

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



BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Monthly Meeting  
February 14, 2022  
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), Peter Betkoski (PB)

**Others Present:** 3 members of the public

2. **Read & Approval Minutes from Previous Meetings**

**Motion made to approve Minutes from BOS Monthly Meeting held on 1.10.2021 and the Minutes from BOS Special Meetings held on 1.13.22, 1.14.22, 1.19.22 and 1.26.22, PB/MK, all ayes.**

3. **Budget Transfers** – GS – we are making major changes at the PD. We moved Officer Piccirillo, a part time officer, and promoted him to Corporal so that we can clean up some of the housekeeping items. We will also be getting more part time officers for patrol. With the new position came a raise per the union schedule. We are looking to transfer \$3,000 from part time patrol to full time patrol. The second is for the minibus. We were low in the maintenance item, and we needed tires. That transfer is for \$1,500 to cover the tires. That will go from the driver line to the maintenance line. **Motion to approve the two transfers and forward to the BOF for their review and approval, MK/PB, all ayes.**

4. **Comments from the Public**

none

5. **Resident Trooper/Police Report**

**Motion to approve Resident Trooper report as presented - PB/MK – for discussion, all ayes.**

6. **Wastewater Treatment Plant Report.**

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

GS – the Digester is finally coming together, and we will be getting the final numbers. Since it started it has escalated into something that was probably not engineered from the beginning to meet all the specs and requirements. The good thing is that once we spend the money to finish the upgrade, it will take our sludge and leachate costs down. It will offset expenses. PB – did we discuss this a bit or still waiting on the number? GS – we are still waiting on the final numbers. I had to approve another scope of work because SLR had to get involved for the work that Prickett did not provide. We will have them come in and present so that we know what it will all be. This has been a working in progress since 2018.

7. **Report of Public Works**

**Motion to approve Public Works report as presented, MK/PB, all ayes.** GS – they have been busy plowing, salting and sanding.

8. **Report of the Fire Marshal**

**Motion to approve report as presented, PB/MK, all ayes.**

9. **Report of the Finance Manager**  
**Motion to approve and forward the report to the BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – MK/PB, all ayes.**
10. **Report of the Tax Collector**  
**Motion to approve and forward report to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – MK/PB, all ayes.** GS – we did talk about putting on the one of the bills, the option for residents to donate money towards the Melbourne Trust because there is no way to fund it. It was deemed we can do that and Jen will be placing that on the Motor Vehicle tax bills.
11. **Report of the Town Treasurer**  
**Motion to approve the Treasurer report and forward to the BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – MK/PB, all ayes.**
12. **Report of the Town Clerk**  
**Motion to approve and forward report to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – PB/MK, all ayes.** MK – we should start seeing this report being modified because the Town Clerk share should be dropping off of this. GS – it may not be fully reflected because it started mid-month. That won't fully reflect until next month, but you are right.
13. **Report from Economic Development** – no report provided.
14. **Report of the Library**  
**Motion to approve and forward report to BOF for discussion at monthly meeting – MK/PB, all ayes.** GS – interesting the notary services are up 85%.
15. **Report of the Fire Department**  
**Motion to approve the Fire Department report as presented, MK/PB, all ayes.** MK – we seem to be doing an awful lot of mutual aid to Naugatuck and now Waterbury. I feel like some of this is picking up again. GS – I have noticed it too.
16. **Any other reports**
  - a. **Report of the Custodian – Motion to approve the Custodians report as presented, PB/MK, all ayes.** GS – he helped a lot with the work at the Senior Center.
  - b. **Report of the Town Nurse – (Quarterly) -** No report provided.
  - c. **Report of the Animal Control Officer –** No report provided.
  - d. **BOE Report –** No report provided.
17. **Reading of Correspondence & Payment of Invoices**
  - a. GS – letter from Conservation Commission to reestablish the Land Use Committee. Having this committee is a great way to assist those who need to speak to all the different Land Use Boards. We also got the same request from the IWWC. I am working with the Town Planners to get that back up and running.
  - b. GS – letter from Ed Grace declining his reappointment to the Service Award Committee. **Motion to accept the declination of his reappointment to the Service Award Committee, PB/MK, all ayes.**
  - c. GS – Sent a letter to Jim Woodward in response to him wanting to donate towards renovations/preservations at the Tracy Lewis house. We let him know that we are in the process of raising the property within the next 60 days. The abatement is going on right now.
18. **Old Business**
  - a. **O&G Data Center –** GS – it is in the process of moving forward. They cannot go to EDC to get the approvals from the State to build the center until they get an MOU from the town to participate in a Pilot Program for fee agreement in lieu of taxes. The Assessor is working to figure out what the Data Center would generate, and then we will work up an agreement with the Attorneys, so we can sign the MOU. They that will be provided to the DECD, which is the State EDC. Then they approve the approval of the Data Center. Then it goes to the Federal Government for approval. We cannot abate taxes. This has to go through the State and legislature. Legislation was passed for Data Centers to go through a fee agreement in lieu of

conventional taxes. We have to give them an MOU that we agree. It is complex. The MOU being drawn up will have to go to the Public for approval. MK – how is June going to determine that fee. GS – that is the challenge because the building will only generate minimal taxes. They are putting the number on the data center around \$200 million to build. If you take \$200 million it comes about to \$5m in taxes and it would never be that even with depreciation. They are trying to come up with a factor from different areas to figure out what the taxes would be. MK – depending on what the ultimate agreement would be, and the companies that utilize the computers in the building, it depends on whether a data center owns the equipment or if the business will own the computers in the data center. GS – we are told it will be built by Data Center LLC and it will fit many industries. It will be owned and built by the Data Center from what we understand so far. MK – It will be difficult to come to a real number and we should build in that we can audit and reopen the agreement. GS – it is based on the power they use and draw, because Data Centers are so power intensive. What's in the building is irrelevant.

- b. Haynes Development** -GS – they are still working, and we have not heard much recently. Since the meeting we had here, I went to a meeting where they put together their application in for SEDS which is the Valley EDC to get funding. I believe they were one of 50 projects that were looking to get \$10m dollars. Whether they get that or not they are still planning to move forward with their project. They are still winding down to Quarry Walk and they had a big open house over the weekend. They are done with most of the commercial and are focusing on the residential. When they came to meet with us, I think they just wanted to make sure we were still interested in allowing them to move forward here. I left this on the agenda because it will be an ongoing thing when they do come to us but there is nothing yet.

## **19. New Business**

### **a. Appointments & Reappointments**

- **Service Award Committee** – recently vacant – no appointment at this time.
- **NVCOG Alternate** – GS –we need to appoint and alternate for the NVCOG. MK are you interested? MK – yes, I have no problem with that. I have been attending them anyways. **Motion made to appoint MK as the alternate, PB/GS, MK abstained, all ayes.**

- b. Tax Refunds – Motion made to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$1,139.20, MK/PB, all ayes.**

- c. Land Use Committee** – GS – I need to find out more details from the COG and I have our Town Planners working on that. The problem is getting someone from each Commission to sit on the Land Use Committee as liaisons. I have the Planners working on insight to ensure that this board is successful and functions properly in the future.

- d. Beacon Falls Public Library Hours** – GS – They currently work 30 hours a week. Most of the time the Assistant and Programming Librarian work more than the 30 hours and do not get paid for the extra work. The library has been extremely busy. I have never been in favor of people working and not getting paid, that is not fair, so for them to provide required services to the Town, they are looking to increase next years budget from 30 to 35 hours. Right now, at 30 hours a week the budget is \$165,758.50. Bumping them to 35 hours a week would be an increase to \$193,384.92. Should we decide to go along with this, this would be use agreeing to add it to the BOF and it would be a discussion in our budget meetings. This starts with us because it is a major payroll, policy and hours increase. MK – this is specifically for the full-time employees? GS – yes, it only affects the full-time

wages and pension. PB – why is that happening? GS – they have been offering more programs. If you read the letter from the library, you will see that every time they implement a new program, they have such a turn out and to prepare the materials etc., they do not have enough hours. I have heard the conversations for the need of the extra hours. This will allow the library to mirror town hall. Everyone in Town Hall works 35 hours. MK motion to approve to adjust the hours from 30 to 35 for the Library in the next fiscal budget, PB, all ayes.

**20. Executive Session – MK motion to enter executive session at 7:31PM to discuss personnel matters, PB seconded, all ayes.**

The BOS exited Executive Session at 7:35PM.

**Motion made to add item 20a – Municipal Agent to Elderly - Discussion & Action, PB/MK, all ayes.**

- a. Municipal Agent to Elderly – Discussion & Action – Motion made to pay stipend of \$200 a week and the money to come from Senior Center Director Line Item, PB/MK, all ayes.**

**21. Adjournment  
Motion to adjourn at 7:36 P.M. PB/MK, all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Kerry McAndrew*  
First Selectman's Office Administrator/Clerk