

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
December 14, 2015
REVISED MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag

First Selectman Chris Bielik called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

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

Others present: Sue Dowdell, Library Director; Tom Broesler, Finance Manager; Rick Minnick; Dominick Sorrentino; Bob Egan; Joe Rodorigo; Wendy Rodorigo, Town Treasurer; Luke Marshall, Citizens News; and 2 members of the public.

C. Bielik asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the 3rd anniversary of the Sandy Hook shooting and its victims.

2. Comments from the Public

Chris Schwenger, Sharon Drive, asked if he was on the agenda or if he should speak now during Public Comments. C. Bielik indicated that Sharon Drive is on the agenda and to wait until later in the meeting to speak.

C. Bielik asked three times if there were any public comment and there were none at this time.

3. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

The three members reviewed the minutes from the meetings held in November 2015 – regular meeting on November 9th; special meeting on November 12th; special meeting on November 16th; special meeting on November 18th; and special meeting on November 24th. There is also one special joint meeting held on October 21st that needs to be voted on as well.

Motion to accept the minutes from the special joint meeting held on October 21, 2015 as submitted for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Bielik; no discussion; two ayes and one abstention from M. Krenesky since he was not a Selectman as the time of the meeting.**

Motion to accept the minutes from the regular meeting held on November 9, 2015 as submitted for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Bielik; no discussion; two ayes and one abstention from M. Krenesky since he was not a Selectman as the time of the meeting.**

Motion to accept the minutes from the special meeting held on November 12, 2015 as submitted for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Bielik; no discussion; two ayes and one abstention from M. Krenesky since he was not a Selectman as the time of the meeting.**

Motion to accept the minutes from the special meeting held on November 16, 2015 as submitted for tonight's meeting: **Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

Motion to accept the minutes from the special meeting held on November 18, 2015 as submitted for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

Motion to accept the minutes from the special meeting held on November 24, 2015 as submitted for tonight's meeting: **Krenesky/Bielik; no discussion; all ayes.**

C. Bielik indicated that he will entertain a motion to modify tonight's agenda and move Agenda Item 17e. Riverbend Park – Discussion to Agenda Item 4.

Motion to modify tonight's agenda and move Agenda Item 17 e. Riverbend Park – Discussion to Agenda Item 4: **Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

4. Riverbend Park – Discussion

Rick Minnick was present tonight to discuss the Riverbend Park and to request authorization from the Board of Selectmen to process with the acquisition of 2 state properties held by the State DEP and the State DOT, and to negotiate the purchase of the Harmon property. R. Minnick gave the background to the Riverbend Park and the proposed changes to be made. R. Minnick noted that around 2004, an application to apply for a grant was made and that grant had been awarded. There are two separate lots – one owned by the State DEP and one owned by the State DOT – that were found during the title search process that would be a good acquisition for the Riverbend Park. The committee is also looking to acquire a third parcel owned by the Harmon's.

R. Minnick noted that, at any time, has any thought been given as to how to maintain the property. It has been assumed that the town would maintain the property since the town signed for the acquisition of the property.

Motion to authorize the process in acquiring Proposed Parcel #109 and Proposed Parcel #308 which are owned by the State DEP and the State DOT:

Betkoski/Krenesky; discussion was made that the maintenance of the Riverbend Park should be included in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year; all ayes.

C. Bielik indicated that he would like to table Agenda Item 4 and would entertain a motion to move Agenda Item 21 Executive Session to Agenda Item 5 in order to discuss real estate negotiations regarding the Harmon property. The Executive Session is to include Joe Rodorigo with the Board of Selectmen.

Motion to modify the agenda and move Agenda Item 21 Executive Session to Agenda Item 5 and to have Joe Rodorigo included in the Executive Session:

Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

5. Executive Session – Discuss Real Estate Negotiations regarding the Harmon Property

The Board of Selectmen entered into Executive Session at 7:52 PM.

The Board of Selectmen exited Executive Session at 8:08 PM.

Based upon discussions during the Executive Session, C. Bielik indicated that he would like to resume the tabled Agenda Item 4 and would entertain a motion regarding the Harmon property.

4. Riverbend Park - Discussion

Motion to authorize the town's attorney to do a title search on the Harmon property in question, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire the property in exchange for the forgiveness of the existing back tax obligations, and to assist the Harmon family in merging the remaining two pieces of property that they own:

Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

6. Resident Trooper/Police Report

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Resident Trooper/State Police for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

7. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Wastewater Treatment Plant for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

8. Report of Public Works

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Public Works for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Krenesky; discussion noted that a letter was received from the Road Foremen regarding hazardous trees that need to be removed and that they would need a bucket truck in order to do so; all ayes.**

9. Report of the Fire Marshal

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Fire Marshall for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Krenesky; discussion included that an inspection was done on the 17th on the property formerly known as Torreira's and the new owner is looking to open after the first of the new year; all ayes.**

10. Report of the Finance Manager

The Finance Manager was present at tonight's meeting.

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Finance Manager for tonight's meeting and submit it to the Board of Finance for their next meeting: **Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

11. Report of the Tax Collector

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Tax Collector for tonight's meeting and submit it to the Board of Finance for their next meeting: **Betkoski/Krenesky; discussion was by M. Krenesky noting that he is looking for a full report of the outstanding back taxes and C. Bielik indicated that he does have a copy and will forward a copy to M. Krenesky; all ayes.**

12. Report of the Town Treasurer

The Town Treasurer was present at tonight's meeting.

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Town Treasurer for tonight's meeting and submit it to the Board of Finance for their next meeting: **Krenesky/Betkoski**; discussion was the USB accounts have been closed, and the check has been received and deposited; **all ayes.**

13. Report of the Town Clerk

Motions to accept the monthly report and yearly report as submitted by the Town Clerk for tonight's meeting and submit it to the Board of Finance for their next meeting: **Krenesky/Betkoski**; discussion indicated that the Town Clerk has accepted an Asst. Town Clerk position in Stratford; **all ayes.**

14. Report of the Library

Sue Dowdell was present at tonight's meeting.

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Library for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Krenesky**; discussion included that the gingerbread house event was a good one and that an intern from Southern will be starting in January; **all ayes.**

15. Report of the Fire Department

Motions to accept the reports from November and from December as submitted by the Fire Department for tonight's meeting: **Krenesky/Betkoski**; discussion indicated that tree lighting and bonfire event was well attended and a good time had by all; **all ayes.**

16. Any Other Reports

a. Report of the Custodian

There was no report submitted by the Custodian for tonight's meeting.

b. Report of the Town Nurse

The quarterly report was due to be submitted for tonight's meeting.

c. Report of the Animal Control Officer

The quarterly report was due to be submitted for tonight's meeting.

17. Correspondence

1. An invoice from the clerk in the amount of \$72.50 was submitted for the meeting held on November 9, 2015.

Motion to approve and pay the invoice from the clerk in the amount of \$72.50 as submitted: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

2. A report from the Tax Collector requesting to reimburse the individuals/businesses that made an overpayment in taxes. The total amount to be reimbursed to everyone is \$1,122.06. The reimbursements have been reported as follows:

ARI Fleet LT in the amount of \$413.32
Britta N. & Peter A. Christensen in the amount of \$160.17
Honda Lease Trust in the amount of \$29.93
Charles W. or Elaine B. Myers in the amount of \$101.10
James Rosenbaum in the amount of \$76.49
VW Credit Leasing Ltd. in the amount of \$248.30
Vault Trust/Ally Financial Inc. in the amount of \$92.75

Motion to authorize the Tax Collector to reimburse the overpaid taxes to the individuals/businesses as stated in the report submitted for tonight's meeting:
Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

3. A letter from the attorneys in respect to the Energy Park was received. The letter was notifying the Selectmen of the petition and during the proceeding, there may be an issue with the water supply and have been brought to the attention of the counsel. After review by the development group, the better time to address the potential issue of water supply is during the DMN plan approval process.

M. Krenesky noted that he has been in contact with Dan Lawrence from Aquarion Water. He is the Chief Engineering Officer and will be going into discussions regarding the water supply issue.

4. A letter from the citing counsel was received noting that they were holding a meeting on December 10th and the review of the draft findings of fact on the petition for the LLC development project.

5. A letter from Julia Hotchkiss, a junior at Woodland High School, was received regarding the lack of street lamps on Back Rimmon Road. C. Bielik will look into this concern and try to get the pole numbers.

6. A letter from Barbara Terese Brennan Schaffer of Houston, TX, was received regarding moving the library to the Rung House on the church green and renaming it in memory of Roger Brennan and the Brennan Family. C. Bielik will follow up regarding getting more details on her request.

7. A letter from the Center for Domestic Violence Services requesting a \$500.00 award for the upcoming budget year. This is normally done and will be put in the budget cycle.

8. A letter from the Northwest CT Public Safety Communication Center notifying that Jeremy Rodorigo has been reappointed as the town representative for another two years.

9. A letter from Naugatuck Valley Health announcing that they have been accredited for five years.

10. A letter from Al Concilio was received requesting his appointment to the Riverbend Park Committee.

11. A letter from Regional Water Authority was received announcing that the nominating committee has reappointed Joseph Sermola as a member of the board commencing as of January 1, 2016.

18. Old Business

a. Community School Sale - Update

C. Bielik indicated that there has been no progress made by the town of Prospect.

19. New Business

a. Sharon Drive – Discussion

Carl Schwinger, 3 Sharon Drive, read a letter to the Board of Selectmen that he previously read at last month's Board of Selectmen meeting. C. Bielik indicated that Atty. Stanek was not available for tonight's meeting to discuss the matters of Sharon Road with the residents.

The residents of Sharon Drive are looking for the services that the residents of Oak Drive are now receiving as well as the taxpayers in the town of Beacon Falls. The Sharon Drive residents are requesting snow plowing, garbage pick-up, and mail delivery. C. Bielik noted that the resident of Oak Drive sued the town of Beacon Falls and the town of Beacon Falls fought the law suit, and the matter went to court. The town of Beacon Falls was directed by the court, and the ruling did not set a precedence. Oak Drive is a passway, a throughway, and presented a unique situation.

Jeri Opuszynski, 5 Sharon Drive, indicated that she has to bring her trash down to Cook Lane. Winter Bros. was called and indicated that if the town of Beacon Falls calls them, then Winter Bros. would be happy to pick up the trash on Sharon Road. She noted that they cannot get sewer and water due to the ledge present. C. Bielik indicated that he will call Winter Bros. and discuss the trash pick-up on Sharon Drive.

After further discussion on Sharon Drive receiving town services, P. Betkoski reiterated that when Sharon Drive was built, it was built private. Dick Wisneski built Sharon Drive as private and the residents did buy the homes as private residents of Sharon Drive.

C. Bielik indicated that he would like to add Agenda Item 19 b. Budget Reconciliation Transfers – Discussion & Vote

b. Budget Reconciliation Transfers – Discussion & Vote

T. Broesler compiled a list of the accounts to be zeroed out and submitted the report to the Selectmen.

After a brief discussion, C. Bielik indicated that he would entertain a motion to accept the report and pass it along to the Board of Finance.

Motion to accept the report of Proposed Year End Budget Transfer, Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/2015 and forward the report to the Board of Finance:

Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

C. Bielik indicated that he would like to move Agenda Item 19f. Old Minibus Disposal – Discussion to Agenda Item 19c.

Motion to modify tonight's agenda and move Agenda Item 19f. Old Minibus Disposal – Discussion to Agenda Item 19c: Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

c. Old Minibus Disposal – Discussion

One sealed bid had been received after advertising one more time regarding the old Senior Center Minibus. C. Bielik opened the sealed envelope and indicated that a bid of \$3,444.00 was made by Luciani Enterprises. M. Krenesky asked if an appraised value on the minibus was received and C. Bielik indicated no.

Motion to accept the bid of \$3,444.00 by Luciani Enterprises for the Old Minibus:
Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.

d. Beacon Falls Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan – Discussion and Vote on Resolution

C. Bielik read the resolution to the Board of Selectmen and asked for a motion to approve the resolution as read.

Motion to approve the resolution adopting the Town of Beacon Falls Hazard Mitigation Plant Update, 2015: Krenesky/Betkoski; *no discussion; all ayes.*

e. Wastewater Treatment Plant – Discussion and Possible Vote

C. Bielik indicated that there will be no vote tonight regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The WPCA is having a special workshop on Wednesday, December 16, 2015, on the sewer user fees.

f. Blight - Discussion

There have been several complaints regarding blights – for example, Railroad Avenue and behind Fitzgerald's on Noe Place. After a brief discussion, C. Bielik indicated that the Selectmen will follow up on this agenda item next month until Old Business.

g. Homeland Security Grant Program – Resolution – Vote – 2014 & 2015

C. Bielik read the resolution for 2014 to the Board of Selectmen and asked for a motion to approve the resolution for 2014 as read.

Motion to accept the resolution for the FFY 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program: **Betkoski/Krenesky;** *discussion was about the date of 11/16/2015 being correct on the 2014 resolution and C. Bielik indicated that he checked into it and it is okay; all ayes.*

C. Bielick read the resolution for 2015 to the Board of Selectmen and asked for a motion to approve the resolution for 2015 as read.

Motion to accept the resolution for the FFY 2015 Homeland Security Grant Program: **Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

h.The Town of Beacon Falls' 150 years Celebration

M. Krenesky indicated that the town of Beacon Falls' 150 years is coming up in 2021 and would like to discuss doing a town celebration. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the Selectmen should start thinking about it and perhaps getting a committee together.

20.Appointments

Motion to appoint Ned Grace to the Ethics Board: **Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

Motion to appoint Jeremy Rodorigo, Brian DeGeorge, and Edgar Rodriguez to the Homeland Security Commission: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

Motion to reappoint Walter Opuszynski to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission: **Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

Motion to reappoint Bill Giglio, Ray Jurzynski, Donna Taylor, and Kevin McDuffie to the Planning & Zoning Board: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

Motion to reappoint Mike Brennan to the Service Award Committee: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

Motion to reappoint Rob Pruzinsky as Tree Warden: **Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

Motion to reappoint Charlie Edwards and Jeff Smith to the Water Pollution Control Authority: **Betkoski/Krenesky; no discussion; all ayes.**

Motion to appoint Doug Bousquet as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals: **Krenesky/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

21. Budget Transfer Requests

The Finance Department requested a budget transfer of \$2,000.00 for software licensing fees.

Motion to approve the budget transfer request of \$2,000.00 from Budget Line Item 10.90.83.1170, Contingency, to Budget Line Item 10.90.19.1060, Computer Support, and pass it along to the Board of Finance: **Krenesky/Betkoski**; *no discussion*; **all ayes**.

Public Works requested a budget transfer of \$1600.00 for the extra duty police during the tree trimming.

Motion to approve the budget transfer request of \$1,600.00 from Budget Line Item 10.90.83.1170, Contingency, to Budget Line Item 10.90.59.1713, Tree Work, and pass it along to the Board of Finance: **Betkoski/Krenesky**; *no discussion*; **all ayes**.

There was an emergent situation with the heating system at town hall as well as emergency lighting/exit sign needing repairs. The request is for \$1,500 since the budget line item is over by approximately \$1,500.00. After a brief discussion, the amount to be request was changed to \$3,000.00 in order to have some money in the budget line item for any additional repairs that may occur during the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion to approve the budget transfer request of \$3,000.00 from Budget Line Item 10.90.83.1170, Contingency, to Budget Line Item 10.90.03.1140, Miscellaneous Repairs – Town Hall, and pass it along to the Board of Finance: **Krenesky/Betkoski**; *no discussion*; **all ayes**.

22. Comments from the Public

C. Bielik asked three times and there were no comments from the public at this time.

23. Executive Session

The Board of Selectmen entered into Executive Session at 9:56 PM to discuss a personnel issue pertaining to the Finance Department.

The Board of Selectmen exited Executive Session at 10:11 PM.

24. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, C. Bielik asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting.

Motion to adjourn tonight's Board of Selectmen meeting at 10:11 P.M.:
Betkoski/Krenesky; *no discussion*; all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

DRAFT