

Board of Selectmen  
April 17, 2013  
Minutes

Members present: Mark Karlberg, William Elovirta, Jeanne Pryor

Others Present: Joseph Kellogg, Colleen O'Connor, Beth VanNess, Melissa Provencher-BRPC,  
Stephen Micka-Verizon, Robert Gross, David Bonney, Alvin Blake, Rita Furlong

7:00 PM Meeting opened.

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

7: 00 PM Pole Hearing opened for the proposed installation of two solely owned poles on Wade Inn Road by Verizon. Stephen Micka, Verizon Representative, advised that there was a miscommunication and the poles were already installed. He is still seeking permission to install two solely owned poles for the purpose of relocating a private right-of-way and to provide for distribution of telecommunications. Bill advised that there are many double poles in Becket that should get removed and he feels that the Board should not approve any new installations until these are taken care of. Jeanne agrees with Bill. Steve advised that the first thing he would need to do is get a list of the poles and then he would get in contact with the construction manager and right-of-way manager of Verizon. Then he would set up a meeting with Bill and Joe to make sure they know exactly what they want done and set up a time table. Bill motioned to approve the request pending a satisfactory plan for the removal of double poles, Jeanne seconded. All in favor. The selectmen will sign the request but Joe will hold on to it until he receives the plan to remove the double poles.

Melissa Provencher, of BRPC, advised that Pat Mullins could not make the meeting so she is here in her place. She advised that both the CDBG and the Green Communities Grants are scheduled to end on June 30, 2013. The groups that are providing the funding would need to know if there were going to be any extensions by May 1, 2013. Since there are no guarantees that we would need an extension, she is suggesting that they vote to request an extension so if something comes up they would be able to have the extension. Jeanne motioned to request an extension of the Green Communities and CDBG grants to September 30, 2013, Bill seconded. All in favor.

Jeanne motioned to accept the Board of Selectmen minutes of March 20, 2013 and April 3, 2013, Bill seconded. All in favor. Jeanne motioned to approve the two separate Executive Session minutes of March 20, 2013 and not to release them, Bill seconded. All in favor.

Briefly discussed property donation requests. Joe advised that he spoke with town counsel about accepting properties. The town has been accepting property donations for years and it costs the town a lot of money because title searches have to be done to ensure the town is taking property that has a clear title. If the town takes property for non-payment of taxes then the title issue goes away. Joe recommends that they do not put this on the town meeting warrant. He suggests that a committee be formed to look into this and come up with a comprehensive policy to deal with this. Jeanne motioned not to put the property donations on the Annual Town Meeting warrant, Bill seconded. All in favor. Briefly discussed forming a committee to work on a policy. Jeanne motioned to form a committee to include the tax collector, town administrator, treasurer and one Board of Selectmen member to develop a policy for handling donated lands, Bill seconded. All in favor. Joe advised that this committee would need to post its meetings so the

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public could attend. Bill asked if the town administrator could be on a committee if the bylaws state he cannot do this. Joe advised that the town administrator could be an exofficio member of the committee.

Joe advised that Berkshire Enviro-Labs is no longer a working company and the town has five public water supplies that need to be tested on a regular basis. Because the town has public water supplies, it needs to have a certified operator come and test the water once a month. He also advised that some of the people who worked at Berkshire Enviro-Labs have joined with Berkshire Engineering to form a sub-company called Housatonic Basin Sampling & Testing. This company issued a proposal to do the monthly water testing which would cost \$614 per month. He also received another proposal from White Water-Water & Wastewater Solutions that would cost \$625 per month to do the water testing. Some of the employees of Berkshire Enviro-Labs have gone to work at HBS&T and are already on board with the DEP as the town's certified water operators. Jeanne asked about the beach testing. Joe advised that the Board of Health makes sure the beach gets tested and pays for the testing from its budget. Jeanne motioned to go with Housatonic Basin Sampling & Testing on a month to month basis as certified water operator for the Town of Becket, Bill seconded. All in favor.

The Selectmen reviewed the request from Community Health Programs to park its Mobile Medical RV at town hall the first Thursday of every month to provide well and sick visits and a number of screenings to CHP patients. The RV would be parked over by the pavilion so it does not interfere with the Town Hall parking. Bill motioned to allow Community Health Programs to park its Mobile Medical RV at town hall once a month to provide well and sick visits and a number of screenings to CHP patients, Jeanne seconded. All in favor.

The Selectmen reviewed the Special Permit Application from the Planning Board for an extension to build on lot at 117 Minstrels Way. Jeanne motioned that the Board of Selectmen have no objections to the Special Permit Application from the Planning Board for an extension to build on lot at 117 Minstrels Way, Bill seconded. All in favor,

The Selectmen reviewed the monthly reports of the Police Department, Citations Issued and Animal Control Officer.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: None.

Town Administrator's Report: Joe advised that he is having a department head meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2013. This meeting is strictly informational. He advised that if the Selectmen decide to go to a biweekly payroll, by state law they need to give the employees a 90 day notice. He would like the Selectmen to formally decide at their meeting on April 25, 2013.

Joe advised that he spoke with our representative at MIIA and the health insurance will not be increasing this year.

Joe advised that he received a petitioned article to change the Board of Selectmen from a three member board to a five member board. There is language on the petitioned article that states that a ballot question would be placed on the election ballot after the vote at the annual town meeting. He checked with the moderator and town counsel about whether they need to do this and was told that there is no requirement

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to have this done. If the town meeting votes to make this change then the town submits home rule legislation. The legislature may require the town to place a question on an election ballot but they do not usually make a town do this. He wants the Selectmen to decide if they do a ballot question because the town clerk needs to prepare the ballot and needs to know what to put on the ballot. The Selectmen agree that it should not go on the ballot. Jeanne advised that the petition needs to be signed by the Board of Registrars. Joe will speak with the town clerk about this.

Joe asked the Board if he could put a blurb on the agenda that explains how public input is done at the Board of Selectmen meetings so people know when they can speak and ask questions. The Selectmen are fine with this.

Joe advised that Edward Gibson has accepted the town administrator job subject to contract negotiations. He submitted a list of things he is looking for and Joe is asking the Selectmen if they could go into executive session at the end of the meeting so they can review this list. The Board will be meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2013 to negotiate a contract. The Board agreed to go into Executive Session.

Public Input: Colleen advised that all public water supplies are under DEP jurisdiction. All private water systems are under the Board of Health jurisdiction.

David Bonney, of the Sherwood Forest Road District, advised that they are in need of a piece of property that the town owns to store their winter sand on. He asked if the town could sell the road district this piece of property. Joe advised that instead of going through the lengthy process of selling this land, the Selectmen could issue a license for the road district to utilize this property. He asked Mr. Bonney to send him a letter and he could start the process. Bill asked if there would be an issue if the winter sand is stored in a residential neighborhood. Joe advised that this could be researched.

Any other business: Jeanne asked the Board if they were okay with posting the amended charge to the Town Meeting Bylaw Review Committee on the website. She made all of the changes that were voted on at a previous BOS meeting. The Board was fine with posting the amended charge on the town's website.

Mark advised that he checked the open meeting law because Colleen stated that anyone could make a point of order request anytime during a meeting. Mark stated that per the Open Meeting Law sec. 20 paragraph F, No person shall address a meeting of a public body without permission of the chair, and all persons shall, at the request of the chair, be silent. He advised that at a town meeting someone could request a point of order but not at a public body meeting.

Reviewed correspondence.

7:57 PM Jeanne motioned to go into Executive Session under G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21 (a) (2) in preparation for contract negotiations for non-union personnel, Bill seconded. Roll call vote: Jeanne-aye, Bill-aye, Mark-aye.

8:23 PM Jeanne motioned to adjourn, Bill seconded. All in favor.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Nina Weiler, Secretary

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Mark L. Karlberg, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Pole Hearing Proposal of two solely owned poles on Wade Inn Road by Verizon
- Water Operator Services proposals from Housatonic Basin Sampling & Testing and White Water Water & Wastewater Solutions
- Request from Community Health Programs to park its Mobile Medical RV at town hall
- Special Permit Application for an extension to build on lot at 117 Minstrels Way
- Monthly reports of the Police Department, Citations Issued and Animal Control Officer
- Amended Charge to the Town Meeting Bylaw Review Committee