

Board of Selectmen
June 19, 2013
Minutes

Members present: Jeanne Pryor, William Elovirta, Angela Hilton

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Colleen O'Connor, Chris Bouchard, Gerald Dezess, Beth VanNess, Kris McDonough

7:00 PM Meeting opened.

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

Nina advised that there were no minutes to review at this time.

Bill motioned to approve the town administrator's appointments of the following with a term to commence on July 1, 2013 and end on June 30, 2014: Margaret McClellan, Town Accountant; Albert Goodermote, Animal Control Officer; James Kupernik, Ambulance Director; Timothy, Sullivan, Emergency Management Director, Ray Tarjick, Fire Chief/Fire Warden; Christopher Bouchard, Highway Superintendent; Gary Danko, Assistant Building Inspector; Christopher Bouchard, Pest Control; Mark Levernoch, Plumbing/Gas Inspector; Brian Middleton, Assistant Plumbing/Gas Inspector; Christopher Bouchard, Tree Warden; Doug Mann, Veterans' Agent; William Mulholland, Veterans' Grave Officer; Jim LaPier, Wiring Inspector; Dana Spring, Assistant Wiring Inspector, Angela seconded. All in favor.

Bill motioned to appoint the following Board and Committee members: Kristopher Massini and Neil Toomey, Agricultural Commission for three year terms; Stephen LaBelle, Sr., Alternate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for a one year term, Elizabeth Will, Board of Assessors for a three year term; Rita Furlong and Neil Toomey, Community Preservation Committee for three year terms; Priscilla McEwen and Scott Morley, Conservation Commission for three year terms; Marie Grull, Joan Moylan, William Robinson, Alfred Moylan, and Celine Godbout, Council on Aging for three year terms; Audrey Schlanger and Roberta Goldman, Arts Lottery Council for three year terms; Steve Rosenthal, Harbor Master for a one year term; Aaron Beatty, Jennifer Beatty and Rita Furlong, Historical Commission for three year terms; William Robinson, Jacobs Ladder Trail Advisory Committee for a one year term; Tina LeVasseur, Recreation Committee for a three year term; Howard Lerner, Alternate to the Planning Board for a one year term; Christine Bleau, Treasurer for a three year term; Mercedes Gallagher, Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee and William Babcock as alternate to the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee for one year terms, Karen Karlberg, Zoning Board of Appeals for a three year term, Angela seconded. All in favor.

Bill motioned to appoint Edward Gibson as the Chief Procurement Officer and the Municipal Lighting Plant Manager, Angela seconded. All in favor.

Ed advised that he is authorized to sign contracts under \$25,000 so the Board is not required to take any action on the MecNet contract for email archiving so he has renewed the contract.

Bill motioned to authorize Edward Gibson as signatory for the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Grant Agreement, Angela seconded. All in favor.

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Ed recommended that no action be taken on awarding the bid for the FY 2014 Pickup Truck for the highway department since he and the highway superintendent have some questions on this bid award that need answering. He would like to bring this to the working meeting they will have next week.

Bill motioned to award under the Greater Boston Police Council (of which we are a member) Collective purchasing bid for a fiscal year 2014 funded Police Cruiser four wheel drive vehicle to MHQ, for a 2013 Ford Interceptor Utility V6 All Wheel Drive equipped as listed in the bid dated June 18, 2013 (revision 2) in the amount of \$36,689.00 and to authorize the trade in of the existing Police Department 2007 Ford Crown Victoria in the amount of \$1,100.00 for a total net bid award amount of \$35,589.00. This is an award with Fiscal Year 2014 funding and the Town will not take possession and ownership until after July 1, 2013, Angela seconded. All in favor.

The Board reviewed the Becket Ambulance Department Request for Disposition Report. Bill motioned to write-off #200C, Jeanne seconded. All in favor. Bill motioned to send #093 to the Collection Agency or if it already was sent to the collection agency then take it to Small Claims Court, Angela seconded. All in favor. Bill motioned to send #173 to collection agency, Angela seconded. ~~All in favor.~~ **Jeanne voted against this. Motion passed. (amended 8/21/13)**

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Bill advised that he had the opportunity to go to the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School graduation held on June 6, 2013. He advised that out of the three Becket students graduating, two of them received awards. Jeanne motioned to send letters of congratulations to the two students winning awards, Angela seconded. All in favor.

Town Administrator's Report: Ed advised that he was contacted by the company that performs water tests on the town's public water supplies and the DEP advising that there are high levels of coliform and e-coli in the test of the well that serve the Becket Arts Center and the Mullen House. The DEP has placed a "Boil Water Order" on the two facilities and the system will be shocked. Further testing will be done to determine whether the order may be lifted or there may be follow up requirements placed on the town.

Ed advised that he received the documentation from the 2010 actual OPEB valuation and he would be working with the Treasurer to update that information to reflect June 30, 2012 information. This will take several weeks and once they return the information to the actuary they will perform the technical actuarial analysis of the valuation and return that information to the town.

Ed advised that the bid for Fiscal Year 2012 Audit Services has been published and is due back with responses on June 26th.

Ed advised that he and the police chief and the highway superintendent met on site on Brooker Hill Road to go over the plans for the Summer Solstice Bash to be held on Friday at the Becket Athenaeum, Becket Arts Center and Mullen House. He advised that the highway department would be there during the event in case the barricades need to be moved to allow emergency vehicles to pass through. They will have a follow up meeting after the event to see what worked well and what may need to change for future events.

Ed advised that after completing his research that the town's vocational van driver did not receive a 1 ½% cost of living increase for FY 2013.

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Ed advised that he met with the Becket Athenaeum Board of Trustees and Library Staff to discuss their needs and concerns should the Athenaeum and Town be interested in transferring ownership of the property over to the town. The Board and Staff were clear that if such an arrangement were to transpire that control over the management, employees, hours of operation and programs offered must stay under the control of the Board of Trustees.

Ed advised that he had spoken with MassDOT about turning over the portion of Old Route 20 known as Morse Drive. MassDOT was aware of the request however they had stopped pursuit of the turnover with the town when they were notified that the town no longer was interested in taking over the road due to any financial implications which may arise from the stream crossing which provides access to a shared driveway being within the roads right-of-way layout. He will be following up with MassDOT to arrange a site visit for himself.

Ed advised that he was contacted by the attorney representing the Sherwood Greens Road District in regards to the two parcels of land which the District would like to purchase from the town. He would like to know what method of disposal (sale) the Board would like to use.

Ed advised that he has spoken with Town Counsel and DEP concerning the easement /property ownership questions along with Septic and Title V questions on property located on Maple Street. Once he has all the information he will bring a recommended plan to the Board of Selectmen on the best way to proceed to attempt to resolve these issues.

Ed advised that he would be attending the Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, June 27th to provide any end of year Transfer or Reserve requests which may be needed to balance out the fiscal year 2013 budget.

Briefly discussed the two parcels in Sherwood Greens and how to go about selling these properties. Jeanne explained why the SGRD was interested in this property. Bill asked if there were private abutters to these properties. Jeanne advised that the SGRD owns property that abuts one side and a private person owns property that abuts the other side. Briefly discussed notifying the abutters to make sure there was no interest in the property before they decide how to dispose of it. Bill motioned to have the town administrator contact the abutters to see if anyone is interested in the two parcels, Angela seconded. Jeanne abstained from voting. Motion passed.

Angela asked what should be done if the vocational school bus driver did not get a raise last year like he should have. Ed advised that he would work with the treasurer and the accountant to find out what is owed to him and pay him.

Public Input: Beth VanNess gave her professional opinion about the Sherwood Greens properties. She feels the assessed value of these properties is way too high and you would not be able to get that much for these parcels.

Gerald Dezess asked how many times a month the lawns at the Mullen House, Athenaeum and Arts Center were mowed. He advised that the park across from his house only gets mowed once a month. He has

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mowed this park before but he does not feel he should do it anymore and feels it should be mowed when the others town properties are mowed. Chris Bouchard advised that someone would mow this property this week. Mr. Dezess also advised that in the past he has snow blowed the black path that goes from Main Street to High Street during the winter so his grandchildren could catch the bus but someone has taken down a few trees and left the wood along this path. He advised that he would not snow blow this path if the wood is still in the way. Chris Bouchard advised that he does not think the town owns this path so he is not sure if they could do anything. He will check on this.

Colleen asked if the library was acquired by the town, could they hook up the library to the Becket Arts Center and Mullen House well. Briefly discussed this possibility and where the septic tank and leach field for the BAC and Mullen House were located. Jeanne was hoping that the water quality survey that was started in North Becket could be completed.

Any other business: Nina advised that she has one vacation day that she will not be able to use in FY13 and is asking to have this vacation day carried over to FY14. The treasurer has three vacation days that she is asking to have carried over. Bill motioned that the two requests to carry vacation time over to FY14 be approved, Angela seconded. All in favor.

A question came up about whether the police department was ever called regarding Uncle Larry's Tavern and the anonymous complaint. Ed will check on this.

Nina advised that the letter that was sent to the woman who donated her property did not state that she did not have to pay the taxes once the town accepted the property. The Selectmen feel that until she can prove that she has clear title to the property and that there are no liens on it, she would have to pay all of the taxes until the deed was transferred to the town.

Jeanne asked that the Selectmen send Nina the goals that each member would like the town administrator to work on so they can discuss this at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

Briefly discussed advertising for members of the energy committee. Nina will put something on the website including the Energy Charge.

Briefly discussed the working meetings. Angela advised that she has heard a lot of people say they wished the working meetings could be later so they could attend the meetings. Jeanne explained why they had the working meetings earlier in the day. The next working meeting will be on Thursday, June 27th at 4:00 PM.

Reviewed correspondence.

Chris Bouchard will check with the Army Corp of Engineers regarding the retaining wall that is collapsing by Colleen O'Connor's property.

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

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

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Respectfully submitted,
Nina Weiler, Secretary

Jeanne W. Pryor, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Westfield River Wild and Scenic Grant Agreement
- Bid Documents for the FY 2014 Pickup Truck for the Highway Department
- Bid Documents for the FY 2014 Police Cruiser for the Police Department