



Town of Beacon Falls  
Board of Selectmen  
C/O Town Clerk  
10 Maple Avenue Beacon Falls, CT 06403  
Special Meeting Minutes  
July 19, 2023  
(Subject to Revision)

Members Present:

Gerard Smith (**GS**) and Peter Betkoski (**PB**)

Members Absent: Michael Krenesky (**MK**)

Others Present: Corporal Piccirillo (**JP**), roughly 40 members of the public, and one member of the media.

1. Call to Order:

**GS** called the meeting to order at 7:17 PM and led the assembled in the pledge of allegiance.

2. Speed Humps – Discussion:

**GS** gave a brief update on different ways speed enforcement can be done in town. **GS** mentioned that a detailed survey will be conducted of surrounding towns and how they handle speed enforcement. This will be available as soon as it is received.

a. David Rybinski - Quail Hollow Rd - Spoke out against speed humps due to the wear and tear on vehicles. Concerns surrounding snowfall were mentioned. The effectiveness of the use for emergency vehicles was mentioned. PD ability was mentioned.

b. Maureen Carroll - Burton Rd. - Maureen mentioned that speed humps may be useful in the correct location, like school zones. Speed limits should be adhered to. PD presence should be increased.

c. Jon Conte - Stoddard Place - On both sides of speed humps. Can see the argument for both sides. Who are the main offenders of speeding? Concern about the method was mentioned.

d. Mike Delizzio - Pent Rd. - Feels that speed humps have been proven to slow down traffic. Feels that they could be added to roads where the max speed is 25 mph. He is a large proponent for stop signs and adding speed humps to the necessary area. Feels that adding speed humps and stop signs could really help aid our PD with speed enforcement.

e. Joel Zinko - Rimmon Hill Road - Concerned about speeding down his street in particular. Feels that there should be speed humps on Rimmon.

f. Allen Careddon - Lasky Road – Has been a resident for 50 years. Would agree with one of the speakers that there used to be a larger PD presence. Questions were raised. Has there been a speed count? What is the traffic flow? To effectively see where best to put them. Instead of speed humps, possibly install cameras and issue tickets for speeding. What is the number of tickets in specific areas? Can we narrow that down? What kind of control would we have on 42? Main St. Speed has also picked up with a lack of police presence. Not necessarily against speed humps but feels there could be better methods.

g. Mike Kirdzik - Burton Road - Lifetime town resident. Speeding has become terrible. Has reached out to Selectman and PD to give information. Recommends two more speed humps and speed tables. He requested traffic patrols: more patrols, tickets, and more speed humps and tables.

h. Ray Binkowski - Cedar Lane - 40-year resident. Against speed humps. Concerned about their legality. Upset about the wear and tear to his vehicle. Drivers should be held accountable for their choice to speed. A vote was mentioned. Would prefer that a vote be conducted. Emergency response was mentioned. Has this impacted their response time? Have tickets been issued for speeding?

i. Cindy Resha - Beacon Valley Rd. – Questioned how many speed humps will be installed on Beacon Valley Rd? If we move forward with the speed enforcement project, where will they be placed?

**GS** responded that they will be installed within code spacing and also questioned what can be heard when people go over them.



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j. Leanora Lawrence - Kaleas Way - Would not be in favor of stop signs near her street due to the potential snowfall. She would be in favor of speed humps. State reps are the ones to talk to regarding state laws. Not local, as their hands are tied.

k. Renee Denorellis- Kaleas Way - Feels that they do slow down the speed on main roads. Would like to work with PD and Resident Trooper about selective enforcement. Would like to see more tickets being issued. In the Kaleas Way area, it would be very difficult to see signs and speed humps. Questioned how many tickets have been issued.

l. Mark Beaulik - Beacon Valley Road - A lot of traffic goes through Beacon Valley Road. Feels that speed humps would truly slow down traffic on their street. It would mitigate accidents on their road as well.

m. Steve Moffat - Burton Road - Lifetime resident - Speed has always been an issue on Burton. Thanks, the selectman and PD. Feels that the speed humps are slowing down traffic. Warning signs of the speed humps would be useful. Sun glare is a real problem without warning signs.

n. Kristina Muth - Burton Road – **GS** read email response. Not in favor of the speed humps. As it has directly impacted her.

**GS** mentioned that stop signs cannot be used for speed enforcement legally. Cameras cannot be used legally. It is currently against the law in CT. Because 42 is a state road, we cannot install speed enforcement methods. Other than radar. An officer cannot be posted on every street. Mentioned speed humps are legal if an engineer designed and laid them out.

**PB** mentioned being grateful for everyone coming out to speak.

**JP** addressed that the population has more than tripled with the same number of officers as there were back in those days. **JP** mentioned stats.

- 23.1 every day for one month. Could be for any number of issues. Some issues require more than one officer at a time. An officer could be tied up for an entire shift for just one call. 161 stops in the month of May alone. Calls and reports 5.3/day. In June, we had the state police assisting, resulting in 226 stops for the month, averaging 7.5/day. 805 overall calls a month. They were budgeted for 1-day shift in the week for full-time and one trooper. Part-timers are used to help in times when administrative work is to be done by the corporal. Budget truly is an issue. 5 patrol vehicles and three are equipped with radars. There are an additional three handheld units. That is their method of speed enforcement for the town.

Qualified immunity was lost. CT is a no-pursuit state. They cannot chase the vehicle under any circumstances. There are a lot of ramifications to pursuing this. It is a very large liability to the police officer and town. Officers can only operate under what the state allows. Cameras - The state legislature is currently working towards this. It is a pilot program, not approved at this time. The First Selectman cannot make the PD hand out a ticket. It is the police officer's prerogative to ticket or not. Police Officer's duty is to call for service over a violation seen on the way.

Police Officers conduct private duty while on their days off from the precinct. They are paid by contractors, not the town. The members of the force on call for the day are the only people on shift for the day. All equipment is paid for through private duty funds. The taxpayer funds pay for items like salaries, office supplies, and benefits. If we did not have private duty funds the cost could go up 150k/year for the town budget.



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Events take more force due to the amount of area to be shut down. An example would be the Fire House Carnival. 2 - 3 miles were covered with seven officers. A resident questioned if a cop could park in a driveway should there be no safe area for routine monitoring. **JP** mentioned that they can if they have approval from the homeowner. **GS** mentioned that if a resident would like to offer their driveway, they should call the Police Department's office to let them know. It is to be noted that very little money is made from ticketing.

**GS** updated that Stencils were purchased for marking Burton Road clearly. The marking will be painted in between them and before them. Rumble strips were questioned. **GS** mentioned that he would speak with the town Road Foreman to see if it would be feasible. Clerk to include reports on Regular Monthly BOS meeting minutes.

**GS** updated that Beacon Valley construction will begin in the next 60 days. To conclude, the discussion, speed humps are still under discussion with the BOS and will be discussed further at the next BOS meeting.

3. Adjournment:

**PB** motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 PM. **GS** seconded – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren A. Fennell  
Clerk, Board of Selectmen