

Beacon Falls Board of Selectmen
10 Maple Ave.
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Special Town Meeting
Woodland Regional High School Auditorium
February 21, 2018
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order/ Pledge to the Flag

First Selectman Chris Bielik called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Members present: Selectman Chris Bielik, Selectman Mike Krenesky,
Others Present: Citizens News and 28 members of the public

2. Clerk Reads the Call

C. Bielik asked for the temporary clerk to read the call. Joann Overby, clerk for the Board of Selectmen, read the legal notice for the Town of Beacon Falls for the Special Town Meeting as posted in the newspaper.

LEGAL NOTICE

**TOWN OF BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
WEDNESDAY February 21, 2018**

The Beacon Falls Board of Selectmen will hold a **Special Town Meeting** of the electors and citizens of the Town of Beacon Falls, on **Wednesday, February 21, 2018** at 7:00 P.M. in the **Woodland Regional High School Auditorium, 135 Back Rimmon Rd, Beacon Falls, CT 06403** to **VOTE** on the following:

1. That the sum of \$250,000.00 be transferred from the Unassigned Fund Balance to the Waste Water Treatment Plant contingency Fund for the purpose of implementing improvements to the infrastructure of the Waste Water Treatment Plant.
2. That the sum up to \$35,000.00 be transferred from the Unassigned Fund Balance to be administered under the supervision of the Town Finance Manager for accounting software.

Dated at Beacon Falls, Connecticut, this 13th day of February 21, 2018.

Christopher J. Bielik, First Selectman
Peter J Betkoski, Selectman
Michael Krenesky, Selectman

Motion to accept the call as read by the temporary clerk: Rodorigo/Pratt; no discussion; ALL ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

3. Nomination of Permanent Clerk for Town Meeting

C. Bielik asked for a nomination for a permanent clerk for tonight's town meeting. Joe R. nominated Joann Overby and the nomination was seconded by Tom P. C. Bielik asked three times for any other nominations. There were no other nominations for the permanent clerk and one ballot was cast for Joann Overby as the Permanent Clerk for tonight's special town meeting.

4. Nomination of Permanent Moderator for Town Meeting

J. Overby asked for a nomination for a moderator for tonight's town meeting. Joe R. nominated Chris Bielik and the nominations were seconded by Jim C, J. Overby asked three times for any other nominations. There were no other nominations for the moderator and one ballot was cast for Chris Bielik as the Permanent Moderator for tonight's special town meeting.

5. Discussion for Method of Voting

C. Bielik asked for a motion for the method of voting for tonight's special town meeting. Tom B. made a motion for the method of voting by show of hands vote. Joe R. seconded the motion of voting by showing of hands.

Motion for the method of voting for tonight's special town meeting to be by Hands: Tom B/Joe R.; no discussion, ALL ayes, 1 nays, and 0 abstentions.

C. Bielik indicated the motion passes for voting at tonight's Special Town Meeting to be by show of hands vote.

Jim Carroll & Steven Leeper acted as the counters for the voting process by show of hands.

Bielik: for the first transfer of \$250,000.00 he explained what the transfer was for; Financial position of the town is very solid, we just had the final result of our fiscal 2016/2017 audit, we are in a position where our finance policy requires us to keep 9.25% of our expenditures in our general fund balance, as a rainy day fund, over and above that 9.25% balance we currently have an excess of \$850,000.00, since the audit. We are looking to upgrade the 45 year old Waste Water Treatment Plant. We got an engineer to help up us get a plan together for upgrading the Waste Water Treatment

Plant. The approximate cost is 10 million dollars, and the \$250,000.00 will be for upgrades to get the plant started for the long project ahead. Bielik stated that the upgrades will happen in three phases with this being the first of the three. The engineer upgrades will lead to operational saving once the upgrades are done. There will be more details as it moves along will need bonding money. This is the first phase for operation improvements. Are there any questions from the public?

Michael Opuszynski 132 Back Rimmon Rd; is the plan available to be look over by the public?

Bielik; the project is still in development. We have an engineer working on it with the BOS, BOF and the Treatment Operators, only part that is available will be this phase of the project.

Susan Pavlik; 21 Fieldstone Ln; what will happen to the \$850,000.00 balance if the \$250,000.00 transfer it's not approved tonight?

Bielik; we are inclined to use this unassigned fund and not put it in the budget. It's also approved by the Bond agents for our rating. This fiscal policy is why we have an AA bond rating. The problem you get into in throwing excess funds balance into the general funds. You use it one year and it's gone. If we have operation cost that don't change, those cost don't go away, so next year we will have a problem with cost. If we don't expend it tonight, it won't be spent until we have a different project to use it on. This project has unanimous support from the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen. As part of an overall idea of how to get the necessary upgrades done with the least impact to the town. It will be carried over until there is a project worth doing.

Walter Opuszynski – 2 Sharon Dr; Question on the upgrades, will this be submitted to DETT's for approval and will we be looking for funding from the state.

Bielik; Yes we will, when the long range plan phase 2 & 3 underway that will be the portions that need substantial amounts of funding and that is where the engineer we hired to assist us, there is money that is available from USRDA, from the State through DEP both of those sources will be tapped to minimize the cost.

Walter O; Will there be a user fee?

Bielik; I think it will be a necessary step if we access funds from USRDA.

Question 2 the transfer of \$35,000.00 for Accounting Software;

Bielik; This has been noted in our audit report for many years, it's extremely intensive to manage it, the current one is not for municipality it was designed for Region Boards of Education use, when we try to get it to do things, that we need it to do for us there has

been patches to get it to work, and many man hours to get patches from the software company to work correctly. To allocate the funds, we received 3 bids from the RFP, we narrowed it down to two companies that are going to demonstrate it to us, Tom B. anything you would like to add to the summery?

Tom B; There is a lot to say.

Bielik; Did I capture the spirit of the frustration level and saving in ultimate time and effort with a new software package?

Tom B; defiantly you did.

Bielik; Are there any questions from the public?

Shawn Styfco 70 Lasky Rd; Is the Software in the cloud or installed locally?

Tom B; the products are available in the cloud, but we are looking for it to be locally hosting. I'm also the Finance Manager in Bethany and they use a cloud based one in Boston and they were down for 9 days, so I'm really in favor of it being locally.

Mike Opuszynski, 132 BackRimmon Rd; \$35,000.00 seems like a pretty high number for software?

Bielik; I do appreciate how you feel, but when we starting looking, I might have agreed with you, with the responses we received \$35,000.00 is a bargain for this software.

Tom B; one of the bids was \$71,000.00, and another one is \$100,000.00 with an annual fee of \$50,000.00. This is much more sophisticated then something like quick books.

Mike O; along with the software do you get additional support?

Tom: There will be an annual fee of about \$3,000.00 and any patches we need. The \$35,000.00 is the software, the full installation, training, porting over a portion of our records.

Mike O; the software developer is a reputablesource?

Tom B; this is a company that has been in business for 35 years. They look like an established company.

Bielik ask if there were any more question from the public with none a Motion was made to move the questions to the vote.

6. Motion to Move the Call to Vote

C. Bielik asked for a motion to be made to move the call to vote.

Motion to move the call to vote: Joe R/Tom B; no discussion; ALL ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

C. Bielik indicated the motion passes for moving the call to vote.

7. Vote of Item #1 as Read in the Call

That the sum of \$250,000.00 be transferred from the Unassigned Fund Balance to the Waste Water Treatment Plant Contingency Fund for the purpose of implementing improvements to the infrastructure of the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

With voting by Hands C. Bielik indicated that with a vote of **28** ayes, **0** nays, and 0 abstentions. Jim C. and Steven L confirmed the show of hands.

8. Vote of Item #2 as Read in the Call

That the sum of up to \$35,000.00 be transferred from the Unassigned Fund Balance to be administered under the supervision of the Town Finance Manager for accounting software.

With voting by Hand, C. Bielik indicated that with a vote of 26 ayes, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions. Jim C and Steve L confirmed the show of hands.

9. Adjournment

With completion of the voting, C. Bielik asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's special town meeting.

Motion to adjourn tonight's Board of Selectmen Special Town meeting at 7:26 P.M.; Tom B/Marion Z; no discussion; all aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Smith Overby
Clerk, Board of Selectmen