

**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 20, 2013
TOWN ORDINANCES - REVISIONS
MINUTES
(Draft – Subject to Approval)**

First Selectman Gerard F. Smith called the Public Hearing of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:30 P.M. with the Pledge to the Flag.

PRESENT: First Selectman G. Smith, Selectman D. D’Amico and Selectman C. Bielik.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Richard Minnick, Helen Mis, Arthur Daigle and other residents.

Clerk read call for meeting. **D. D’Amico made motion to accept call as read, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**

Public Questions/Comments

G. Smith noted each Ordinance would be addressed separately.

1. Revision to Ordinance Concerning Local Option Tax Relief for Volunteer Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics or Ambulance Drivers.

- G. Smith noted the Board of Selectmen has the authority to abate any taxes for firefighters, etc, adding the BOS previously approved a 50% tax abatement and felt this 50% tax abatement should remain the same.
- Section 10. Will remain the same.
- Section 11. Remove: “the surviving spouse of such deceased firefighter shall receive an abatement equal to fifty (50%) of the property taxes due with respect to real property owned and occupied as his or her principal residence”. G. Smith noted this violates State Statutes.
- G. Rella, 72 Laurie Lane felt that this tax abatement would appear to be income for the firefighters, etc, would these persons get a W-2? G. Smith noted this has not been done in the past, but moving forward, the tax abatement recipient would get a 1099 for tax purposes.
- R. Minnick also noted a typo, with G. Smith adding the Clerk would make all necessary corrections.

2. Revision to Town Road Ordinance – Driveway – Section 2.16.

- G. Smith noted that both the Town Road Foreman and the Town Building Official would be involved in granting approval for a permit.
- G. Smith also noted said fee for said permit shall be in accordance with the Ordinance Establishing Fees for Processing Land Use Applications Application Fee Schedule Ordinance of the Town of Beacon Falls, as the same may be

amended from time to time, and is payable to the Treasurer, Town of Beacon Falls.

3. Membership Changes to the Ordinance Establishing a Land Use Committee (Open Space, Parks, Natural Areas, Playgrounds, Trails & Walkways or any other Land Use)

- R. Minnick noted because it had been difficult filling the Land Use Committee, various changes were made to the membership requirements: Page 1, Land Use Committee shall now consist of six (6) members (used to be 9), Page 2, Section 2.3 – No more than four (4) Commissioners shall be members of the same political party (used to be 6), Page 2, Section 4.2 - ...the Committee may be a vote of the majority of the remaining five (5) members...(used to be 8)

- R. Minnick also noted the W.P.C.A. has been added to the Committee membership.

4. Revision to Ordinance Establishing Citation Procedures and Fines for Violations of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Beacon Falls.

- G. Smith noted this is a **new** Ordinance and said it should be labeled “F” in the Index as part of the Inland Wetlands Ordinances.

- R. Minnick gave a brief history of how this Ordinance came about, noting that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission did not have jurisdiction before, and this New Ordinance would provide for this.

- Clerk asked for clarification of this Ordinance, noting the Legal Call for this Public Hearing noted this Ordinance was a revision and not a new Ordinance. **D. D’Amico then made motion to strike # 4 of the Legal Notice and reschedule the Public Hearing on this New Ordinance, 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.** G. Smith then set the Public Hearing date for this New Ordinance to be held on Monday, April 8, 2013 at 6:45 P.M.

With no other comments, **D. D’Amico made motion to close the Public Hearing at 6:50 P.M. 2nd by C. Bielik. All aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Wilson

Clerk for the Board of Selectmen – Public Hearing March 20, 2013.