

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



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
May 10, 2021
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Selectman Gerard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Gerard Smith (GS), Mike Krenesky (MK), Chris Bielik (CB)

Others Present: 3 members of the public

GS – everyone observed a moment of silence for Charlie Edwards.

2. Read & Approval Minutes from Previous Meetings

Motion made to approve Minutes from BOS Monthly Meeting held on 04.12.2021 & the Town Meeting Minutes of 4.12.2021 the BOS/BOF Joint Budget Workshops held on 4.20.2021, 4.27.2021 and 5.04.2021, MK/CB, all ayes.

3. Budget Transfers – GS – there are a few. CB – so two transfers from the WWTP to send money over to Nitrogen credits, one from operations and one from equipment and one from the Library to bump telephone service. So, we are underbudget on Nitrogen credits and sending it over to WWTP, I read it backwards. Motion to approve the transfers and forward to BOF as presented MK/CB, all ayes.

4. Comments from the Public

Gary Komarowsky – 15 Second Street – as a walker, I would like to focus your attention on Burton Road and the lack of signage or blockage on the pedestrian walkways. As the Town's liability, you may wish to put something more permanent than a plastic A frame sign which was knocked over on my way here. MK – I have gone down there several times and both sides the signs are knocked over. GS – I think people are taking them down when they walk instead of walking around. I am not sure if we have any liability because people are knocking down the sign stating it is closed.

5. Resident Trooper/Police Report

Motion to approve Resident Trooper Report as presented – MK/CB, all ayes.

GS – noted we have a temporary trooper and Bert was promoted; he is now the Master Sargent. He will be the Master Sargent in charge of the Trooper program. Interviews for a new permanent Trooper will be soon and at last count there were 15 applicants for the open position.

6. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report.

Motion to approve Wastewater Treatment Plant report as presented – MK/CB, all ayes.

GS – in the past we have had the former Superintended attend the WPCA meetings and that stopped. I have asked Tom to go back to attending these meetings to ensure

accurate communication. CB – I assume we are paying him for his time. Are we paying him straight time or overtime? GS – I will inform him to flex his schedule to accommodate the meeting during regular time.

7. Report of Public Works

Motion to approve Public Works report as presented, CB/MK, all ayes.

GS – they have been busy.

8. Report of the Fire Marshal

Motion to approve the report for the Fire Marshal as presented – CB/MK, all ayes.

9. Report of the Finance Manager

Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – MK/CB, all ayes.

10. Report of the Tax Collector

Motion to approve and forward with the Suspense list to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – CB/MK, all ayes.

11. Report of the Town Treasurer

Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – MK/CB, all ayes.

12. Report of the Town Clerk

Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – CB/MK, all ayes.

13. Report from Economic Development - No report provided.

14. Report of the Library

Motion to approve and forward to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – CB/MK, all ayes.

MK – every month they are busy. GS – there was some misinformation provided to staff regarding the new relationship being formed with the YMCA. The misinformation was that the Library Programming would be removed. I let staff know that that was not accurate and if anything, the YMCA would be an enhancement to the programs that they have and would benefit and shore up any programs that they have. Just so everyone knows there is misinformation being spread.

15. Report of the Fire Department

Motion made to approve the Fire Department report as presented – MK/CB, all ayes.

16. Any other reports

a. Report of the Custodian – GS – Motion made to approve the report as presented, MK/CB, all ayes.

GS – just an FYI, with Town Hall being open we have moved the Custodians hours to enhance cleanliness and sanitizing. The Custodian is here M-Thurs 8:00a – 3:30P and 7:00a – 2:30p on Friday.

b. Report of the Town Nurse – (Quarterly)

c. Report of the Animal Control Officer – GS – I do not know how many times we can ask for the same information and not get it. MK – the primary report is empty and there is no list of who made complaints. How do we audit what is being done? GS – I think that we do not accept the report and request that the ACO attend our regular June BOS meeting. CB – I would suggest that the ACO reached out to neighboring towns to see what they submit. GS – my understanding is that he is an ACO for another town, but that is a good suggestion. **CB – motion to not accept the monthly report and to have the ACO attend the June BOS regular meeting and the clerk will reach out to obtain neighboring town reports, seconded by MK, all ayes.**

d. Park Trails Report – GS – looks like the Park Ranger is very busy with patrolling our parks. MK/CB, all ayes.

e. BOE Report – no report provided.

17. Reading of Correspondence & Payment of Invoices

- a. Lisa Low is retiring as our Small Cities Grant Program writer. She was wonderful to work with. **MK made a motion to congratulate Lisa on her retirement, CB seconded, all ayes.**

18. Old Business

- a. **Town Sesquicentennial Celebration – Update** MK – things are moving along for the June 27, 2021 event. We have multiple dignitaries coming in. Things are in place for us to have food and we are hoping for some entertainment but outside of that everything is moving forward. We are looking for some volunteers to work that day. We will need volunteers to set up, break down, food service etc. We are still working on September 25th drone lightshow. I am meeting with Park & Recreation Commission at their next meeting to discuss the funds.
- b. **Ordinance Committee – GS** – they have got so much done that we will have to have a special BOS meeting after the budget season. This will allow us to review the Ordinances and send them to legal.
- c. **COVID-19 – GS** – not much to discuss. We have updated our conference room, cleaning and continue to follow guidelines. We have been open fully with minimal to no issues.
- d. **Burton Road Update – GS** – the LOTCIP application was submitted and is at the COG for review, then it will go to DEEP. Paul is hoping to hear back with them soon. The project is costing about \$3m to include sidewalks all the way to Highland Avenue. The Town is only financially responsible for the Engineering and the design. MK – that is going to make a lot of people happy, that this is moving forward. GS – Realistically we did not think anything would go forward until next spring, but it is looking like work should start late summer/early fall and work until the winter. It is moving along quicker than we anticipated.
- e. **Rimmon School House Land Surveying – MK** – surveyor completed his work, and we are waiting on the final report. We did ask him to add his recommendation on where they would place the building on the lot. CB – I looked at where all the flags were, and I agree that it seems like if it is set far enough back from the road they may not interfere with those flags. That is probably the only viable place it can go. MK – initially we thought we could center it but now I do not know. I have had a conversation with Pat Grasso at O&G with regards to putting in a concrete platform to build it on top of. Most importantly, with the new company Urban Mining, with their recycled glass, cement filler, may be able to contribute. Once the surveyor gets me his report and numbers we can discuss how to move forward.
- f. **Beacon Hose EMS Liberty Bank Account - Discussion & Action – GS** – new suggestions they have regarding the split. My first reaction was to leave it the way it is. However, this could become another revenue source to offset the purchasing of equipment designated to the source of where it came from. If you look at the bottom-line number, this year we got a check for just under \$12,000. The Chief's suggestion was to round the number up, to give the Town \$15,000 but it goes towards the purchase of the replacement of an ambulance. So, every 5 years, there would be \$75,000 that would go towards that purchase. I am unclear how they make up that delta. I think for the FD it guarantees some money for vehicles by putting it in a designated account.
CB – the money that comes into the General Fund, no matter where it is allocated, in the past we have viewed the ambulance money was used to purchase ambulance supplies or fires. That money has gone to them in the past. If we take that money and allocate it directly towards vehicle purchase, I do not know we are doing anything greatly different. One of the concerns is that in the past, we have had WWTP funds raided, and we had push back to put money aside for vehicle replacement program. I almost think we are better off not putting a bullseye on it because down the road, that gives someone the opportunity to use it for

something else. MK – I agree, I am not sure it makes sense to change it. My concern is what if they have a shortfall? Where would the \$15,000 come from. The funds coming in offset the salary. I just see down the road, if the funds do not meet, there would be an issue. I think more work needs to be done on this plan.

GS – we are all on the same page. I just brought it back because I thought we needed to revisit the discussion. I was still on the fence and it was brought back up to me, but this is the second discussion so I would **entertain a motion to not entertain the new fee structure from BHC # 1 and maintain the existing structure from the EMS Liberty bank account MK/CB, all ayes.**

19. New Business

a. Appointments & Reappointments

- **Brownfields Commission** – Still vacant.
- **EDC** – GS – Ed Korzon is up. Dave Pokras can serve again and is willing too. I **entertain a motion to reappoint Dave Pokras to the EDC Board – CB/MK, all ayes.**

b. Tax Refunds – GS – entertain a motion to approve the three (3) refunds in the amount of \$1,374.23 MK/CB, all ayes.

c. Melborne Trust Scholarship Fund – MK – I have brought this up on several occasions, the Melborne Trust established in 1990 was set up to provide funds for multiple challenges faced by our youth. Part is scholarship for college and the second is to assist with any medical challenges. Copied in the letter is the Will that states we must keep \$10,000 in the account. The first time we ever used funds were in the early 2000. We started with \$1,000 scholarships to high school students. The fund right now is sitting at \$1,100 based on the Treasurers report. There is a State Statute that allows, by Ordinance which would allow us to add a check box on the motor vehicle bill. My suggestion back then and again now, is to add that check box to collect donations for the future of our youth. I spoke with the Tax Collector, and she has no concerns about adding this to future bills. GS – when we meet to review the Ordinance Committee, we should put this together as a new Ordinance, have the attorney review it and I think it is a great idea. Instead of leaving the amount open, we should have a specific dollar amount and then a box that say other.

d. Sidewalk Ordinance Review - GS – this has been bantered back and forth and the best way to get a final ruling as to who is responsible for maintenance, repair and snow removal is to send this off to the Town Attorney for review and provide guidance on what the State Statute states.

MK made motion to revise agenda Item e to read Discuss the Budget as posted and move to a Town vote, CB seconded, all ayes.

e. Discuss the Budget as posted and move to a Town vote - GS -we have a budget being proposed and after going through it more, I have some changes that I would like to propose to the document. They are all in the non-recurring capital.

- \$24,300 for the BHC Utility Vehicle - remove
- \$22,000 Public works gator request - remove
- \$100,000 for the Pent Road Garage – remove
- \$450,000 upgrade to the public works garage – after speaking with our Engineer, should we leave those in there and do work to the garage, it will complicate our application when we go to renew the DEEP Permit in 2022. The recommendation is to

do nothing until we are ready to do something on a large scale and that number is still not a solid number.

GS – Entertain a motion to reduce budget by \$596,300 from non-recurring capital in the 4 items I proposed, MK/CB for discussion – CB - my concern here is that we have a budget that was voted on by the BOF to take to Public Hearing on the 19th. The BOF is responsible to approve the budget and forward it to the Town Meeting. I believe that we can make a recommendation, but they are going to have to have a separate meeting to approve the budget again. I do believe you can make a reduction to the budget, but if you are going to add that is an issue. MK – it is my understanding that only pertains to a town meeting. You can reduce the budget at any time, but not increase. The BOF will be meeting after the Public Hearing to set the final budget. We may have to plan to have a special BOS meeting after the Public Hearing. **All ayes.**

- Registrar – proposing \$250 raise per Registrar to be consistent with the other raises that the BOF did to maintain consistency.

MK recused himself from this discussion. CB made a motion to set the Registrars with the increase of \$250 raise per Registrar with the new annual pay rate of \$13,750, GS, all ayes. MK abstained.

GS motion to amend town meeting date from 5.26.21 to 6.2.21 MK/CB, all ayes.

20. Executive Session – None

21. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 P.M. CB/MK, all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
First Selectman's Office Administrator/Clerk