

Board of Selectmen  
December 5, 2008  
Minutes

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TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF BECKET

Members present: William Cavanaugh, Doug Walter  
John Murray-absent

Others Present: Richard Furlong, David Bonney, Bill Brownhill, Michael Falk, Meredyth Babcock,  
Mercedes Gallagher, Deborah Beasley

7:00 PM Meeting opened. Reviewed minutes. Doug motioned to accept the minutes of November 19, 2008, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

The Selectmen reviewed the alcoholic beverage license renewals for 2009. Doug asked if there was an investigation of Uncle Larry's Tavern for incidents that took place there. Richard advised that the police investigation is ongoing but he has not heard anything. Doug advised that he and the police are concerned about the different incidents that took place at Uncle Larry's Tavern. Bill advised that he has not heard anything concerning this issue. Doug motioned to sign the alcoholic beverage license renewals applications for 2009 for the following: Dream Away Lodge for an all alcoholic restaurant license; Berkshire Berries for an all alcoholic restaurant license and a wine and malt package goods store license; Mountain Grove Association for an all alcoholic club license; Lake View General Store for an all alcoholic package goods store license; Becket Country Store and Café for a wine and malt package goods store license; and Uncle Larry's Tavern for an all alcoholic restaurant license, Bill seconded. Motion passed. Doug motioned to estimate the temporary increased resident population in Becket as of July 10, 2009 at 9,000, Bill seconded. Motion passed. The Selectmen reviewed the Renewal Certification form for 2009. Richard advised that the Becket General Store is listed as not renewing the license because the store is not open and the Board cannot issue a license if the establishment is not open. Doug motioned to sign the Renewal Certification for 2009, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Public Input: None.

Doug motioned to sign the letter to Senator Downing and Representative Guyer requesting that they file the Center Pond and Sherwood Forest Lake Districts legislation, Bill seconded. Motion passed. Briefly discussed the procedure that follows if it passes through the legislature.

Doug motioned to appoint William Girard as Trench Inspector term to expire June 30, 2011, Bill seconded. Motion passed. Richard advised the Board that they will need to revisit the fees for this permit because most towns are charging \$25.00 for this permit. Briefly discussed the permitting process for trenches.

7:15 PM Meredyth Babcock, Westfield River Wild & Scenic Volunteer Coordinator, addressed the Board. She advised the Board that she, along with other volunteers, walked a good amount of the wild and scenic areas and were looking for projects that could be done on each of the three branches of the Westfield River. She had an idea for a project and asked the Selectmen if they had an interest in it and what she needed to do to complete it. The project she has in mind is located at the end of Main Street near the Becket Washington School. She would like to remove some of the pavement and make a grassy area for a park bench so that people could visit this area. She asked if she would need to get permits to do any of this. Richard advised that she would need to get approval from the highway superintendent before she could remove any of the tarmac and it is considered hazardous waste so she would need to find out how to

handle that. He feels that this would need to be discussed to see what this project would involve. Richard will meet with Meredyth to discuss this project before discussing this with the highway superintendent. Mercedes advised that the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee has some money available to towns and one project it is looking at is the storm water systems along the west branch of the Westfield River. Mercedes also advised that the National Parks Service has signed off on the McNerney Road project. Briefly discussed the issues that the National Parks Service had with this project.

Doug motioned to approve the Town Administrator's appointment of Kristopher McDonough as a Police Officer term to expire June 30, 2009, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Doug motioned to appoint Beth VanNess and David Bonney to the Town Administrator Search Committee, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

The Selectmen reviewed the letter to Clement Bergeron from Attorney Janet Pumphrey regarding unregistered automobiles on property on Benton Hill Road. Bill asked if the fines have started yet. Nina advised that she has not received the return receipt from the certified letter that was sent to him. Richard advised that he will probably not sign for this letter and it will be returned to the town. This letter may need to be delivered by a constable.

The Selectmen will take the letter from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission regarding Notice of Available Technical Assistance home with them to review. Richard advised that the Selectmen would need to decide if they can find anything they want to apply for. He also advised that this grant was used to rewrite some of the Zoning Bylaws.

The Selectmen reviewed the letter from Municipal Energy regarding obtaining a refund of streetlighting overcharges from WMECO. This company does not charge anything to participate but if they do find that the town was overcharged, they would get a portion of the refund. Richard will check into this and decide whether to use this company or not.

The Selectmen reviewed the monthly reports of the Ambulance Department and the Board of Assessors.

Any other business: Deb Beasley gave the Selectmen a copy of the Memorandum of Decision and Order on Plaintiff's Complaint for Civil Contempt from her suit against the Jacobs Hollow Road Association. She advised that the main case would be brought forth next which involves the lack of maintenance to the road by the Jacobs Hollow Road Association.

Richard advised the Selectmen that Free Cash was certified at \$57,486. He explained what he was using this for and advised that there would be a small amount left that he will hold onto until the Annual Town Meeting.

Richard advised that he spoke with the animal control officer and he said that Mr. Chichester has his fence installed so hopefully the dog calls will stop.

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Richard advised that the Yokum Pond Road bridge plans were lost in Boston but they have them again so hopefully the bridge will be repaired before summer.

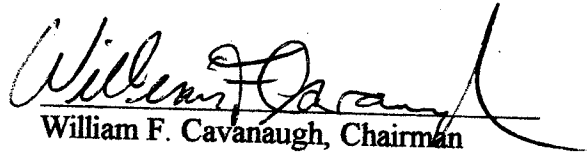
Richard advised that the tax rate has not been set yet but if everything goes right it is looking like the rate will be \$7.98.

Reviewed correspondence.

8:05 PM Doug motioned to adjourn, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nina Weiler, Secretary

  
William F. Cavanaugh, Chairman