

Board of Selectmen
September 4, 2013
Minutes

Members present: Jeanne Pryor, William Elovirta, Angela Hilton

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Colleen O'Connor, Beth VanNess, Gerald Dezess, Christopher Bouchard

7:00 PM Jeanne called the meeting to order.

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

Bill motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of August 21, 2013, Angela seconded. All in favor. Bill motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen Executive Session minutes of August 21, 2013 and not to release them at this time, Angela seconded. All in favor.

Jeanne advised that the town clerk sent an email advising that Eva Bonney's name was inadvertently omitted from the last list of election workers that he gave the Board. He also advised that Paulette Feit has decided not to be appointed as an election worker because she has become very busy with other endeavors. Jeanne advised that we currently have 9 democrats, 6 unenrolled and 2 republican election workers. She would like the town clerk to try to find more republicans or unenrolled election workers before they go ahead and appoint Lorraine Dean. Jeanne motioned to ask the town clerk if he can advertise for either a republican or an unenrolled person for an Election Worker position, Angela seconded. All in favor.

7:05 PM The Board opened the bids received for the dump truck and used roller and trailer for the highway department. Ed advised that after reviewing the town's bylaws, he stated that anything over \$25,000 needs to be opened by the Board of Selectmen. The town received three bids for the dump truck. They are as follows: Ballard Truck Center in the amount of \$170,868.00; Ben Funk, Inc. in the amount of \$159,926.52; and Patriot Freightliner Western Star in the amount of \$160,038.00. The town only received one bid for the used roller and trailer for the highway department. It was from Pittsfield Lawn and Tractor in the amount of \$49,900.00 for the roller and \$5,800.00 for the trailer for a total bid price of \$55,700.00. Ed advised that Chris Bouchard was going to take the bids in the other room and look them over to see if everything was submitted and they followed the specs for each item so the Board could award the bids tonight. Bill asked if the amount that was over what was appropriated for the truck would come out of Chapter 90 and also the amount for the roller and trailer. Chris Bouchard advised that it would come out of Chapter 90 funds. Chris came back in after reviewing the bids with his recommendations. He explained that the two lowest bids for the dump truck had a difference of \$112. All three bids met specs and he is recommending the Board go with Ben Funk, the lowest bidder, because the town has gotten trucks from them in the past and they provide excellent service. Jeanne motioned to award the bid for the 2014 dump truck (less dump body) with accessories and Dump Body Transfer to Ben Funk, Inc. in the amount of \$159,926.52, Bill seconded. All in favor. Bill motioned to award the bid for the used 5 ton (2007) roller and the used 12 ton (2002) trailer to Pittsfield Lawn and Tractor in the amount of \$55,700, Angela seconded. All in favor.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Angela advised that she was approached by Mr. Perusse of Johnson Road because of trucks and other vehicles driving too fast on this road. He asked if they could put more pedestrian signs up to try to slow down these trucks. He and other residents walk on

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the road with their dogs and grandchildren and do not feel safe. The Board asked Chris Bouchard if he could order some signs for this road. He advised that he is working on a street sign proposal and will look at adding signs such as "Share the Road" for Johnson Road.

Town Administrator's Report: Ed advised that there will be two public hearings (one to review and receive comments on the implementation of the FY11 CDBG North Becket Village Infrastructure Improvements, Housing Rehabilitation Program and Affordable Senior Housing Feasibility Study) and the other (to review and receive comments on the findings of the CDBG Affordable Senior Housing Feasibility Study) at the September 18th Board of Selectmen's meeting as part of the process to formally "Close Out" the CDBG FY11 Grant.

Ed advised that the new highway department pickup truck that was delivered was to be registered today. Once it has been registered, the old pickup truck will have some body work and lettering done and will then be transferred for use to the new Building and Grounds Department. He is asking the Board if they would like the lettering to state "Becket Building and Grounds" or "Becket Maintenance". The Selectmen would like the truck to be lettered "Becket Building and Grounds".

Ed advised that the CBSRD as scheduled performed a Title V Inspection for the Becket Washington School on Monday, August 26th and completed the work on September 3rd. There should be a report from the Health Agent from Berkshire Health Alliance, who represents the Becket Board of Health, in approximately three weeks. Ed also advised that he and Jeanne would be attending the Public Hearing on Re-Assessing Member Towns, FY14 at the School Committee meeting on September 12, 2013.

Ed advised that there are two changes to the report he gave on Vocational Transportation at the last meeting. First, one student who was going to be entering Smith Vocational School has changed their mind and will be attending Wahconah High School. This change will allow the town to utilize a 10 passenger van instead of a fourteen passenger mini bus. The ten passenger van is here and started in service this Tuesday. The second change was originally with our agreement with the Town of Washington for vocational transportation; they were going to take our students to not only McCann Technical High School but to Taconic High School as well. It was discovered that while the opening times for the two high schools would allow for the drop off of students, their staggered ending times did not allow adequate time on the return trip to transport sets of students back to their homes in Becket. Ed advised that he has to utilize Dufour, Inc. to transport one student from Taconic High School and the return trip back home.

Ed advised that Melanson and Heath who is currently performing the audit of the town's FY 2012 financial records have completed their onsite work and now will be completing the remainder of the audit from their office. Ed expects that the town will receive some comments concerning audit findings. He gave some examples of some of the findings.

Ed advised that he included in their packets a copy for their information of what another community did in regards for house numbering sizes. This should be viewed only as an example of what may be done for size requirements and for the standardization or uniformity of where the numbers might be placed on the house, building or property. Bill advised that they found an individual that makes the same style 911 reflective sign for house numbers with four inch numbers. They will order one sign to see what it looks like.

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Ed has been informed by our MBI representative Robert Ronzio that the Legislature will be taking up the proposed \$40 million funding bill for the last mile of Broadband in our communities. The MBI will be looking for letters of support from Boards of Selectmen to be sent to their legislators requesting votes of approval for the funding. As soon as Mr. Ronzio sends him the pertinent information he will draft a letter for the Board to review and edit.

Ed advised that he would be attending the Berkshire Town Managers Association meeting in Stockbridge on Tuesday, September 10th and will also be attending a JLMC Arbitration hearing in Easthampton on Monday, September 16th.

Ed took the Board outside to show them what will need to be done to bring the front entrance up to code. He advised that the building inspector and assistant building inspector spoke with him about the issues with the front entrance. The first thing he pointed out when speaking about having hand rails going up the steps was that the steps are all different heights which is not up to code. The next thing he pointed out was the ramps. The concrete part is up to code but the asphalt part is too steep. There should also be handrails on the front of the building by the ramps. He gave the Board options on how to bring everything up to code but he does not know where the funding for this will come from. The issues are a combination of building code and handicap accessibility violations. He wants the Board to think about what they would want to do to bring everything up to code. Jeanne expressed her appreciation that better handicapped access would finally be addressed and there was a brief discussion about upgrading the entrance with a handicapped accessible door.

Public Input: Colleen O'Connor noted "aesthetics" and her frustrations about water quality issues in North Becket Village and her home and expressed her desire to leave Becket.

Gerald Dezess complained about the tree work the highway department did on High Street behind his home. The highway department cut some trees down but did not remove them. The smaller branches were tossed under the bridge and left there. Chris Bouchard advised that the guys were cutting brush around the guardrails which has not been done in years and worked around the tennis court. Chris advised that they will come back to pick up the trees behind his house and clean up the area and he will check on this to make sure it is done.

Any other business: Chris Bouchard updated the Board of the work the highway department has been doing. He advised that the new pickup truck was here if the Board wants to see it after the meeting. He also advised that the highway department has been patching roads, and are scheduled to do crack sealing on some of the paved roads; the John Deere tractor is at the dealers waiting for some parts to be added and the town has been using a loaner until we get the tractor. Chris is waiting for a quote for some tree work that needs to be completed. He also advised of some work that needs to be done to the grader and loader and that the highway guys are going to be taking some classes sponsored by MassDOT in September. Ed advised that the random drug testing that was done last week for the highway department all came back negative.

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Gerald Dezess asked if they were going to repave lower Main Street as he thought that the contractor only put down about an inch of blacktop last year and it is cracking already. Chris Bouchard advised that he would take a look at it.

The Board signed the Leave Request Form that they approved at their last meeting.

Briefly discussed the resignation of Bud Moylan as Cemetery Commissioner. Jeanne would like to hear from the other cemetery commissioners about the maintenance of the cemeteries. Ed will contact the other commissioners regarding this.

Bill advised that there will be a Berkshire County Highway Superintendents Association Equipment Expo next Friday at the Hinsdale fire station and the Selectmen are invited to attend.

Briefly discussed using the fax machine for the public and having confidential faxes sent to the town hall. Nina will check to see if the Becket Athenaeum has a fax and copy machine that is available to the public.

Reviewed correspondence.

8:30 PM Angela motioned to adjourn, Bill seconded. All in favor.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Weiler, Secretary

Jeanne W. Pryor, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Bid documents submitted for the dump truck and used roller and trailer for the Highway Department.