

Board of Selectmen
October 2, 2013
Minutes

Members present: Jeanne Pryor, William Elovirta, Angela Hilton

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Colleen O'Connor, Beth VanNess, Bob Ronzio, Chris Bouchard, John Sakata-Berkshire Eagle, Eva Birkette, and others

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.

Chris Bouchard, Highway Superintendent, addressed the Board regarding some highway department issues. He advised that he did not have the Chapter 90 paperwork yet so they will have to do this at a later time. He also advised that the sign issue on Yokum Pond Road will be addressed at the next meeting. He wants to put up signs that advise that people may be riding horses on some roads. He wants the Selectmen's approval to do this. Bill questions whether the Board needs to approve these advisory signs. Ed feels the highway superintendent could inform the Board of Selectmen of where he is putting up advisory signs. Chris also advised that all the transfer station signs are up so people know where and what goes into each container. He is waiting to receive a Memorandum of Understanding from a company that would handle the electronics at the transfer station.

Bill motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of September 18, 2013, Angela seconded. All in favor.

Ed advised that after he and Jeanne went to the CBRSD meeting where they discussed re-assessing member towns, the town received a letter from the school superintendent confirming the vote that was taken to leave to the discretion of the District's seven member towns whether to approve revised assessment figures for the FY 2014 school budget. He also advised that he is still waiting for Kopelman & Paige to give him an answer about whether the town needs to vote to approve the new assessments or not. Jeanne asked if there was a timeline on this. Ed advised that he thinks they have 45 days from the date of the letter advising of the vote of the school committee.

Ed gave the Selectmen copies of the Administrative Consent Order from the DEP for the Mullen House/Becket Arts Center water system. He also gave them copies of the answer from Kopelman & Paige about the consent order. It is the opinion of Kopelman & Paige that this is a standard form and that the ACO is in proper form for execution by the Board of Selectmen. Ed advised that the DEP suggests that the Town install a filtration system prior to the start of the Becket Arts Center's 2014 season. The first thing they need to do is to sign the consent order and then Ed will look into the different filtration systems. Once he has an idea of the cost of this he will advise the Selectmen and Finance Committee so they can determine where the funding will come from. Bill motioned to sign the Consent Order, Angela seconded. All in favor.

Ed advised that the Sherwood Forest Road District approached the Town last year to see if it was interested in selling the property located at Map 217, Lot 246 for its use of storing road maintenance supplies. It was the recommendation of the Interim Town Administrator that the Town license rather than sell the property to the Sherwood Forest Road District. Ed advised that it is his recommendation to license

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the property rather than sell it. He gave the Selectmen the information on the lot that the SFRD was interested in. One reason Ed had for licensing instead of selling this property would be to see how it was working out. There is a house abutting this property and he wanted to see if this impacted the homeowner and if so they could stop using this property. Ed advised that there is another parcel the SFRD is interested in but it is in tax title and there is approximately \$4,200 in back taxes owed and there are buildings on the parcel that would need to be demolished. This property is off the beaten track and may work out better in the long run but it would cost a considerable amount of money to get it to where the Road District could start utilizing it. Ed looked at the property on map 217 lot 246 with Kathy from the Conservation Commission because there are some wetlands on this piece of property. Ed also advised that the Road District would need to go before the Planning Board for a special permit before they could use it. By doing a license agreement, it could be revoked anytime if problems arose. A brief discussion took place on what would need to be done to the property before it could be used. One of the abutters to the property advised that this piece is at a four way intersection and even though one other abutter is not a fulltime resident, they use their property all year round and he feels this is not the piece they should be looking at. This abutter was surprised that no one was notified about this meeting tonight. Jeanne asked if the Road District ever notified anyone about using this property. The abutter does not believe they did because he just found out about this meeting tonight. The abutter feels there are so many properties in the back of Sherwood Forest that do not have abutters that would work out better than this parcel. Bill feels that the Road District should have had a public hearing before they came to the town to see how people felt about using this property to store road materials on it. Jeanne feels the Road District should have a public hearing before they come to the Board of Selectmen with any property they are interested in using for storing road materials so people can have input on it. Ed will convey to the SFRD the Board of Selectmen's reason for not taking action on this.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Jeanne advised that she met with the Council on Aging and they are thrilled with how the Town Hall looks since the building and maintenance technician has started working at the town hall. They are also very happy with Ed since he started working for the town. The only complaint they had was with the cub scouts. The COA had purchased all of the tables down in the Community Room and they told Jeanne that the cub scouts have been using the tables and have scratched the table tops and have marked them up. She thinks we should send the leader of the cub scouts a letter with these concerns so this will not happen again. Ed will send a letter to the leader of the cub scouts.

Jeanne asked if the other Board members had read about the legislation regarding double poles that was in The Beacon. Bill was aware and advised that Mass Highway has been fighting this for the past ten years. Jeanne would like to send a letter of support for this legislation.

Town Administrator's Report: Ed advised that he and Dave Shorey attended the New England Public Works Expo in Fitchburg on Thursday September 26th. They were able to view vendors who offered lawn mowers, janitorial supplies, safety equipment and clothing along with parking lot safety and access ramps.

Ed advised that he received the information for the final drawdown request for the FY 11 CDBG Grant.

Ed advised that in response to the letters he sent out to the two abutters for the parcels in Sherwood Greens that the Town intends to dispose of with the conservation and passive recreation restrictions voted

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on at the May 2012 ATM he has received a positive response from the SGRD that they are still interested in purchasing the two parcels but he has not heard from the other party as of yet. He is recommending that the parcels be appraised for the value with the new deed restrictions to establish the market value and the required procurement procedure to dispose of the property by the Town.

Ed advised that the initial meeting of the Energy Committee will be October 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Ed advised that an energy company has contacted him concerning a solar farm proposal in the Town of Becket. He has had preliminary conversations with the company representatives and if the project moves through the feasibility analysis he will keep the Board of Selectmen and the Energy Committee apprised of any further development.

Ed advised that MIIA has released their upcoming Fall Training Schedule and he will be recommending that we utilize any of these trainings for our employees where it is pertinent to the job description and work performed by the employee.

Ed advised that he would be attending the Berkshire Regional Administrators Meeting in Tyringham the morning of October 8th. He would also be attending a JLMC Mediation session in Lee on Thursday, October 17th.

Ed advised that the Becket Cultural Council asked Nina to post something on the town's website about the deadline for applying for the 2014 grants sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council on Monday, September 30, 2013. These applications are due on October 15th. He feels the Becket Cultural Council should give more notice about these grants so people have more time to get these submitted by the deadline.

Ed asked the Selectmen if an outside organization wanted to use the Community Room at Town Hall and wanted to charge an admission fee could they do that. He was not sure if this was allowed in the past. A discussion followed regarding the use of town hall for this purpose. Angela asked if they could not do it at town hall could they do it at the school. The school charges organizations that use the school for the cost of the custodian. The Selectmen would like Ed to research how other towns handle this kind of thing and come up with a policy.

Public Input: Colleen O'Connor asked the Board, when there is an opening on the Conservation Commission; they appoint someone who is not afraid to enforce the laws. She feels the Conservation Commission should be able to enforce their own order of conditions that they set. Jeanne advised that a few years ago there were bylaws that the Conservation Commission wanted to pass so that they could enforce the wetland laws but the bylaws were not passed. Ed advised that if the town does not have the ability to fine someone for not following the laws, the Conservation Commission could bring in the DEP and they could issue fines. Bill feels this bylaw that did not pass should be brought in front of the voters again. Bob Ronzio feels the town should take the bylaw in parts because the whole bylaw was too comprehensive to pass all at once.

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Any other business: It was brought to the Board's attention that Franklin Daigle was never re-appointed to the Council on Aging and he would like to be. Jeanne motioned to appoint Franklin Daigle to the Council on Aging term to start on October 3, 2013 and end on June 30, 2016, Bill seconded. All in favor.

Nina advised that Harry Roff has submitted his resignation from the Historical Commission effective October 1, 2013. The Board signed a letter of thanks to Harry for his service to the town. They also signed letters of thanks to Dottie Bellavance for her service to the town as a member of the Board of Registrars and as an election worker and Bud Moylan for his service as a Cemetery Commissioner.

Reviewed correspondence.

Ed advised that in the spring, Washington Mountain Road will be repaved. Jeanne asked where they got the money to do this. Ed was not sure but will check to see how this will be funded. Ed feels it would be good to contact our legislators and BRPC and the MPO about having the road done from Becket to Dalton.

8:10 PM Bill motioned to adjourn, Angela seconded. All in favor.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Weiler, Secretary

Jeanne W. Pryor, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- CBRSD Reassessment Letter
- Administrative Consent Order for the Becket Arts Center/Mullen House Public Water Supply
- Parcel information for property located in Sherwood Forest that the SFRD was interested in using to store road materials