

Board of Selectmen  
December 4, 2013  
Minutes

Members present: Jeanne Pryor, Angela Hilton, William Elovirta

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Nina Weiler, Colleen O'Connor, David Zagorski, Liz Will, Geri Walter, Beth VanNess, Linda Bacon

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.

Continuance of Tax Classification Hearing: David Zagorski, Principal Assessor, advised that the numbers have not changed drastically from the last time although the tax rate may go up approximately \$.10 due to the snow and ice deficit of \$44,810.57 and the ambulance salary deficit of \$6,423.50. Bill motioned to adopt a residential factor of 1, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. David advised that he is waiting for our preliminary certification and once we receive that he can submit the forms required. Once he receives final certification he can work on getting the tax bills out. David also advised that the LA5 form would still need to be signed by the Selectmen but they could come in anytime and sign it. Jeanne asked if many people came in during the disclosure period asking about their values. He advised that there were a few people who came in and he did some adjustments on some properties.

The Board received a request from the Becket Athenaeum for an entertainment license and for a BYOB event for a Holiday Gala. The Athenaeum submitted a music and entertainment license application. The Board reviewed the license application. Bill motioned to grant the Becket Athenaeum a one-day entertainment license for its Holiday Gala being held on December 7, 2013 at the Dining Hall at Becket Chimney Corners YMCA, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Briefly discussed BYOB. The Athenaeum has held these events in the past and has allowed BYOB without any problematic incidents. Ed advised that if Becket is not a BYOB community then this is not allowed. He has not found anything in the town's bylaws or in Selectmen's minutes that shows that the town adopted a policy which would make it a BYOB Community. The Selectmen were concerned that the camp does not have liability insurance to cover liquor consumption. Ed advised that the Becket Athenaeum has picked up a one-day liquor liability insurance rider for this event. He suggested that, because this has been done in the past and because the event is this Saturday, the Selectmen allow it but this is a notice that they cannot do this again.

There were no minutes to review at this time.

The Selectmen reviewed the liquor license renewals for 2014. Angela asked about the Berkshire Berries licenses. She advised that she has been in Becket for about ten years and has never seen Berkshire Berries open as a package store or as a restaurant. Bill advised that he spoke with Mary Graves and she advised that they would be retiring in a couple of years and they want the license to go with the sale of their property. Briefly discussed liquor license availability for the town. The town currently has enough licenses so this is not an issue. Ed advised that he would look into the laws to see if they can continue having a liquor license if they do not use it. Jeanne motioned to approve the Common Victualler's license, the Music and Entertainment license, the All Alcoholic Club license and the Entertainment Device license for Mountain Grove Association, Bill seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Jeanne motioned to approve

Board of Selectmen  
December 4, 2013  
Minutes

the Common Victualler's license, the All Alcoholic Package Store license and the Entertainment Device license for the Sherwood Shoppe, Bill seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Jeanne motioned to approve the Common Victualler's license, the All Alcoholic Restaurant license and the Wine and Malt Package Store license for Berkshire Berries, Bill seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Jeanne motioned to approve the Common Victualler's license, the Music and Entertainment and the All Alcoholic Restaurant license for Dream Away Lodge, Bill seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Jeanne motioned to approve the Common Victualler's license and the All Alcoholic Package Store license for Becket General Store, Bill seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Jeanne motioned to approve the Common Victualler's license and the Wine and Malt Package Store license for the Becket Country Store, Bill seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Jeanne motioned to approve the Common Victualler's license, the Music and Entertainment, the Entertainment Device license and the All Alcoholic Restaurant license for Uncle Larry's Tavern, Bill seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to approve the seasonal population of 9,000, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the email regarding vacancies on the Community Preservation Committee. Currently there is a vacancy for a representative from the Historical Commission and a representative from the Planning Board. There are also two vacancies for at-large members. Nina advised that she has sent an email to the Historical Commission and the Planning Board to see if they could find someone to represent these boards. The Board would like something put on the website to see if someone would come forward to serve on this committee as an at-large member.

The Board reviewed the fee schedule for the fire department. Ed advised that the reason he put this on the agenda was because Nina had received a fee for the fire department and put it in the chief's mailbox. The chief advised that it was not the correct amount. Nina advised him that the man who paid the fee said he got the fee amount from the town's website. The chief advised that the fees on the website are not correct. Ed found that the fire department fees were changed in February of 2010 and that is the last time that the Selectmen voted to change the fees. He has started investigating what other towns are charging for their fees and he also wanted to see what things they charge for to see if we should add more things to the fee schedule. The Board feels there should be a fee for the storage of flammable materials. Jeanne advised that the town clerk should have records of the properties that store flammables but this has never been done but she would like this to be done. Ed will check with the fire chief about this to see if he could make sure the town clerk has this information.

The Board discussed the possibility of requiring a \$50 deposit for groups using the town hall. Nina advised that currently when a group wants to use the town hall, they fill out an application and sign a form that states if the town hall is not cleaned up or if something is broken, the group using the town hall would be required to pay \$50. There could be a problem collecting the \$50 once the group is finished using the town hall so Ed thought if we charged a \$50 deposit it would be better. If the town hall was in good condition after the group used it they would get the deposit back. Briefly discussed how much to charge and what would be allowed for groups using the town hall. Bill motioned that individuals wishing to use the town hall facility post a \$50 deposit with their application such deposit to be returned on successful cleanup of the facility, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board already approved the Volunteer Boards and Commissions Appointment Application at their last meeting.

Board of Selectmen  
December 4, 2013  
Minutes

Ed explained the Reserve Transfer Requests for the Police Department and Town Administrator Expenses. He advised that these transfers only need to be voted on by the Finance Committee whereas the end of year transfers need to be voted on by both the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. No action by the Selectmen is necessary but he just wanted them to know why we needed these transfers. He is requesting that \$2,500 be transferred from the reserve account to the Police Department Expenses for the repair of the Ford Expedition. He is also requesting that \$2,000 be transferred to the Town Administrator Expenses for the appraisal of two parcels the Board of Selectmen has been given authority by town meeting to sell.

The Board reviewed the monthly report of the Ambulance Department. The Board would like the ambulance director to add more information like the training the department completes or any community services they provide.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: None.

Town Administrator's Report: Ed advised that there was an electrical fire in the grader at the Highway Department this afternoon. Fortunately Bert discovered the fire early on. The Fire Department was called and responded quickly. Damage to the grader was minimal however a converter box and wiring harness will need to be replaced. Chris Bouchard will be contacting the vendor and getting a cost estimate for the needed repairs.

Ed advised that the town has been given preliminary certification of the new real estate values. Our week of required disclosure for the new valuations will end today. Once the Board of Selectmen have voted on a factor, the assessors will have to fill out the appropriate state forms and they will need to be signed to send to DOR for the setting of the fiscal year 2014 tax rate.

Ed advised that he is completing the required annual report for our Green Communities designation. He should have all of the information entered tomorrow and will be sending that report along to the State. He advised that this is the first year the report will have been completed and filed by the town, last year the information was entered and filed by BRPC on behalf of the town. Jim Barry the Regional Coordinator for the Green Communities program came out and tutored him on the filing of the report and also on the inputting of our energy usage into the Mass Insight program. Ed spoke with Jim about the Town Hall Air Conditioning Project. He will be assisting us with this project.

Ed advised that we had some damage to a switch used in the town network over the Veterans' Day weekend due to a power outage. The switch has been replaced and some network repairs have been undertaken. The cost of replacing the switch and the required network service is approximately \$1,300. As a result of this and some slow network application speeds he and Ken Bilodeau have been investigating and interviewing network support companies to replace our existing network support vendor. They believe they have found a local vendor who will be able to meet and exceed our network support needs. One thing which was discovered during the investigation and interview is that our server is not configured as efficiently as it should be. He and Ken will be following up with a plan to make our current server and network more efficient and they will be bringing that to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee.

Board of Selectmen  
December 4, 2013  
Minutes

Ed advised that the Zoning Board of Appeals met last night with the addition of their two new alternate members (George Roberts and Alvin Blake) the Board of Selectmen appointed at their last meeting.

Ed advised that he would be attending the Finance Committee meeting tomorrow evening and will be facilitating the Energy Committee Meeting on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. He would also be attending an MCCPO (Procurement) training on December 17<sup>th</sup> in Stockbridge. He will be away from the office from Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> through Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>. Nina Weiler will be in charge in his absence. He will be returning on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Public Input: None.

Any other business: Briefly discussed the request from Ann Spadafora for a Stop sign at the end of Fred Snow Road. Ed will check with Chris Bouchard about this and about his input on additional signs throughout the town.

Briefly discussed holding a Special Town Meeting sometime in February.

The Selectmen will meet on Thursday, January 2, 2014 for their first meeting in January since the first Wednesday is on New Year's Day.

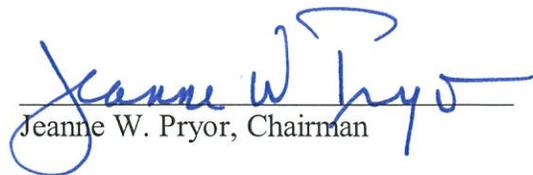
Reviewed correspondence.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

Jeanne motioned to go into Executive Session under MGL C. 30A, Section 21 (a) 3 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation and declared that discussing strategy with respect to litigation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the Board. The Board of Selectmen will not reconvene to open session after the Executive Session, Angela seconded. Roll call vote: Angela-aye, Jeanne-aye, Bill recused himself.

8:25 PM Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nina Weiler, Secretary

  
Jeanne W. Pryor, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

Board of Selectmen  
December 4, 2013  
Minutes

- Request from the Becket Athenaeum for an entertainment license and for a BYOB event for a Holiday Gala
- 2014 License Renewals for the following: Dreamaway Lodge, Berkshire Berries, Mountain Grove Association, Sherwood Shoppe, Becket Country Store, Uncle Larry's Tavern, and Becket General Store
- Email regarding the vacancies on the Community Preservation Committee
- Fee schedule for the Fire Department
- Town Hall Request for Use Application
- Reserve Transfer Requests Police Department and Town Administrator Expenses
- Monthly report of the Ambulance Department