

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



BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
January 11, 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 Bielick (CB)

Others Present: 7 members of the public

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

Motion made to approve Minutes from BOS Monthly Meeting held on 12.14.2020 & the BOS Special Meeting held on 12.24.20, MK/CB, all ayes.

3. **Comments from the Public**

None

4. **Resident Trooper/Police Report**

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

5. **Wastewater Treatment Plant Report.**

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

GS – under miscellaneous they noted that they repaired a pipe on Highland Avenue the day before New Year's Eve.

6. **Report of Public Works**

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

7. **Report of the Fire Marshal**

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

GS – glad to see they are doing the Smoke Alarm program again. CB – and Carbon Monoxide.

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 – MK/CB, all ayes.

10. **Report of the Town Treasurer**

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

11. **Report of the Town Clerk**

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

14. **Report of the Fire Department**

No report provided.

15. Any other reports

a. **Report of the Custodian – GS –**

Motion to approve the report as presented – MK/CB, MK for discussion – it was brought up that the Conservation Commission is still meeting at the Senior Center. Clerk confirmed that, that is not happening and did note that the Senior Center was part of the deep clean done by Servpro. **All ayes.**

b. **Report of the Town Nurse – (Quarterly)**

c. **Report of the Animal Control Officer – None provided.**

d. **Park Trails Report**

Motion to approve both reports as presented – CB/MK, MK – item for discussion, regarding Toby's I believe we have taken State Funds, so I am not sure if we could make that resident only. We would need details on those funds and the Statute of Limitations. GS – That money was given to the town after we approved closure plan from O&G. O&G gifted those funds. GS – this should be discussed also when the sticker committee meets. There are pros and cons to making Toby's a resident only park and more research would need to be done. CB – If I remember, part of the agreement with O&G was that they gave us a certain amount of money? GS – yes, it was around \$35,000 and I believe there is about \$20,000 left. It was really to do the entrance where the water would come over the bank and then it was for maintenance to clean up spill way. CB – were those funds in their own account? GS – it is tracked out by Finance. **All ayes.**

e. **BOE Report – No report provided.**

16. Reading of Correspondence & Payment of Invoices

a. Melbourne Trust Scholarship – GS I think we should continue as we have been doing and fund 2-\$250.00 Scholarships. **CB motion to approve the two scholarships, MK seconded, CB for discussion** – I know there is a question about how much funds are left, but how low can it go? MK - \$10,000 is the floor. I have brought this up on several occasions for ways to refund the trust. There is a way to implement a check box on our tax bills so that residents could donate towards the trust. GS – I remember last year; we opened the account at Newtown Savings which has a balance of \$10,800 to maintain the floor and kept the checking account at Liberty Bank which has a balance of \$1,104 so we have enough for the scholarships this year and next year. **All ayes.**

b. Letter received from Naugatuck regarding Mutual Aid services inviting Beacon Falls to a meeting on 1/15 to discuss coverage.

c. Letter received from Andrew Keane, Commissioner on Conservation regarding the open space/land purchase request presented by Kolga. GS – read the letter into the record (attached). There has been no further action from Lee Nemeth at Kolga as of today regarding the purchase of the land. GS - we will address concerns in the letter if the purchaser moves forward.

d. BOS/BOF Budget Workshop Schedule – **Motion made to accept the joint BOS/BOF Budget FY 22 Workshop Schedule dated 1.5.21 DRAFT MK/CB, all ayes.**

e. Pete Christensen is no longer interested on serving on the Ethics Commission.

f. Letter received from Wendy Hopkins regarding interest in joining the BOF.

17. Old Business

a. **Town Sesquicentennial Celebration – Update** MK – we met last Thursday, and it was a very useful meeting. We were able to get through some out standing items. Bob Egan from Park & Rec. was part of the call and we had a representative from the Library as well. We do have some ideas of things to do throughout the summer months. We discussed the overall timeline and what we wanted to do as our big event. My suggestion was possibly doing a drone show in late August/September. We are all in agreement of the concept, but it means raising some funds. This week,

Lisa Daigle will be finalizing the fundraising document and will be put in the mail and handed out to local businesses. We need to raise funds before we put out a formal program. We also discussed signage and are floating other ideas among the committee. GS – have you set a formal budget to know what the target of raised funds are needed? MK – it would depend on what we want to do. We do not have a formal budget but based on conversations with potential vendors, we could easily be around \$40,000.

- b. **Ordinance Committee** – GS – they are getting ready to get back together in January. No further updates.
- c. **COVID-19** – GS – received CRF grant and we had 2 weeks to spend a large amount of money. You will notice a newly constructed structure outside the back of town hall to keep residents/staff out of inclement weather. We had deep cleaning done by Servpro and purchased some furniture that will assist with employee protection. Received a notification from NVHD that they have received the vaccine for phase 1a. We have not put any further restrictions in place and have not backed off what we currently are doing. We are providing services safely for our residents and staff.
- d. **Budget Workshop Dates** – GS – completed under correspondence.

18. New Business

- a. **Appointments & Reappointments**
 - **Ethics Committee** – GS – cannot reappoint Ed Grace and Pete resigned, so currently have 2 openings.
 - **Board of Finance** – motion made to appoint Wendy Hopkinson CB/MK, all ayes.
 - **Brownfields Commission** – Still vacant.
 - **CT Water Customer Advisory Council** – still vacant.
- b. **Burton Road** – GS - the good news is that I reached out to Congresswoman DeLauro, Senator Elect Cabrera and Rep. Nicole Ditria and I have heard from Nicole but not from the others. We have some options from the COG, and we are hoping to hear from others regarding options and grants available to repair the road. We are trying our best to get as much grant or disaster relief funds to repair the road. MK – how do we get this shovel ready? GS – one thing we are being told, is that we may get design, engineer, and construction funds so I did not want to incur those now. I know this is inconvenient to the public, but it is prudent to explore all options. CB – if I recall we asked Nafis and Young to put together a proposal a couple of years ago. The BOF at the time said there were other priorities in place at that time.
- c. **Land Use/Police Department Staffing** – GS – we are going to discuss this but because it involves current personnel, it will be discussed in Executive Session. GS recommended approving Tax Refunds and then entering executive session. GS the plan was to bring more efficiency to the Land Use office. We moved a part time position to a full-time position by creating a new position of Assessor & Building Land Use Coordinator. That will change from the current Assessors position will now be Assessor and Building Land Use Coordinator. The other position is the 30-hour Office Manager position at the Police Department. She will now be the Office & Training Administrator with an expanded list of responsibilities keeping us compliant with PD requirements. This will become a 35-hour position mirroring the hours of town hall.
GS – I entertain a motion to approve the job position changes of the Police Office Manager to be changed to the Police Office & Training Administrator and the Part Time Assistant Assessor position to be changed to a Full Time Assessor & Building Land Use Coordinator and for these updates to be reflected in the bargaining unit and town policies MK/CB, all ayes.

- d. **Tax Refunds – GS – entertain a motion to approve refunds in the amount of \$1,039.59 CB/MK, all ayes.**

MK – motion to add an agenda item concerning Survey Services of North Main Street related to the relocation of Rimmon School House. CB made a motion to add Proposed Rimmon Hill School House Site as 18e, seconded by MK, all ayes.

- e. **Proposed Rimmon Hill School House Site** – MK provided a brief history of the land conveyed by the State to the town and then the BOS reviewed surveying proposal document provided by Horbal and Judson Land Surveyors (attached). GS – there are no stipulations that say we need to use it for the schoolhouse correct? CB – I believe it must be for municipal use, like the commuter parking lot. MK – I reached out to Judson to provide a proposal so that we could discuss and take possible action on approving this. CB – I think this will have to be brought up at BOF for pending authorization of funding. GS – I was led to believe that EDC had funds designated for this. If so, there is no need to take this to the BOF. MK – I do not remember any conversation with EDC on this, but I think Chris is correct, we need to have conversations with BOF. There are two parts to this project. That is procuring the land and then there is what ever budgetary costs put in place to move the building etc. Another item in this proposal is the suggestion of doing a title search etc. This land use to be route 8 going north. CB – I remember Stanek's office having difficulty completing title search, and I think we should contact him for any information he may have. GS – do we want to get the answers to these questions or approve it with stipulations. CB – I have no issues with us going forward with the stipulations. MK – I think we need to get more details and do some follow up and I will do that. I think it needs to be in front of BOF tomorrow, so they are aware of our plans and potential to move forward. GS – I think that is a great idea.

19. Budget Transfer Requests – None

20. Executive Session – BOS members entered Executive Session at 7:55PM to discuss personnel issues.

BOS returned from Executive Session at 8:12PM

21. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:15 P.M. CB/MK, all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew

First Selectman's Office Administrator/Clerk