

Board of Selectmen  
 July 3, 2013  
 Minutes

Members present: Jeanne Pryor, William Elovirta, Angela Hilton

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Colleen O'Connor, Chris Bouchard, Beth VanNess, Neil Toomey, Jeanne Morano, Julia Maynard, Katherine Hoak, Ann Krawet

7:00 PM Meeting opened.

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

Neil Toomey addressed the Board regarding a "Right to Farm" issue. The Department of Conservation and Recreation will not allow him to cut and split firewood on his property. He advised that since one Emerald Ash Borer was found in Dalton, DCR has quarantined Berkshire County as a result of this discovery. He lives on the edge of Berkshire County and most of his customers are in Hampshire and Hampden Counties. The quarantine policy is drawn up by the USDA for all effected States. DCR is mirroring this policy which would not allow him to go into another county even though the Emerald Ash Borer was not found in Becket. He has the ability and the expertise to segregate the ash wood from the rest of the firewood and the Right to Farm law takes into account the farmer's ability to "minimize or prevent the undesirable external effects of the operation". He explained that DCR has the ability to create a waiver for him but he cannot get anyone to help him. He is not asking the Selectmen to decide in his favor; he is just making them aware that this is happening and DCR will have to come to the Board and explain why they will not give him a waiver. Neil advised that he and Kris Massini, who are on the Agricultural Commission, cannot act because they would be in conflict. If DCR does not give him a waiver then the Selectmen would need to make a determination. Neil would like the Selectmen to write a letter to DCR and send copies to our reps asking to put pressure on the regulatory commission. Neil would like DRC to make a determination but it has been months and he has not heard anything from them. This letter may pressure them into making a determination so it would not have to go further. If they do not act then he will go for his Right to Farm. Bill motioned to write a letter to DCR and to our State Senator and State Reps including Congressman Neal strongly urging them to put pressure on DCR to issue a waiver, Angela seconded. All in favor. Ed will come up with a letter for the Board to sign.

Bill motioned to approve the Selectmen's minutes of June 5, 2013, Angela seconded. All in favor. Bill motioned to approve the Selectmen's minutes of June 27, 2013, Angela seconded. All in favor.

Briefly discussed the bid for the highway department utility tractor. Bill motioned to award under Massachusetts State Contract FAC71 Lawns and Grounds Equipment to the lowest qualified bidder Pittsfield Lawn and Tractor one (1) John Deere tractor with attachments as specified by the Highway Department in the amount of \$89,691.52 for the tractor, attachments and extended warranty, Angela seconded. All in favor.

The Board reviewed the Request for Transfers for end of FY13. Jeanne asked if the Finance Committee has voted to sign these yet. Ed advised that these transfers need to go before the Finance Committee. Bill motioned to transfer \$2,000.00 from the Postage Expense Account # 01-156-5500 and \$2,500.00 from the Software Maintenance Account #01-193-5800-580 to the Vocational Transportation Account #01-300-5500-5504, Angela seconded. All in favor. Bill motioned to transfer \$765.56 from the Town Accountant Salaries Account #01-135-5100 to the Highway Department General Maintenance Account #01-421-

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5500-5505, Angela seconded. All in favor. Bill motioned to transfer \$626.90 from Town Accountant Salaries Account #01-135-5100 to Transfer Station Expenses Account #01-431-5500, Angela seconded. All in favor. Bill motioned to transfer \$99.06 from Town Accountant Salaries Account #01-135-5100 to Town Administrator Salaries Account #01-129-5100, Angela seconded. All in favor. Bill motioned to transfer \$1,175.00 from Town Accountant Salaries Account #01-135-5100 to Tax Title Expenses Account #01-147-5500, Angela seconded. All in favor. Bill motioned to transfer \$114.03 from Board of Appeals Expense Account #01-176-5500 to Planning Board Expense Account #01-175-5500, Angela seconded. All in favor. Jeanne motioned to support the Town Administrator's Transfer of \$2,500.00 from the Reserve Account to Vocational Transportation, Bill seconded. All in favor.

The Board reviewed the letters of interest for the Energy Committee. There are four letters of interest. Jeanne asked why Katherine Hoak was interested in this committee. She gave her reasons for wanting to be on the committee. Her main concern was reducing the carbon footprint and any way the town could do that would be good and she would like to be involved in finding ways the town and the residents could reduce the carbon footprint. Ed feels the Board should set the parameters before they make the appointments.

The Board reviewed the monthly reports of the Ambulance Department and Animal Control Officer.

The Board reviewed the Change of Management form for the Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival. Bill asked if a CORI check was done on the individual who was being considered for the manager position. Nina advised that a CORI check was not done yet. The Board will not act on this application until a CORI check was completed.

Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Angela advised that she saw the new cruiser and thought it was really nice.

Bill thought that being that tomorrow was the 4<sup>th</sup> of July; he hoped everyone would take the time to consider how lucky they are to be in a country that is so great and not to have the turmoil that other countries are having.

Jeanne asked if anyone had seen the article in the Berkshire Eagle about the Becket Washington School's innovation projects and goals. She thought it was a really good article.

Jeanne advised that she went to the Board of Health meeting today and advised that Scott Krzanik, from the Berkshire Health Alliance, was appointed the Health Agent and Laura Kittross of the Berkshire Health Alliance attended the meeting and has offered to help the Board, free of charge, get their records in order and to help with inspections.

Town Administrator's Report: Ed advised that Dave Shorey began working this week as the Building and Grounds Technician. He has been busy cleaning the interior of the town hall and also replacing light bulbs and batteries in the emergency lights. Ed and Dave have been working on a list of items for the town hall and will prioritize that list and then will be visiting the other municipal buildings to come up with a plan for what needs repair at those buildings. Ed also thanked Dave on behalf of the town for the new hanging plants at the front of the town hall which he purchased and hung.

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Ed advised that he received the documentation from the 2013 actual OPEB valuation and he will be working with the treasurer to update that information to reflect June 30, 2012 information. The treasurer has compiled the requested information for the actuary to perform the OPEB Valuation and that information has been returned to them. The actuary will now perform the technical actuarial analysis of the valuation and return that information to the town.

Ed advised that he received two responses to the Request for Proposal for Fiscal Year 2012 Audit Services. He is reviewing the proposals and should have a recommendation for the Board of Selectmen in a few weeks.

Ed advised that the Summer Solstice Bash went on as planned with very few hitches. About 100 people attended. He would be getting together with the event planners in the coming weeks and review the plans and see if anything would need to be changed in the future.

Ed advised that the new police cruiser has been picked up at the dealers and is here and operational. The radio needed to have a new amplifier installed to complete the transfer but other than that the vehicle is functioning and is being used to patrol.

Ed advised that he is working on a "Draft" policy for Conference and Travel requests and reimbursements and will have that for the Selectmen's review in the next month. He has left a "Draft" Leave Request form for the Selectmen's review and comments.

Ed advised that he received a request from Goodwill Industries to consider placing a bin at the Fire Station for Saturday drop offs, or if that is not possible if the town would be interested in one day or one weekend Drive for items of our choosing. He has included the request in the Selectmen's packets.

Ed advised that Senator Downing would like to hold a "Coffee and Conversation" meeting in the community room on July 19<sup>th</sup> for local residents to be able to talk with him personally with any topics of interest. He would appreciate the Board's approval for this.

Ed advised that the MMA would be interested in holding one of their Legislative Breakfasts here in Becket on September 27<sup>th</sup> in the community room at town hall. Currently the Community Room is booked for the seniors "Potluck" lunch. He was wondering if there is any other place which would be suitable for this type of function.

Ed advised that the Finance Committee approved all of the requested Departmental Transfers and the Reserve Fund Transfers which were requested of them at their meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Ed advised that he attended the meeting for the Launch of the Western Massachusetts Scenic Byway Marketing Plan last Friday in South Deerfield. He has included the literature from the meeting in the Selectmen's packets for their reference. He advised that he would be attending the Smart Rural Community Forum put on by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at Greenfield Community College with Jeanne Pryor and would also be attending the Finance Committee meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> to provide any end of year Transfer or Reserve requests which may be needed to balance out the fiscal year 2013 budget.

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Jeanne motioned to approve Senator Downing's request to hold a "Coffee and Conversation" meeting here on July 19, 2013, Angela seconded. All in favor.

Public Input: Katherine Hoak asked why the Board is calling themselves the Board of Selectmen when they decided last year that they would call themselves the Select Board. Jeanne explained that in order to do this they would have to change the town's bylaws so they decided not to do this at this time.

Any other business: Nina advised that Albert Goodermote and Jeffrey Waite from the highway department are each requesting that 5 vacations days be carried over to FY 2014. Jeanne motioned that Albert Goodermote be allowed to carry over five vacation days and Jeffrey Waite be allowed to carry over five vacation days to FY 2014, Bill seconded. All in favor.

Jeanne asked the other Board members to send a list of goals they would like the town administrator to work on to Nina.

Ann Krawet asked if there would be a Special Town Meeting in the fall. Ed advised that there probably would be one in early November.

Reviewed correspondence.

Jeanne asked if there was still a "Boil Water Order" on the Becket Arts Center and the Mullen House. Ed advised that there is still a boil water order on the BAC and Mullen House and the filter in the Mullen House was changed and that the pressure tank would also need to be replaced.

8:00 PM Bill motioned to adjourn, Angela seconded. All in favor.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Nina Weiler, Secretary

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Jeanne W. Pryor, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Bid documents for Highway Department Utility Tractor under State contract FAC71
- Request for Transfers for end of FY13
- Letters of Interest for the Energy Committee
- Monthly Reports of the Ambulance Department and Animal Control Officer