

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



BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
August 10, 2020
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: 4 members of the public

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

Minutes from BOS Monthly Meeting held on 7.13.2020

Motion made to approve the minutes as presented – CB/MK, all ayes

Minutes from BOS Special Meeting held on 7.23.2020

Motion made to approve the minutes as presented – MK/CB, all ayes

Minutes from BOS Special Meeting held on 7.28.2020

Motion made to approve the minutes as presented – MK/CB, all ayes

Minutes from BOS Special Town Meeting held on 8.3.2020

Motion made to approve the minutes as presented – MK/CB, all ayes

3. **Comments from the Public**

None

4. **Resident Trooper/Police Report**

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

CB – Made motion to amend the agenda to add an item under New Business, Primary Security Issues Discussion. GS – Items 18G. Primary Security Issues/Discussion, seconded by MK, all ayes.

5. **Wastewater Treatment Plant Report**

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

MK – how did we handle the storm. GS – the pump station went out and the generator was running. That was the biggest problem we had, but it is back up and running on normal power.

6. **Report of Public Works**

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

GS – they did a great job with clean up and debris removal from the storm and more details will be on the next months report.

7. Report of the Fire Marshal

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

8. Report of the Finance Manager

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

9. Report of the Tax Collector

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

GS – there is a little bit more detail. CB – we went from overload to minimalist. We need to get more into the middle.

10. Report of the Town Treasurer

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

MK – I did send her an email about the Melbourne trust, to confirm that the checks for the scholarships cleared because there are still funds in the account. GS – I believe there is a reason why we left it open.

11. Report of the Town Clerk

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

12. Report from Economic Development

No report provided.

13. Report of the Library

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

GS – The story walk at Matthies was a success.

14. Report of the Fire Department

Motion to approve and accept the reports for May, June and July as presented – CB/MK, all ayes

15. Any other reports

a. Report of the Custodian

Motion to approve the report as presented – MK/CB, all ayes

GS – made some changes, the Public Works Department was coming and taking care of weed whacking etc. around buildings and that is the Custodian's job. He did not have a vehicle to haul the equipment, so we acquired a utility vehicle from Aquarian that was at the WWTP. The Custodian will use it in town only to haul equipment needed to maintain buildings. MK – does he declare mileage for when he has used his own vehicle? CB – he used to submit mileage. GS – I have not seen any request. If he does need to take his own vehicle out of town, he can submit for mileage reimbursement.

b. Report of the Town Nurse – (Quarterly) - none

c. Report of the Animal Control Officer

Motion to approve the report as presented – CB/MK, all ayes

GS- We received a new style format but still need the State form that is usually presented. I am ok with this format provided it is attached to the State form.

d. Community Media Center Building Committee (Previous Meeting Minutes) – NONE

e. Park Trails Report

Motion to approve both reports as presented – MK/CB, all ayes

GS – two-part report. Steve Moffat, Public Works. Al has been really stepping up in maintaining and patrolling. We had an assessment done for the Pent Road Playscape. Some parts of the playscape have rotted away and CIRMA said we needed to make modifications. We cannot get parts and if we took down what CIRMA recommended there would not be much left. A new playscape is very expensive. We are going to pull it out, including the timbers and pea gravel. We will loom and seed it, and look into replacing it whether by fundraising, etc. CB – maybe a capital project. GS – it will be a capital project.

16. Reading of Correspondence & Payment of Invoices

- a. Correspondence from Shawn Styfco – follow up letter regarding FOI complaint he made to the BOS regarding the clerks and other complaints regarding the Planning & Zoning Committee, Chair, Training Schedule, etc. **GS – Entertain a motion to place this on next months agenda under New Business as Shawn Styfco FOI Discussion, CB/MK, all ayes**
- b. Letter from Marla Scirpo thanking us for allowing her to keep her laptop which she had put some software on.
- c. There was some confusion that the Library was providing bags directly to United Day School. That was not the case. For the record, the Library was not providing materials to UDS, a private institution, they were bringing children to the library to pick up activity packs.
- d. Letter from Jim Woodward regarding the Tracy Lewis house, and that if we are thinking of listing it/selling it, he would be interested in purchasing it himself.

17. Old Business

- a. **Town Sesquicentennial Celebration – Update;** MK-we have not met since before the last BOS meeting. We have been looking for that key area for Fundraising, and I am wondering now if raising funds to build a new Playscape would be more conducive to what we want to do. GS – it would appeal to young and old. CB – I believe that at the last Park & Rec meeting because we are not having Fireworks, Summer Concerts, etc. they are inquiring about transferring those unused funds to the town Sesquicentennial event. MK – I will reach out to Bob to discuss that further.
- b. **Wolfe Avenue House – Update** GS- Still trying to process the numbers we are getting to clean that up. They do not look feasible with the funds we have set aside to clean it up. MK – I know that Chris and I did not respond to one of the RFPs and I believe that Natasha needs that closed out. I put zero's because none of the options would work. Maybe we should discuss this more with her to see other options.

18. New Business

- a. **Appointments & Reappointments –**
 - **CT Water** – would like a town representative who receives CT Water, we are actively searching for someone to serve.
- b. **Tax Refunds** - None
- c. **BOE Monthly Report** – GS – **entertain a motion to accept the report as presented and forwarded to the BOF for review/approval – CB/MK, all ayes.** GS – lets move this up to the reports section on the agenda.
- d. **Ordinance Change Discussion & Action** – GS received a request from Barb Berkowitz who is working with a local organization to add a new ordinance in the Town of Beacon Falls regarding racism. **GS – entertain a motion to forward the new ordinance request to the town attorney for review – CB/MK, all ayes.** MK – clearly this is not written as an ordinance, it is a resolution. GS – we will have to confirm with her what the actual name of the ordinance should be. CB – have other municipalities adopted this? GS – yes, many larger cities have adopted it.

- e. **Homeland Security Grant Resolution - Motion made to authorize the BOS to enter into the Resolution that would allow the Town of Beacon Falls to enter into the delivery to the State of CT Dept. of Emergency Management Services and Public Protection any and all documents for grants available to the town - CB/MK, all ayes**
- f. **Beacon Hose Co. # 1 Capital Project** – This was put in after the spending freeze. There were some issues with the vehicle that they needed to do some upgrades, so they came back with more detail as to what work needs to be done. We need to make it a capital project. **I would entertain a motion to forward this off to the BOF for further discussion, to determine the best finance options to complete these repairs. MK/CB, all ayes.** CB – the emails from Natasha, seems like the best way to go.
- g. **Primary Security Issue Discussion** – CB – received a phone call from Kathy Grace expressing concern that she had regarding the primary. The polling place is at Laurel Ledge as normal. Kathy received an anonymous phone call from a blocked number stating that there was an announcement from the Governor's office requiring a mask to vote in person. The caller asked if we would be denying their constitutional right to vote if they do not wear a mask. There have been many organizations that have had physical altercations when trying to enforce mask requirements. I reached out to the Resident State Trooper, not to make a direction but to ask if there were any thoughts or ideas for more security. I know there was a request for an overtime officer to be stationed at the polls. GS – I denied the request because I called Valley Health and spoke with the director who informed me that we cannot force anyone in the State of CT to wear a mask. If we put an officer there for the day, why would we not put one at Town Hall daily? Bottom line, if they do not have a mask on, you must let them come in, we cannot enforce something that is against the law. CB – in the past, if a resident drives up to the polling place, moderator will walk ballot out to the car and then transport it back inside. MK – I was told that the registrars are not interested in doing that because it is more of "curbside voting". GS – that is a Registrars issue, not ours. CB – that is their plan to do tomorrow and my recommendation to them was that if they feel threatened in anyway to call 911. MK – this is already part of the Registrars play book and any police on duty will be patrolling the area as part of their route.

19. **Budget Transfer Requests** – none

20. **Executive Session** – none

21. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 7:44 P.M.

CB/MK, all ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew

First Selectman's Office Administrator/Clerk