

Board of Selectmen  
Working Meeting  
April 12, 2013  
Minutes

Members present: William Elovirta, Jeanne Pryor, Mark Karlberg arrived at 10:20 a.m.

Others Present: Joseph Kellogg, Colleen O'Connor, Beth VanNess, Richard Furlong, Chris Bouchard, John Sakata-Berkshire Eagle

10:02 AM Meeting opened.

Since Mark was late coming in, Jeanne chaired the meeting.

Jeanne asked if anyone was recording the meeting. No one is recording the meeting other than the Board of Selectmen.

Chris Bouchard, Highway Superintendent, updated the Board with highway department projects and issues since he started working for the town. He advised that he has met the highway crew and has been working with them and is getting to know them. He discussed Chapter 90 and advised that Kathy Stevens from MassDOT will be assisting him with closeouts so the Chapter 90 projects would be up-to-date. Briefly discussed the Bonny Rigg Hill Road bridge/culvert issue. Bill asked Chris if he ever dealt with Foresight Land Services since they were the ones who did most of the engineering work for Bonny Rigg Hill Road. Chris advised that he has not but did not feel there would be an issue with continuing with Foresight on the engineering work. Briefly spoke about FEMA and MEMA funding for BRHR. He advised that Pat Mullins from BRPC would be scheduling a walk through in North Becket when he returned from vacation. He also spoke about the current highway department budget and advised that some of the accounts are close. He spoke to the Board about making the highway department budget a little easier to handle and combining some separate accounts into one. He advised that he will be putting together a capital spending plan so that pieces of equipment can be replaced when they need to be. He asked the Selectmen if the highway department had permission to remove the old playground equipment at the Becket Washington School because he received a call asking them to remove this equipment. Bill advised that the highway department could remove the old playground equipment for the school. The Board thanked him for coming in and filling them in on the highway department projects.

The Board skipped over the budget and will work on it after they discuss the Town Administrator interviews. Joe advised that he spoke with two of Edward Gibson's references and was told that he is a hard worker who does not micro-manage and the references never had a sense that he sexually harassed anyone. Joe also spoke with former West Springfield Town Counsel and was told that they felt he would be a good fit for Becket. Bill advised that he spoke with some employees from West Springfield and they wish he was back there.

Joe also spoke with Lisa Blackmer's references and was told that she is aggressive but gets things done. Some felt she did not have the experience that it would take to do this job. Jeanne feels that Lisa would be good but she does not have the experience and may have other ambitions. Bill did not feel Lisa would be here long term. Mark was bothered by Lisa stating that she would continue on the City Council. He also feels that Ed was honest about the sexual harassment suit and has more experience. Briefly discussed becoming CORI certified. The Selectmen are not certified to complete a CORI check. Joe will assist Nina in completing the certification process. Joe advised that they could hire a detective but he does not feel the town should spend the money. He feels that Ed worked as mayor of West Springfield for eleven years and

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if something bad came up about him it would have come out then. The Selectmen were bothered that the town employees did not attend the meeting where they conducted the interviews. Joe advised that he spoke to the employees about each candidate. Mark motioned to make an offer subject to negotiations with Edward Gibson, Bill seconded. All in favor. Joe will contact Ed Gibson to advise him that the BOS would like to hire him. Joe advised that he spoke with Ed after the interviews and Ed told him he would be available to start work after the Annual Town Meeting. The Selectmen will meet at 6:00 on April 18, 2013 to work on the budget and complete contract negotiations with Ed Gibson.

Reviewed the latest FY14 budget. Joe advised that the Finance Committee approved everything on the budget that was requested. Briefly discussed vocational transportation. Joe advised that the new town administrator will need to work on this over the summer. Briefly discussed the CBRSD capital articles. Joe advised that the YMCA Camp has not submitted an article about partially closing Hamilton Road and Bennett Road. The Board of Selectmen will need to meet on April 25, 2013 to finalize the budget.

Any other business: Nina advised that Christopher Sarafin who wanted to donate his three parcels of land to the town came in and paid all of the taxes that were owed so the Selectmen could sign the quitclaim deed to start the deed transfer process. They had previously voted to accept his property donations, contingent on the taxes being paid to date, since the town owned the parcels before he purchased them so the title is clear.

11:14 AM Bill motioned to adjourn, Mark seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nina Weiler, Secretary

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Mark L. Karlberg, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- FY14 Budget dated 4/11/13
- Quitclaim Deed Sarafin Property Donation