

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



BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monthly Meeting
March 8, 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: Park Ranger & 3 members of the public

GS made motion to move item 19. Budget Transfers up on the agenda to item 1A. MK/CB, all ayes.

A. Budget Transfers –

10.90.83.1170 Contingency 10.90.33.1385 Website Consultant \$ 17.90

10.90.83.1170 Contingency 10.90.15.1060 Assessor - Computer Support \$ 1,000.00

10.90.83.1170 Contingency 10.90.07.1060 Tax - Computer Support \$ 1,700.00

10.90.71.1010 Parks and Recreation Director 45.90.71.1003 Playscape \$ 23,500.00

10.90.71.1019 Seasonal Workers 45.90.71.1003 Playscape \$ 13,000.00

10.90.71.1816 Field Reconstruction 45.90.71.1003 Playscape \$ 6,500.00

10.90.44.1495 Training 45.90.44.1009 Forceable Entry Door \$ 6,455.00

Total \$ 52,172.90

Motion made to approve transfers and forwarded to the BOF for review tomorrow night, MK/CB for discussion – CB I assume Natasha weighed in and those lines from Park & Rec for the playscape were the best places to take from, we are not having a summer program this year? GS – that all came from Natasha and Bob Egan at Park & Recreation. CB – I ask because normally we have the paperwork in front of us with the documentation signed off by the department heads. Clerk – typically Finance includes the information in their packets for this meeting. CB – I did not review that, so I will go back and review it, all ayes.

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

Motion made to approve Minutes from BOS Monthly Meeting held on 02.08.2021 & the BOS/BOF Joint Budget Workshop held on 2.16.2021 and 2.23.2021, CB/MK, all ayes.

3. **Comments from the Public**

GS read the following comment into the record - I have been living here in Beacon Falls for 28 years & I love this town. I noticed that the mill rate is high 35.90. This town has very little benefits, what I mean by that is : NO BULK PICKUP, THE BULK STATION IS ONLY OPEN 3 MONTHS out of the year or less. The plow workers at least were I live has no courteous

and consideration, just smear the snow around. I am not asking for special treatment but I work in the medical field, so when I clean up and then the hospital calls me, I can not get out due to being blocked. This town had two guys that use to work the plow trucks in my area, they were wonderful, I know they retired. This new bunch needs help. Here's several questions: 1: Why in the ordinance it states the plow workers can put the snow in your driveway? Totally wrong (not nice when people are cleaning there property) 2: why can we have for this town "Bulk pickup"? example (shrub and tree branches and xmas tree) 3: Why can we have the bulk waste station be open twice a month in the spring and summer months?

4: Where is the tax dollars going too? Thank you Looking forward to here from you. Marie Williams

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 – MK/CB, all ayes.

GS noted that the digester roof there was some disconnect on how they ordered the parts. Now, we are moving in a direction to get that roof project squared away.

6. Report of Public Works

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

GS – they have been busy with snow and I meet with them monthly, and I told them that we need to get out because the roads are deteriorating with potholes.

7. Report of the Fire Marshal

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

GS – I have been talking to Brian about the blasting that is going on. We have been digging into the Zoning Ordinances and we have been tightening up the blasting with the Zoning Officer and Fire Marshall. CB- if everyone is following the rules, not much can be done.

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 – CB/MK, all ayes.

MK – kudos to them, they have been doing great all through the pandemic. GS – yes, they have been doing a great job. CB – I agree, look at the numbers. The socially distant program attendance is all up. They are providing services that the town is using.

14. Report of the Fire Department

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

MK – kudos to them as well for all they do. CB – just to make a note about the mutual aid we are providing. So long as it is not impacting our services to town then that is great.

15. Any other reports

- a. Report of the Custodian – GS – he has been sanitizing and has been throwing away items from work done in the buildings. Motion made to approve the January and February reports as presented, CB/MK, all ayes.**
- b. Report of the Town Nurse – (Quarterly)**

- c. **Report of the Animal Control Officer** – GS – did not received a report. Last month, we discussed a potential agreement with Watertown for impound. We have reached out to Naugatuck and they are willing to discuss details. We have reached out to the ACO to obtain the Watertown MOU and have not received any information back. We need to put something in place. We will be reaching out to Naugatuck to move this along. CB – its possible that Pat may have been caught off guard because this meeting is early which may make reports less available. GS – for the report maybe, but we have not received any communication from him regarding Watertown and Naugatuck. CB – I concur.
- d. **Park Trails Report** – GS – AI has been doing a great job patrolling the parks and I am glad we have him working with Steve. CB – are we going to approve Steve's report as well with this? GS – let us review Steven's also and moving forward we will accept them under one report. MK – regarding the padlock system they are discussing, is this a budgeted item? I am assuming it fits in the Parks budget or will this be pushed to FY22? GS – I believe they had money in the Parks line item, and it should not carry into the next fiscal year. Motion to approve the parks and public works parks report as presented, CB/MK, all ayes.
- e. **BOE Report** – No report provided. GS – that seems to never make it to us, and always to the BOF and when we did get it, we only got a link. MK – you have access but no one else does. GS – I can never open it. Clerk noted that the BOE must provide us permission to access the link. MK – can you follow up with them to allow us access to the link? Clerk – yes.

16. Reading of Correspondence & Payment of Invoices

- a. Letter from the State of CT requesting a board member recommendation. GS – I will reach out to them to find out exactly what they are looking for so that we can discuss next month.
- b. Letter received from Chatfield Farms thanking the town for providing the Covid vaccine clinics.

17. Old Business

- a. **Town Sesquicentennial Celebration – Update** MK – I sent in brief meeting minutes from the last two discussions. In short, we are looking at doing a more formal event on or before June 30th. Region 16 is out around the 12th of June. As noted, we have invited dignitaries to be there, and they have responded already. We have also been talking about doing a later event, late summer, or early fall. I know the FD is trying to plan something for October and I do not want to be stepping on each other's events. GS – so we are doing flags like the ones that hand on Main St.? MK – yes, we circulated the 150th design contest through the school system. I have not seen anything come in yet. The plan is to hang and parade these flags as the FD did with the believe signs. Whatever day we do the event, there will be local vendors, food etc. MK – we still must discuss our plans with the FD and PD. We will be going around to local businesses to ask for donations as well. GS – do you have together a fundraising ask letter or is that something you are working on? MK – one of our committee letters are working on it and hopefully it will be finalized Wednesday. We just need to get a letter together to go with it.
- b. **Ordinance Committee** – GS – Tom Pratt has been working on the e365 to codify the ordinances. The Committee has been reaching out to the Boards and Chairs regarding Ordinance updates and revisions. This is coming along rather nicely.
- c. **COVID-19** – GS – the good news is that the Governor announced as of March 19th the restrictions are being lifted. I have spoken to Jessica at NVHD and she is in agreement that we would be perfectly safe to reopen Town Hall on 3/22. The Executive Order goes in effect 3/19. We are working with NVHD to finalize the details, but our plan is to open back up on 3/22 and moving back to in person meetings. This is all subject to working with NVHD.

- d. **Burton Road Update** – GS – we did get the task order from Milone & MacBroom. We were on the COG's agenda for approval as a LOCIP project and it was approved at their meeting. The challenge we have is that everyone is working with limited crews. All the grant programs are being worked on with limited crews. We are pushing and hoping that more people will be back to work after the 19th.
- e. **Rimmon School House Land Surveying** – MK – I have reached out to Judson to be the surveyor. It falls below the bid threshold so that we can just go into contract with them. They are local and aware of the history. I recommend we spend no more than \$4,000 on the surveying work. The survey is the last restriction the State requires before releasing the land to the Town at which point, we can begin to plan on moving the schoolhouse. MK made a motion to approve Horbal and Judson Land Surveyors with the maximum budget of \$4,000 to survey the North Main Street property for the location of moving the Rimmon Street School House, CB seconded, all ayes. GS – MK please reach out to them and let them know we would like them to get started.

18. New Business

a. Appointments & Reappointments

- **Brownfields Commission** – Still vacant.
- **Second Assistant EMD** – GS – received a letter from the EMD requesting that Christopher Beson be named as a second Assistant EMD. GS – are we allowed to have two assistants? CB – when Lt. Rodriquez was our EMD we had two assistants. There were always 3 people on that committee. GS – I do not know if we ever actually appointed 3. CB – I am 100% sure that we did. GS made motion to make Christopher Beson as the second assistant EMD for the Town of Beacon Falls, CB/MK, all ayes.

b. Tax Refunds – GS – entertain a motion to approve refunds in the amount of \$6,921.48 MK/CB, all ayes.

19. Budget Transfer Requests – moved to 1a above.

20. Executive Session – None

21. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:41 P.M. CB/MK, all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
First Selectman's Office Administrator/Clerk