not from estimates. And the wording of that is expletively put in so the applicant can't say well I didn't know that.

MK: Looking at A the amount and look at B the amount, C the amount, question the dollar amounts listed. And this is at 50% they get the tax abatement on those dollar amounts.

Sadie: this is for the personal property tax abatement. I can pull that out more so it's more obvious. I used the limits of State statue. It's for Personal property only.

Sadie: top of Page 6, this one is basically EDC a roll right at the start because this is a business incentive program, to review the application and give a non-binding review on it to the BOF.

Page 7, it now reads inorder to reapply with the same property and buildingthe application must demonstrate that the net gain to the grand list is at least 30% higher than the net gain to the grand list from the prior application.

CB: And this was the most reaction, comments from other residents setting a new value threshold were perhaps not the best way to attack it, a suggestion a time limit to put on it, instead of the %. It could be 30 day or 6 months, I don't think setting a timeline is the right approach for a reapplication. An opinion was introduced if we set 30% higher than we are telling them we don't want your business. My response to it there is a proposal and makes it all the way to EDC, BOF, BOS, and Town Meeting. The governing body is telling you that they don't want the deal, and then maybe you need to sweeten the deal.

Sadie: My thought process was if you were going to reapply there should be something new and add some benefits to the application.

MK: My concern was the original change was for someone reapplying And we don't want them wasting their time and our time, hoping that the net gain to the grand list, does that explain enough to the legislative body what it is, and what does it give them as taxpayers. Does that mean their taxes go down if the grand list goes up?Possibly.

CB: the onus then falls on the salespeople manning the BOS, if we are comfortable with it then we should sell it and tell them this is what and why this is. The intention would be that we are supportive of whatever we bring to the public, the reasons behind it and details.

**Motion to move item #17 up to new agenda item 7 Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

## **7. Report from Economic Development -**

**Motion to accept the February 2019 report as submitted by the Economic Development for tonight's meeting/Krenesky/Betkoski;**

Sadie: working on Fire School property, Liquor store at 9 North Main St. is now open, 3 different people looking at the Bronson Building, a mini-mart is going in at 113 South Main St. on the other side of the bakery, Planning and Zoning is looking for a transition zone to route 42, towards the industrial park and I'm going to reach out to the property owners if they were looking into developing it. Attending the BOF Budgetworkshop on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Went to a Naugatuck Valley COG conference, 3 grants coming up, one of them was released and not sure it's a good fit for us. Other two have not

been released. There is a little bit of funding left in EDC marketing, so we are going to do some testimonials/videos. And put on their website. PB: Speak to Gabe's service station since it changed ownership, let's look at Gabe for his many years of serving the town. EDC has some money left in its regular budget, want to acquire a landscape architectural design services to do some conceptual drawings for Main St. and encourage the property owner to do some upgrades to their buildings, and if there is grand that become available to street scrapes improvement it becomes more competitive. EDC is very interested in working with P&Z on strengthening the design standards on Main St. If we have all the façade looks like this and we may require this or that. Contacted the land use attorney of selling the town commuter lot, if it would be possible? CB: It's a municipal land property when we traded the railroad parking lot for this. And there is another piece of land behind it and if we combined it's almost 1 acre. Website design, a couple of mockups were done. Once we have it signed off and work with different department and Boards and Commissions and see if they want anything. MK: When we put up the website of the current town the conversation with the departments were not very fruitful, and I hope we would get better participation and enthusiasm from them because we are selling their sites on the Webpage. CB: The web design, its state of the art so it's can be viewed on all devices. MK: Who has control of the contact; there was no one to name a webmaster? Sadie: I think there can be 2 or 3 people signed up as webmasters and then other people can be added to add onto the sites. We are going to have a full day in a training session for people who are going to be doing these updates. CB; the First Selectmen administrative assistant is doing all that updating now, and additional user, Library. Sadie, and Erin in Finance who are paid, municipal employees. **all ayes**.

#### **8. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings**

Motion to accept the minutes from the 02/11/2019 Regular Board of Selectmen meeting, special meeting held 2/14/2019, special Meeting on 02/28/2019, Public Meeting on 03/05/2019, Town Meeting on 03/07/2019, 5 sets of minutes in a block to approving in one motion.  
**Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

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

Kristen Jabonoski; 2 North Main St.; I did get the chance to go, Lantern Ridge, with a tree service professional. The estimate was \$4,000.00, \$3,000.00 was for taking down the widow makers and they are a high priority and then \$1,000.00 to clear a path into the remainder of the trail. An area where there are trees and branches, and I've sent photos to you all, and we would need to cut up the down trees to provide a pathway. The rest of the trail is pretty clear, the one trail is problematic. CB: Thank you, Kristen, we have received the email and there will be more information to come.

#### **10. Resident Trooper/Police Report**

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

Note for the records from the BOS, we received news on Saturday on the passing of Selectwomen Karen Stanek, the Seymour Board of Selectman, who is also the wife of our attorney Fred Stanek, viewing on Wednesday 4-7, the funeral will be a mass of Christen burial at Assumption Church in Ansonia, held at 10:00 AM Thursday.

Also, officer Gallo mother passed away, doing it at 9:00 in Trumbull on Thursday AM before the Mass.

I would like to request a moment of silence on behalf of Mrs. Stanek and Officer Gallo Mother.

#### **11. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report**

Motion to accept the report as submitted by the Wastewater Treatment Plants for February 2019 tonight's meeting: Krenesky/Betkoski; MK: Where was the truck that broke down when they were plowing? CB: I'm not sure I think at the plant. **all ayes.**

#### **12. Report on Public Works**

Motion to accept February 2019 report as submitted by Public Works for tonight's meeting: Betkoski/Krenesky; CB: thank you to all the Public works, there were 40 hours of overtime by each member in the last pay period they have been busy. BP: Our Forman in reference to brush to act now to help the public should we go to BOF. CB: Yes we will go to BOF with it. MK: The roads are detreating quicker then we can do anything with them so we need to do something soon. **all ayes.**

#### **13. Report of the Fire Marshal**

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

#### **14. Report of the Finance Manager**

Motion to accept the February 2019 report as submitted by the Finance Manager, and submit to the BOF Betkoski/Krenesky/; CB: Natasha Nau is now our new finance manager and she will be attending the budget workshops tomorrow and Thursday. And Erin will be attending with her. As she was in on her first work day, we had a visit from our former Finance Manager Tom Broesler, so the two of them had 2 to 3 hours of review together and that worked out well. **all ayes.**

#### **15. Report of the Tax Collector -**

Motion to accept the February 2019 report as submitted by the Tax Collector and submit it to the BOF, Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; **all ayes.**

#### **16. Report of the Town Treasurer -**

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

#### **17. Report on the Town Clerk**

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

**18. Report of the Library**

Motion to accept the February 2019 report as submitted by the Library Director for tonight's meeting; Betkoski/Krenesky; CB: Welcome back our Library director who did a weeklong vacation in Iceland; no discussion. All ayes

**19. Report of the Fire Department -**

Motion to accept the February 2019 report as submitted by the Fire Department for tonight's meeting; Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

**20. Any Other Reports**

**a. Report of the Custodian**

Motion to accept January 2019 report submitted by the custodian; Betkoski/Krenesky; MK: The drinking fountain which budget is it going into? CB: we are looking for a few estimates, but we are hopeful we can put it in this budget. It's off and tagged and it will be nice to get it fixed. 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; MK: The page is blank but he had 39 complaints? CB: If there is an action only if he has done something with the animal it needs to be logged if no actions taken nothing needs to be logged. all ayes.

**d. Report of the Community Media Center Building Committee (Previous Meeting Minutes)**

*MK: No meeting last time due to the weather but we have someone coming in for the next meeting on surveys. I took Mike Derousher through the building again, the picker/salvager person and a new estimate will be coming soon. I also had Joe Rodorigo go through the house with all the coper we have in the house and how that might happen we discussed. He was going to talk with his company he deals with, if you bring in someone who will tear it down, they will split it up with different dumpsters.*

Motion to accept the verbal report; Bielick/Betkoski; 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; CB; Successful town meeting to approve the town plow truck

and it's going on its way with the timeline for the grant we received. Minibus grant we submitted WWCA, so it can be used on Friday for group type outings. It augments the regular program we have, like shopping rounds. We are hoping we can continue that service, the turnaround is in about 4-6 weeks. And the bulletproof vest program we are going to look at the police department needs new ones. PB: What is the time limit on the vests? CB: I believe its five years. **all ayes.**

## 21. Reading of Correspondence

Motion to approve and pay the clerk for the invoices as submitted for tonight's meeting, the Regular BOS Meeting on 02/11/2019 the amount of \$75.00, and the Public meeting on 03/05/2019 for \$67.00 and the Town Meeting on 03/07/2019 for \$51.00; Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

Annual request from United Day to have their Lemonade Stand Tuesday, July 13, 2019, And will be manned by the older children and the proceeds will go to a local group of the kids choosing. Motion to authorize to have their annual Lemonade stand as presented in the request; Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

A request from Sophie who would like to resign from the Conservation Commission. Motions to accept with great regret Sophie from the Conservation Commission; Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

Annual request from the Beacon falls Lion Club Flower sales, use of the parking lot prior to Easter, Flower sale will April 19<sup>th</sup> – April 20<sup>th</sup>, they have already contacted the BHC#1. Motion to approve the request for the Beacon Falls Lion Club; Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; All ayes.

Tax refund request, 1<sup>st</sup> to the Sikorsky credit union for \$2,140.54 for a house that was sold. And Nancy Houdan, two payments for a total of \$364.32 assessment of her property was adjusted down. The refund total is \$2,505.26.

Motion to approve the two tax refunds request; Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

CB: We were unable to get someone from the Girls Scouts, maybe get them in April, this year March 11, 2019, marks the anniversary of the founding of the Girls Scouts of America, and on this day we have an annual proclamation for them being 107 years, but I want to acknowledge all the Girl Scouts. Also to thank the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts for everything they do for Beacon Falls.

## 22. Old Business

- a. Town Sesquicentennial Celebration - Discussion Action;  
MK: Peter and I have decided to get a meeting together after the budget. I think our biggest challenge will be to get someone to come to the meeting. PB: I would think it would be exciting, and how do we get it out there? MK: I would say on the Website. I have no problem waiting until after all the meetings for the budget.
- b. Troy Banks Utility Co – Discussion  
CB: Troy Banks Utility Co, there is no urgency to have a special meeting. I think there is enough between the two and put this on next month's agenda item if we want to proceed. We will take action on this in the April meeting.  
MK: having been burnt once with a utility company, because it just did not work out I would like to see their contracts to make sure there is not a got your line in there and have them reviewed. CB: Kerma has a free legal review for us and I will get them and send them out to Kerma.

**23. New Business**

**a. Appointments –**

- 1. Land Use/Open Space – Joe Fitzpatrick – Term Expired 11/08/2016–

**b. Reappointments –None**

Motion to add and conservation commission charter discussion, **Betkoski/Bielik: all ayes.**

MK: I went through and looked for the charter of the Park and Recs and Conservation Commission, there seems to be some confusion they don't intermix. Park and Rec are only interested in sports I've been told, and I would like a review done on both boards as to which can do what. I think there is a communication wall and I would like to pull them together.

CB: We did have a review done when I was on the Board, and there was head butting between those two commissions. And I remember we brought Steve Burn our land use attorney who helped set up the conservation committee, to begin with, and I will look back and see what I can find in my old records and share them with both of the organizations.

MK: It's bothersome to me to hear those statements, but those two commissions are our parks and open space and I think they need to work together.

**24. Budget Transfer Requests,**

CB: The reason we are short on police uniforms we have done a surge in part-time police coverage. Motion to approve the transfer, From Line Item 10.90.53.1220 Police Dept. Supplies, in the amount of \$2,000.00 to Line Item 10.90.53.1595 Police Uniforms in the amount of \$2,000.00: **Betkoski/Krenesky; all ayes.**

**25. Public Comments – Limit to Three (3) Minutes**

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

**26. Adjournment -**



Motion to adjourn tonight's Board of Selectmen meeting at 8:54 P.M.:  
Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

**The next regular April 08, 2019, starting at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Assembly Room.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Overby  
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

DRAFT