

Board of Selectmen
July 17, 2013
Minutes

Members present: Jeanne Pryor, William Elovirta, Angela Hilton

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Colleen O'Connor, Beth VanNess, Bob Gross, Katherine Hoak, Marty & Barbara Winters, John Sakata-Berkshire Eagle, Alvin Blake, Tommie Hutto Blake

7:00 PM Jeanne called the meeting to order.

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

There were no minutes to review at this time.

The Selectmen signed the Change of Management form for the Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival. This will be submitted to the ABCC for approval.

Nina advised that in the past the Becket Cultural Council was called the Arts Lottery Council but the town clerk advised that this has changed so the appointments should be for the Becket Cultural Council. Bill motioned to appoint the following to the Becket Cultural Council with a term starting July 17, 2013 and ending June 30, 2016: Ruth Glazerman, Ann Krawet, Tracy Wilson, Sally Soluri, Tommie Hutto-Blake, Barbara Wacholder, and Luz Bravo-Gleicher, Angela seconded. All in favor.

Ed gave the Selectmen a copy of the composition of the Energy Committee that has multiple choices that the Selectmen would need to review and decide how they want the Energy Committee to be formed. The Selectmen went through the document and made their decisions on the structure of this committee. Briefly discussed the part time resident who was interested in being on the committee. The Selectmen feel that if he wants to be on this committee he would need to assure that he would be able to attend the meetings even if it is by remote participation. Bill motioned to appoint Alvin Blake and Robert Gross to the Energy Committee term to start July 18, 2013 and end on June 30, 2016, Angela seconded. All in favor. Bill motioned to appoint J. Garth Klimchuk and Katherine Hoak to the Energy Committee with terms to start July 18, 2013 and end on June 30, 2015, Angela seconded. All in favor. Jeanne asked Nina to put a reminder on the website that the Board is looking for members for the energy committee.

The Board reviewed the Town Administrator goals. The first goal the Board would like to see the Town Administrator complete is to have the land issue with Colleen O'Connor get resolved. The second goal would be to pursue the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission recommendations provided in the Well and Septic System Survey report of North Becket Village dated December 2010 to assist the town in identifying and resolving potential contamination of private drinking water sources in North Becket and also pursue same for town owned buildings that are public water suppliers. The third goal would be to develop dry hydrant installation/maintenance policy and procedures and begin maintenance in FY 2014. Briefly discussed easements for the hydrants that are installed in private developments and also who would be required to maintain these hydrants. The fourth goal would be to get the beach property ownership resolved by negotiating a long term lease with Camp Greylock or purchase the property or get a permanent easement for the beach parking area. The fifth goal would be to address outstanding audit issue regarding collecting cash at the Transfer Station. Briefly discussed having more places for people to purchase bag

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stickers to make it easier than just having to purchase them at the town hall. Bill explained how it worked in the past for stores to sell the bag stickers. The sixth goal would be to conduct performance appraisals on department heads and to have the department heads conduct performance appraisals on their employees. The seventh goal would be to ensure all required personnel are NIMS/ICS trained. Bill advised that a lot of grants require that the departments are NIMS/ICS trained or they cannot apply. The eighth goal would be to develop a written Emergency Management Plan for the town to include specifics for staff and supplies needed for a shelter at Town Hall, notification of residents, plans for subdivisions to maintain their dams, etc.

The Selectmen reviewed the Becket Ambulance Department Request for Write-Off Report. Bill motioned to write-off #1, Angela seconded. All in favor. Bill motioned to transfer #2 to the collection agency, Angela seconded. All in favor. Briefly discussed establishing a policy where the ambulance department is involved and set up guidelines and procedures for completing write-offs.

The Board reviewed the monthly reports of the Police Department and Citations Issued. The Board does not have any problems with these reports.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Angela just wanted the family of the missing child that the police were looking for in Greenwater Pond to know that her thoughts and prayers were with them.

Bill feels that the Animal Control Officer needs to take the training that is required by the State and we also need to update our dog control bylaws.

Town Administrator's Report: Ed advised that the Building and Grounds Technician has been very busy addressing issues such as non functioning door hardware, energy efficiency, cleaning and investigating the replacement of doors that have started to rust and rot. He also advised that it is taking 2 ½ to 3 days a week to mow all of the town buildings and parks.

Ed advised that the water issues at the Mullen House and Becket Arts Center are being worked on. A plumber has suggested that a sand separator unit be added to the submersible pump. This will enhance the performance of the pump and eliminate most of the sand and silt from plugging the filter. He is asking the Selectmen's permission to install the separator. He also feels the current water meter, which is broken, be replaced so they know how much water is being drawn from the well by both the Mullen House and Arts Center. Once the sand and silt issues have been resolved, the Mullen House will pay for the installation of a new pressure tank as the one currently being used cannot be adequately flushed. Jeanne motion to authorize the Town Administrator to install a sand and silt separator in the well at the Mullen House, Angela seconded. All in favor.

Ed advised that there was a meeting in North Becket with White Engineering, a representative from Gomes Construction and Pat Mullins from BRPC to go over the items which still need to be completed for the CDBG FY 11 Grant. The few items which still need to be completed will be addressed shortly and they will be able to close out the infrastructure portion of the CDBG.

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Ed advised that the volunteers from Chimney Corners Camp had to reschedule their community service project to clean the litter and bottles and cans from the Quarry from this week to next week.

Ed advised that an announcement that the BOS is seeking qualified volunteers to fill vacancies on the Agricultural Commission and the Recreation Committee has been added to the town's website. Nina will try to get a piece in the Country Journal about the BOS seeking candidates for these two committees.

Ed advised that that there will be a MMA Legislative Breakfast in the Community Room at town hall on Friday, September 27th from 8 AM to 10 AM. The Council on Aging will move their "potluck lunch" to another date so this could be done.

Ed advised that the Finance Committee has approved all of the Departmental Transfers and the Reserve Fund Transfers so the process of closing the books for FY 2013 can now begin.

Ed advised that Senator Downing will be holding a "Coffee and Conversation" meeting in the Community Room this Friday, July 19th from 2 PM to 4 PM for local residents to be able to talk with him personally with any topics of interest.

Ed advised that he and Jeanne Pryor attended the Smart Rural Community Broadband Forum held at the Greenfield Community College. He gave an estimation of when broadband should be available to municipal governments and residents and businesses.

Ed advised that the town's electricity usage contract would be expiring this fall and he will be meeting with Constellation Energy, the current company we hold a contract with, next week to start going over their options.

Jeanne asked how the highway department did in the highway competition. Ed advised that they came in 3rd place. Briefly discussed this competition.

Public Input: Beth VanNess advised that she attended the Board of Health meeting today and wanted to say that they are working really hard to get everything up-to-date.

Al Blake asked Ed when the Energy Committee would be meeting. Ed advised that he would try to get a meeting together sometime in early August.

Briefly discussed when broadband would be available to the municipal buildings and town residents.

Any other business: None.

Reviewed correspondence.

8:20 PM Bill motioned to adjourn, Angela 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:

- Change of Manager form for the Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival
- Energy Committee Composition
- Monthly reports of the Police Department and Citations Issued