

Board of Selectmen
October 16, 2013
Minutes

Members present: Jeanne Pryor, Angela Hilton
William Elovirta-absent

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Colleen O'Connor, Bob Ronzio

7:00 PM Jeanne called the meeting to order. She advised that the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and Guidelines for Board of Selectmen Meetings.

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

Jeanne motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of October 2, 2013, Angela seconded. Motion passed.

Ed advised that he received an answer from Kopelman & Paige regarding the CBRSD change of Assessments. K&P advised that if the towns that had increases in their assessments did not have a town meeting to vote to approve the increases, this would constitute "No Action" and the result of the "No Action" would be that the assessments could not be increased during FY14. Ed recommends that the Board of Selectmen take no action on this.

Ed explained the procurement process for electricity purchasing. He advised that to get electricity pricing from different suppliers you would need to get the pricing for the same day because it changes day by day. He also advised that he contacted three of the larger suppliers to get the prices but only got prices from two suppliers. He is recommending that the town go with our current supplier, Constellation NewEnergy, for a thirteen month contract at \$0.0815/kWh since they are the most economical company. Jeanne motioned to accept Constellation NewEnergy price for thirteen months at \$0.0815/kWh, Angela seconded. Motion passed.

Angela motioned to appoint Phyllis Fitzgerald to the Council on Aging term to start October 17, 2013 and end on June 30, 2016, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.

Jeanne motioned to accept the resignation of Stephen LaBelle Sr. as alternate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission effective immediately, Angela seconded. Motion passed. Nina advised that the Selectmen voted previously to appoint Beth VanNess as alternate to the BRPC once they received Steve's resignation. The Board will wait to send Steve a letter of thanks for serving in this capacity until Bill returns.

The Board reviewed the monthly reports of the Police Department, Citations Issued, Animal Control Officer, Building Inspector and Ambulance Department. Jeanne would like the police department to provide a narrative report to include training department members had completed and if they had any community service events. Ed will speak with the Police Chief regarding this.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Jeanne advised that she attended the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Selectmen's Fall Conference and found it to be very informative. The Chief of Police from Watertown and the Superintendent-in-Chief from the Boston Police Department were at the

Board of Selectmen
October 16, 2013
Minutes

meeting and gave an amazing presentation about the "Blue Shield" training program that they do. Angela feels that the town should do a training four times a year with the fire, ambulance, police and emergency management director so that they will be prepared for emergencies such as the ice storm. Jeanne also advised that they covered capital planning at this meeting and she has some information that she shared with Ed and would like the finance committee to see this information too. The presentation had many good ideas that could be useful for the town.

Jeanne also attended the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission's training session in Lenox and found it to be very informative. She will give Nina some information since she is the one that goes online to keep the liquor licenses up-to-date.

Town Administrator's Report: Ed thanked his co-workers for totally surprising him today and for their celebration of "Boss's Day".

Ed reported that the Cub Scouts did not start meeting for the year until just last week. So while they have not been meeting up until this point, they have also not been using the Community Room but the small room which the Board of Selectmen had approved for their use.

Ed advised that the Finance Committee would be meeting tomorrow night and he would pass the information about capital planning to them.

Ed advised that he would be attending a JLMC Mediation session in Lee on Thursday, October 17th. He would also be attending a JLMC Mediation session in Pittsfield on October 21st and would be performing his Civic Duty on October 31st serving Jury Duty.

Public Input: Bob Ronzio advised that there is a house on Dragon Way that has pigs and the neighbors are complaining that the smell is atrocious. It came up at the Board of Health meeting. He stated that the town has a Right-to-Farm bylaw but the owners claim that the pigs are pets. He also stated that each year the pigs are slaughtered. The town's Right-to-Farm Bylaw requires that there be at least five acres of land for farming activities. Angela stated that she was surprised the owners of the Sherwood Shoppe have not complained about this. Jeanne advised that she was at the Sherwood Shoppe several times and never smelled anything. Jeanne would like to know what the Board of Health has to say about this. Mr. Ronzio advised that the chair of the BOH would be speaking with the owners. Jeanne will contact the Board of Health about this issue.

Mr. Ronzio also brought to the Board's attention that the spring on Route 20 had a failed water test. The failure occurred on September 16th and the BOH was never notified about this failure for almost three weeks. He feels the company doing the testing should notify the town when there is a failure and it should not be a message left on voicemail. Jeanne feels that the BOH should contact the company because it is under their jurisdiction. Mr. Ronzio also thinks someone should check with the Town of Chester about why they have a line item in their budget to pay for some of the water testing for this spring but they do not pay the Town of Becket for any of the testing.

Mr. Ronzio also brought to the Board's attention that there is a camping trailer that was placed on a vacant lot on Porcupine Court. Neighbors are concerned about this trailer. Jeanne asked if this was brought to

Board of Selectmen
October 16, 2013
Minutes

the building inspector/code enforcer's attention. Mr. Ronzio advised that it has not been brought to his attention yet but it will be.

Mr. Ronzio advised that the Planning Board is seeking public input regarding a proposed Zoning Bylaw for medical marijuana dispensaries. He has asked Ed if there could be an announcement placed on the town's website for this. Ed will review the announcement and edit it before it is placed on the website.

Colleen O'Connor expressed her personal concerns about her water issues and the lawsuit for the damage caused to the school's septic system. Ms. O'Connor is asking the town to supply water to her house. She advised that if she had water then she could rent her house and leave Becket.

Briefly discussed the repair and installation of dry hydrants throughout the town.

Any other business: Briefly discussed the parking ban that the Board votes to have every year. Jeanne motioned to approve the parking ban from November 15, 2013 to April 15, 2014, from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. no parking on town roads or streets. Vehicles will be ticketed and, if interfering with snow removal, will be towed at the owner's expense, Angela seconded. Motion passed.

The Board signed a letter to Steven Schatz in response to his letter regarding the Becket Athenaeum.

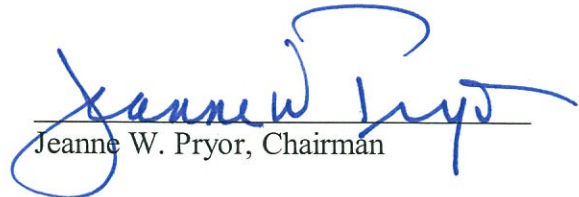
Reviewed correspondence.

Jeanne motioned to issue a United Nations Day proclamation on October 24, 2013, Angela seconded. Motion passed.

8:00 PM Jeanne motioned to adjourn, Angela seconded. Motion passed.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Weiler, Secretary


Jeanne W. Pryor, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Electricity Purchasing Agreement
- Monthly reports of the Police Department, Citations Issued, Animal Control Officer, Building Inspector and Ambulance Department
- United Nations Day Proclamation 2013: The United Nations: In Everyone's Interest