

Board of Selectmen
May 15, 2013
Minutes

Members present: Mark Karlberg, William Elovirta, Jeanne Pryor

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Colleen O'Connor, Beth VanNess, Chris Bouchard, Madeleine Swindlehurst, Cindy DelPapa, John Amato, Karen Karlberg, Rita Burns, Gale LaBelle, Markelle Smith

7:00 PM Meeting opened.

Mark asked if anyone was recording the meeting. Beth VanNess is recording the meeting along with the Board of Selectmen.

Chris Bouchard, Highway Superintendent, addressed the Board regarding Transfer Station and Highway Department issues. He advised that he spoke with a woman who lives on Morse Drive about the box culvert on that road. She wanted to know who maintains this culvert and after doing some research, he found out that this road was never turned over to the town so it is a state road. He suggested that the Board of Selectmen write a letter to MA DOT about this road. Bill gave a history of this road while he was highway superintendent. The agreement was that the town would plow this road but the state would maintain it and when the state resurfaced Route 20, it would repave Morse Drive and improve the drainage and after this was done the State would turn this road over to the town. The road was repaved but the State never completed the paperwork required to turn this road over to the town. Chris did not think the town would get much more Chapter 90 money if this road gets turned over to the town. Mark asked Ed to speak with MA DOT to see what is going on with this road. Chris gave the Selectmen a Chapter 90 final report for County Road to sign. He also advised that the town would be reimbursed for the February snow storm once he completes the paperwork and we should be receiving approximately \$20,000 for this. Chris advised that the Transfer Station license is in the process of being renewed. He also advised that a company called the Institute for International Cooperation and Development would like to put clothing collection boxes at the Transfer Station so residents could bring unwanted clothing there and keep the clothing from entering the landfills. Jeanne motioned to allow IICD to have a clothing box at the Transfer Station, Bill seconded. All in favor. Briefly discussed purchasing a tire machine that removes tires that come to transfer station on rims. The town used to have a company come and pickup tires with or without rims but we do not have that company anymore. It would pay for itself in a couple of years.

Jeanne motioned to approve the Executive Session minutes of April 17, 2013 and not release them at this time, Bill seconded. All in favor. Jeanne motioned to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meetings of April 25, 2013 and May 1, 2013, Bill seconded. All in favor.

The Board briefly discussed the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement. Bill asked Ed if he had a chance to speak with the Police Chief or Highway Superintendent about this. Ed advised that he only spoke with the police chief but did not have a chance to speak with anybody else. The Selectmen would like to table this until their next meeting so Ed could speak with all of the departments about this agreement.

The Board reviewed the Town Counsel Policy that was drafted. Bill motioned to accept the Town Counsel Policy, Jeanne seconded. All in favor.

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Jeanne motioned to sign Amended Agreement for the Purchase of Lands from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the West Branch parcel in North Becket, Bill seconded. All in favor.

Nina advised that there is no Becket Ambulance Department Request for Write-Off Report to initial.

The Board reviewed the monthly reports of the Becket Ambulance Department, Police Department, Citations Issued and Animal Control Officer. Bill asked if the ambulance report could have more detailed information on it. He would like to know how many refusals there were, how many mutual aid calls there were in the month. Nina will speak with Jim Kupernik about this.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Bill stated that he was happy to see many department heads at the Annual Town Meeting. He said that there have been meetings where there were questions that could not be answered because the department head was not there to answer these questions. Bill also said he took exception to what Colleen O'Connor said about the Highway Superintendent being appointed before the interviews took place for this position. He does not know where she heard this but it was not true.

Town Administrator's Report: Ed thanked all the employees and Board and Committee members for making him feel right at home.

Ed advised that he spoke with Pat Mullins of BRPC about both the CDBG and Green Communities grants. The North Becket Infrastructure Improvements have been completed and there is \$36,082.50 left over which will need to be re-programmed either into other infrastructure improvements in that target area or into housing rehabilitation. They will need to discuss where they wish this money to go into. He also advised that the Selectmen voted to extend the contract of the CDBG and he has a draft letter that requests an extension of the performance period and if the Selectmen are comfortable with the letter they could allow Ed to sign this letter and get it off to BRPC. Jeanne motioned to have Ed Gibson be the authorized signatory for the CDBG grants, Bill seconded. All in favor. Ed also advised that Pat Mullins recommended that they start the process of working on the Town Hall portion of the energy efficiency upgrades with design and installation of the air conditioning system.

Ed advised that he has been contacted by several vendors who are interested in providing Internet and Voice services to the municipal buildings through the MBI initiative. It appears that the Becket Municipal facilities would be able to utilize the fiber optic cable beginning around July. He will bring all the information on these services back to the Selectmen.

Ed advised that one of the full time ambulance department employees has requested to go on a per diem basis so he is asking permission from the Board to post and/or advertise the vacancy for the full time position. He also advised that Jim Kupernik would like to move forward with the purchase of the Automatic External Defibrillator that was approved at the ATM. He can move forward on this since the funding comes from free cash.

Ed advised that he will work with the highway superintendent in having the snow guards at the highway garage installed since this was also approved for funding with free cash.

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Ed advised that he spoke with an abutter who is interested in purchasing the Quarry Road property that the town meeting approved to be sold by the Board of Selectmen. He will be in contact with the abutter and let him know when and by what process this property would be disposed of. Briefly discussed what the next steps would be before they can decide how to sell this property.

Ed advised that he received a quote for insurance renewal for the Police and Fire from Cabot Risk Strategies. He would sign the quote on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and return it to Cabot Risk Strategies.

Ed advised that the American Red Cross is interested in holding a Blood Drive in Town Hall and if the Selectmen are interested in this, he will work with the Red Cross to set this up.

Ed advised that he would be attending the BRPC meeting in Pittsfield on Thursday, May 16th. He also advised that he would be hosting the Berkshire Town Administrators and Managers Association meeting at the town hall on Tuesday, May 21st.

Public Input: Gale LaBelle expressed her concern about the property on Quarry Road that the Selectmen will be selling. She, along with other residents on Quarry Road, does not want another place for people to party on.

Madeleine Swindlehurst asked the Board to speak up so people in the audience could hear them. She was confused about the property that the US Fish and Wildlife is purchasing in North Becket. The US Fish and Wildlife is purchasing the parcel in North Becket from the town. She requested a copy of the Town Counsel Policy so that she could see the section that deals with Petitioner's Articles. She also expressed her concern about the parking in the back of the town hall. She feels there should be concrete barriers placed so that people cannot go over the bank and into the woods. She also reminded people that they cannot distribute campaign materials into mailboxes. This is illegal. Bill advised that if she received something in her mailbox she should make the post office aware of it.

Karen Karlberg advised that she held a workshop at town hall regarding invasive species and found that there are invasive species at town hall. She asked if she and some volunteers could work on removing these invasive species at town hall the proper way so that they do not come back. The Selectmen do not have a problem with a group coming to town hall to remove these invasive species.

Colleen O'Connor stated that a candidate running for office was on the ballot twice for the same office which was incorrect. She feels that someone should have advised the town clerk that he made a mistake but no one did. Jeanne advised that she did contact the Town Clerk about the ballot. It was an error and was corrected.

Colleen also stated that the highway department received mail with Chris Bouchard's name on it before the interview process was complete. Chris stated that he never deals with the company that sent the piece of mail that had his name on it. There was a discussion about the new Building and Grounds Person position that is being created.

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John Amato advised that Laurel Burgwardt did not run for both positions on the Board of Health; she was written in for one position. He also felt that Bruce Garlow did a great job at the Annual Town Meeting. He also feels that the townspeople could benefit from the outfit that is placing clothing boxes at the Transfer Station if the clothing that is being dropped off could somehow be distributed to residents in need. He also made a suggestion about how to handle public input at Selectmen's meetings.

Any other business: Jeanne advised that the only changes she made to the Board of Selectmen Meeting Guidelines were to change any reference from "Select Board" to "Board of Selectmen".

Jeanne advised that Senate Bill 2291 "An Act to Authorize the Town of Becket to Establish a Speed Regulation on Fred Snow Road and Johnson Road" was not enacted during the previous legislative session so the bill died. Senator Downing's office, in an email, explained that the reason this bill died was because Mass DOT vigorously opposes all home rules like this one, which sought to establish a speed limit through special legislation and not through the established process. She takes exception to this since the town was told to do this by Mass DOT since both roads were gravel roads. The Board needs to decide whether to re-file this legislation.

Jeanne advised that she has drafted a charge for a Board-appointed energy committee and the Selectmen could take this up at their next meeting.

Nina advised that she received a call from Daniel Osman of the Dream Away Lodge who had misplaced his liquor license and needs to get another copy. Briefly discussed possibly charging licensees for copies of liquor licenses if they need one.

Nina advised that she received a letter after the agenda was posted from a resident who would like the Selectmen to waive his false alarm fees. The Selectmen will take this up at their next meeting.

Ed asked if the job descriptions for the Building and Grounds person and the Clerk of Committees have been approved yet. The Clerk of Committees has not been approved yet. Nina will check to see if the B&G Person job description was ever voted on and if it has not then the Selectmen can do both job descriptions at their next meeting.

Reviewed correspondence.

Briefly discussed the Bonny Rigg Hill Road grant.

Briefly discussed the letter from Cabot Risk Strategies regarding Police and Fire insurance coverage. Nina will check with the Fire and Police Chiefs to get the number of volunteer fire fighters and part time police officers.

8:25 PM Jeanne motioned to adjourn, Bill seconded. All in favor.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

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Respectfully submitted,
Nina Weiler, Secretary

Mark L. Karlberg, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Attachment C Mutual Aid “Opt-In” Form for the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement
- Town Counsel Policy
- Amended Agreement for the Purchase of Lands from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the West Branch parcel in North Becket.
- Monthly reports of the Ambulance Department, Police Department, Citations Issued and Animal Control Officer
- Town of Becket Guidelines to Board of Selectmen Meetings
- Email regarding Senate Bill 2291 “An Act to Authorize the Town of Becket to Establish a Speed Regulation on Fred Snow Road and Johnson Road”
- Letter from Cabot Risk Strategies regarding Police and Fire insurance coverage