



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

BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMAN

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2022 (Subject to Revision)

1. **Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance:** First Selectman G. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Members Present: G. Smith (GS), P. Betkoski (PB), M. Krenesky (MK)
Members Absent: None

Others Present: SLR Engineer Tory Sidoti, Citizens News Reporter Andreas Yilma, and approximately 20 members of the public.
2. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings: **MK made a motion to approve the 2/14/22 Regular Meeting Minutes. PB seconded the motion. All ayes.**
3. Budget Transfer Requests (if needed): G. Smith reviewed the following transfers.

	<u>Transfer From</u>	<u>Transfer To</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	10.90.79.1130 Snr Center - Telephone	10.90.79.1943 Snr Center Building Maintenance	\$ 300.00	To cover recent project costs
2	10.90.83.1170 Contingency	10.90.79.1943 Snr Center Building Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00	To cover recent project costs
3	10.90.69.1800 Professional Development	10.90.69.1805 Programming	\$ 1,000.00	Additional programming
4	10.90.67.1140 Vehicle Fuel		\$ 2,000.00	
5	10.90.67.1765 Equipment Replacement		\$ 10,000.00	Transfer from multiple GF lines plus Sewer
6	10.90.67.1780 Sewer Maintenance	10.90.67.1780 Sludge Processing	\$ 5,000.00	Fund to make up budget shortfall for
7	10.90.67.1760 Plant Operations		\$ 4,000.00	sludge processing/hauling service at WWTP
8	10.90.67.1776 Nitrogen Credits		\$ 26,737.00	
9	Sewer Fund Sewer Fund		\$ 47,263.00	
Total			\$ 97,300.00	

PB made a motion to approve the budget transfers as presented and forward them to the Board of Finance for review tomorrow evening. MK seconded the motion. All ayes.

4. Comments from the Public: M. Kirdzik from Burton Road asked about the status of speeders on Burton Road. G. Smith noted that the police are doing the best they can to control this speed, and speeding is a chronic problem everywhere. We do not have the manpower to be everywhere all the time. GS has asked the Police Department to stop issuing warnings and start issuing tickets. Mr. Kirdzik noted that the stop sign at Cook Lane and Burton Road is frequently ignored and the speed sign on Burton Road puts drivers at 49-50 miles per hour. He has not seen a patrol car in his area in 3 weeks. GS agreed that all types of vehicles are speeding throughout town and has asked the Police Department to remain vigilant.

MK made a motion to move Old Business 18a - LOTCIP Project L006-0002 Burton Road Reconstruction and Retaining Wall Replacement: Presentation and Public Comment to this point in the agenda. PB seconded the motion. All ayes.

5. Burton Road – LOTCIP Project L006-0002 Burton Road Reconstruction and Retaining Wall Replacement: Presentation and Public Comment. The BOS welcomed Tory Sidoti from SLR International Corporation, town engineer, who displayed the 50% design of the Burton Road project for the public to view. He stated SLR is currently working on the 75% design for submission to the NVCOG, as the funders of the project using State LOTCIP funds. The project begins at the intersection of Main Street and Burton Road with a 26-foot-wide roadway design and continues up to Highland Avenue. It features the full reconstruction of the concrete retaining wall and the 4-foot sidewalk on the south side of Burton Road. The new wall will have a nicer aesthetic. At the intersection of Wolfe Avenue and Burton there will be a new crosswalk for pedestrians with rapid flashing beacons. From Wolfe Avenue to Highland Avenue, they are constructing a new sidewalk which will wrap around Highland and join the existing sidewalk. There will be better turn radius constructed at the intersections of both Burton/Wolfe and Burton/Maple. The new sidewalk will also feature benches and landscaping. All of the guardrails will be replaced with timber and beam, rather than metal guardrail. Highland Avenue will be the same 3-way intersection, but the road will be narrower at this 3-way intersection (24 feet wide). New catch basins will be added to improve drainage. SLR is anticipating construction will start this summer. The goal is to get the retaining wall repaired and the road open by winter. Spring 2023 will see the finish of the project. The 75% design is currently being completed to send to NVCOG. SLR anticipates that there will be no major easements needed on private properties. With more landscaping features, benches and plantings, the project should improve the overall aesthetic of the road.
 - a. MK asked about Wolfe and Maple construction projects which will extend into the neighborhoods. Tory Sidoti noted that work for this project is just at the end of these roads. GS added that the Hill section is such an undertaking that the Hill will be a future project unto itself. GS added that these 3 intersections are being repaired with this project. Regarding the narrowing of the Highland intersection, it will be 24 feet wide and turning radiuses have been reviewed and they meet all the standards.
 - b. PB asked about addressing drainage surrounding the wall to prevent future erosion. SLR is proposing new underdrains along the entire length of the retaining wall. They will use 6-inch PBC piping for underdrains. NVCOG and DOT and a 3rd party reviewer will review and approve the materials. The underdrain will link into the current catch basin system.
 - c. GS asked what will be behind the wall and under the wall to keep water from running on the road. The underdrain will connect to the current drainage system and tie into the nearest catch basin. There will be a 2-foot shelf to give the bank more structure. GS asked SLR to explain the total cost of the project.

The project total is currently \$3,040,000, which is in line with the LOTCIP grant that has been approved by the State of CT. GS noted that the reason the road has been closed this long was to allow for time for the Town to get the approval for the LOTCIP grant. The grant will cover \$3M worth of the project. Engineering costs to the Town will be \$300,000. So, the Town is getting a \$3.3M project completed with only \$300,000 coming from our Road bond monies. He thanked the public for bearing with us, but this was the fiscally responsible thing to do for the Town.

- d. MK asked about drainage on the roadway by the large stone wall on the north side of Burton. SLR noted that the design calls for a 3% slope on each side of the road. This slope will allow the water to run evenly along the curve and there will be no ponding along that stone wall.
- e. Mike Kirdzik of Burton Road asked about the engineering of the new retaining wall. Are they using micropiles and what depth is SLR going down? He asked about ledge and Geotech reporting for the area. SLR completed all the ledge and Geotech reporting. Tory Sidoti confirmed the placement of the sidewalk; stating there will be no sidewalk on the north side of Burton Road by the large stone wall. The sidewalk on the north side begins at Wolfe Avenue. For safety, there will be a rapid flashing beacon at the crosswalk by Wolfe Ave.
- f. Joann Delenick of 243 Bethany Road asked about the flow of traffic at the intersection and what design strategies has SLR used to slow down vehicles. Tory Sidoti noted that narrowing the road does help in some sections. The Wolfe Avenue/Burton intersection where the crosswalk is will have a 15-mph speed limit. The rapid flashing beacon will be used for the sidewalk system, and we hope this will slow some people down. There are only so many limits they can put on a main artery road such as Burton Road.
- g. Maureen Carroll of Burton Road asked about lighting on the road at crosswalks. There is no decorative lighting with the project, but the area is lit by streetlights. She asked about the crossing on Wolfe Avenue and why the sidewalk did not continue on the south side of Burton Road. Tory Sidoti noted that the south side has steeper slope and sidewalks would have encroached on more private properties. M. Carroll also asked about the mirror that used to be on the large stone wall to improve visibility. The mirror was originally installed by the Town and can be investigated.
- h. GS noted that when the Town went to LOTCIP originally it was solely for the impacted area, but when we put in the application, we were able to get the State to consider running the project up to Highland Avenue. Some of the aesthetic changes will be costs borne by the Town, the concrete on the wall will look like a stamped real rock wall. The guardrail will be timber guardrail instead of metal guardrail. The town is increasing the project with stamped concrete, timber guardrails, benches and landscaping to improve the look of the entire area.
- i. Priscilla Cretella West Road inquired about the narrowing of the Highland Avenue intersection due to the amount of bus traffic and busyness of that intersection. Tory Sidoti replied this is a valid concern due to the importance of the intersection at Highland Avenue, and they have tested turning radiuses and there will be plenty of room at that intersection for easy movement of buses and fire vehicles. There is a larger radius on Highland Avenue than average and the engineers have confidence in the design of the intersection and width of the road.
- j. Mike Kirdzik asked if the project will be prevailing wage and sourced through open bidding. GS responded that it will be advertised as an RFP, as the Cook Lane and Beacon Valley Road projects were advertised. He expects a good response, as an example; Beacon Valley Road had 8 bidders. They expect the big players will be bidding and the bid specifications state that the Town does not have to take the lowest bid.
- k. Maureen Carroll asked when the project will be completed. Tory Sidoti noted that he expects construction to begin midsummer 2022 but they are at the mercy of the DOT. SLR's 75% submission

this week will be reviewed by NVCOG soon, then they will reissue the final construction plans and then the final version goes to DOT. Construction will begin with the wall and the failing portion of the road will be fixed first, hopefully by the end of 2022 by winter shutdown. Then construction will resume in the Spring 2023 to complete the project's sidewalks, guardrails, and work up to Highland Avenue.

- I. Michele Martin of Wolfe Avenue asked how they plan to redo the stone wall on the North side of Burton Road. T. Sidoti explained they will use an excavator to push the wall back 5 feet, reconstruct the wall and then build the sidewalk in front of the wall. The sidewalk will run the full length of the north side from Wolfe Ave to Highland Avenue. The BOS thanks T. Sidoti for his presentation this evening and the members of the public who came out to take part and ask questions.
6. Resident Trooper/Police Report: **PB made a motion to approve the report, as presented. MK seconded the motion. All ayes.**
7. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report: **MK made a motion to approve the report as presented. PB seconded the motion. All ayes.**
8. Report of Public Works: **MK made a motion to approve the report as presented. PB seconded the motion. All ayes.**
9. Report of the Fire Marshal: **MK made a motion to approve the report as presented. PB seconded the motion. All ayes.**
10. Report of the Finance Manager: **PB made a motion to approve the report, as presented and forward it to the Board of Finance for review at their regular March meeting. MK seconded the motion. All ayes.**
11. Report of the Tax Collector: **PB made a motion to approve the report, as presented and forward it to the Board of Finance for review at their regular March meeting. MK seconded the motion. All ayes.**
12. Report of the Town Treasurer: **MK made a motion to approve the report as presented and forward it to the Board of Finance for review at their regular March Meeting. PB seconded the motion. All ayes.**
13. Report of the Town Clerk: **MK made a motion to approve the report as presented and forward it to the Board of Finance for review at their regular March Meeting. PB seconded the motion. All ayes.**
14. Report from Economic Development: **MK made a motion to approve the report as presented. PB seconded the motion** and asked for some background on Governor Lamont's visit last week. GS noted that the visit was lunch and a photo opportunity linked to the \$600,000 Connectivity grant, with no discussion of future EDC topics. **All ayes.**
15. Report of the Library: **MK made a motion to approve the report as presented. PB seconded the motion. All ayes.**
16. Report of the Fire Department: **MK made a motion to approve the report as presented. PB seconded the motion. All ayes.**
17. Other Departmental Reports
 - a. Report of the Custodian: **PB made a motion to approve the report, as presented. MK seconded the motion. All ayes.**
 - b. Report of the Town Nurse: (Quarterly) NA this month.
 - c. Report of the Animal Control Officer: The BOS noted that the report is vague and does not tell them much. GS suggested a motion to not accept the report as presented. **MK made the motion not to accept the report as presented. PB seconded the motion.** The BOS agreed they will ask him the Animal Control officer to come in to discuss more complete reporting on his monthly activity. **All ayes.**

- d. Board of Education: **MK made a motion to approve the report as presented and forward it to the Board of Finance for review at their regular March Meeting. PB seconded the motion. All ayes.**

MK addressed a question to BOE Member Priscilla Cretella regarding the projected FY2023 budget. She does not expect any major changes to the projections. Medical insurance quotes always come in later than the budget vote, so those figures are estimates. She does not anticipate increases to the draft. She will review the percentage increase for medical insurance, possibly 3%. The Budget Draft shows Beacon Falls has gained some students and has a larger percentage of the budget than last year, and Prospect has also gained more students and they are paying more in total than last year.

18. Reading of Correspondence & Payment of Bills

- a. GS received a letter of resignation from the WPCF from Rob Pruzinsky and a letter from Cody Brennan expressing interest in joining the WPCF.

19. Old Business

- a. O&G Data Center: GS stated that the town is in the midst of finalizing the MOU and then the agreement will go to DECD for review and approval. At that point, we will go to a Town meeting to hear about all the good things, including tax revenue, that this project will bring to Beacon Falls.
- b. Haynes Development: GS has no new information on this project and has not connected with Mr. Haynes recently.
- c. Beacon Valley Road Local Bridge Program Supplemental Application Resolution: The attached RESOLUTION – Project Description: Local Bridge Program was read into the record. **MK made a motion to approve the Local Bridge Resolution for Beacon Valley Road over Beacon Hill Brook. PB seconded the motion. All ayes.**
- d. **G. Smith called for a motion to add Agenda Item 19.d to the agenda: Master Municipal Agreement for Rite of Way Projects: PB made a motion to add the agenda item. MK seconded the motion. All ayes. G. Smith called for a motion to move Agenda item 19.d Rite of Way Projects to this point in the agenda. MK made the motion to move Agenda item 19.d. PB seconded the motion. All ayes.**
- e. G. Smith explained that this is a master mutual agreement between the Town and the State DOT, whereby both parties take responsibility for the 10 foot right of way on their roads. The resolution is for both sides of the agreement, states both the Town and State will follow proper guidelines when dealing with the right of way on the roads. The Resolution read by G. Smith resolves that Gerard F. Smith, First Selectman, is hereby authorized to sign the Agreement entitled “Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way Projects.” **PB made a motion to approve the resolution. MK seconded the motion. All ayes.**

19. New Business

- a. State Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) FY21 MOU – The attached Authorizing Resolution of the Town of Beacon Falls Board of Selectman was read for the record. **MK made a motion to accept the Authorizing Resolution. PB seconded the motion. All ayes.**
- b. Appointments & Reappointments – Discussion & Action
 - i. Service Award Committee – There is still 1 vacancy on the Service Award committee. No action taken.
 - ii. Naugatuck Valley Health District Representative – Barbara Dlugos was the Town’s representative at NV Health and her term expired. **MK made a motion to reappoint**

Barbara Dlugos as representative for the NV Health District. PB seconded the motion. All ayes.

- iii. MK made a motion to add WPCA to Item 19b. Appointments. PB seconded the motion. All ayes. MK made a motion to appoint Cody Brennan to fill the unexpired term of Rob Pruzinsky on the WPCA. PB seconded the motion. All ayes.**

c. Tax Refunds – Discussion & Action. There are 2 tax refunds this month totaling \$2545.63. MK made a motion to approve the refunds as presented. PB seconded the motion. All ayes.

20. Executive Session - None needed.

21. Adjournment: PB made a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectman meeting at 8:00 PM. MK seconded the motion. All Ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Schwarz

Substitute Clerk for Board of Selectmen

RESOLUTION

Project Description:

Local Bridge Program

State Project No. 9006-5364

Bridge Number: 05364

Bridge Location: Beacon Valley Road over Beacon Hill Brook

Town/City/Borough of Beacon Falls

Be it RESOLVED, that, Gerard Smith, First Selectman
name title
of the Town/City/Borough of Beacon Falls is authorized to sign the LOCAL
BRIDGE PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION and any associated agreements
between the State of Connecticut and the Town/City/Borough of Beacon Falls
for Beacon Valley Road over Beacon Hill Brook, Bridge No. 05364.
(road carried over feature crossed)

ADOPTED by the Board of Selectmen of the Town/City/Borough of
(legislative body)
Beacon Falls, Connecticut
on 3/14/2022.
(date)

(Municipal Seal)

Signature of Clerk

Date

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that The Honorable Gerard F. Smith, First Selectman, is hereby authorized to sign the Agreement entitled "Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way Projects".

ADOPTED BY THE Board of Selectmen OF
THE TOWN OF Beacon Falls, CONNECTICUT, THIS
14th DAY OF March, 2022.

Clerk _____

(seal)

Date _____

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION OF THE

Town of Beacon Falls
Board of Selectmen

CERTIFICATION:

I, Leonard C. Greene, the Town Clerk of Beacon Falls, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by Board of Selectmen at its duly called and held meeting on March 14, 2022, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the **State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security** any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Gerard Smith, as First Selectman of Board of Selectmen, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

The undersigned further certifies that Gerard Smith now holds the office of First Selectmen and that he/she has held that office since November 18, 2019.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has executed this certificate this day of
March 2022.

Leonard C. Greene, Town Clerk

PLACE
SEAL HERE
(or "L.S." if
no seal)