

Board of Selectmen  
January 15, 2014  
Minutes

Members present: Jeanne Pryor, Angela Hilton, William Elovirta

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Nina Weiler, Colleen O'Connor, Beth VanNess, Ann Spadafora, Dan Parnell, Attorney Darren Lee

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.

Attorney Darren Lee addressed the Board about clients of his who are selling a piece of property in Becket that they had purchased from the town at a land sale. The deed that was drawn up by Attorney Sally Bell references the property by the Assessor's map and lot number with the lot numbers included but does not reference the block number. The buyer's attorney wanted it to be clear on the deed that lot numbers 1-10 on block number 8 for this piece of property appear on the deed. He has brought in a Confirmatory and Corrective Deed that has this information on it. Ed advised that he looked at the corrective deed and it does not change the property at all. It does not make the property any larger or smaller it just makes it clearer. Bill motioned to approve the Confirmatory and Corrective Deed in regards to the John J. and Rosalie Laczak property located in Sherwood Greens, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bill motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of December 18, 2013, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the Financial Reserves Policy with the two corrections that the Finance Committee voted on which were: on Section 4 the sentence "*If the voters approve a Proposition 2 ½ override in order to fund appropriations for a particular stabilization fund, a referendum must also be approved to change that fund's purpose.*" was deleted and the following was added **(net of Real Estate tax appropriations)** to the sentence "Stabilization Fund Component #1 may only be used to support the operating budget when revenue increases less than 3% from the prior fiscal year." after the word revenue. Bill motioned to approve the Financial Reserves Policy as presented, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the Special Permit Application for the construction of a single story addition on a house located at 311 Old Pond Road. Ed advised that the addition does not make this structure anymore nonconforming. The Conservation Commission has already approved the addition. Ed advised that Nina will send a letter to the Planning Board advising that the Board of Selectmen have no issues with this Special Permit Application.

Briefly discussed the vacancy on the Energy Committee. Jeanne advised that she spoke with Katherine Hoak about her resigning from the Energy Committee but did not see a letter of resignation. Ed advised that he may have an email from Mrs. Hoak. The Board would like something put on the town's website and in the Country Journal advising that the Board is looking for someone to fill this vacancy. They would also like a letter of thanks sent to Katherine Hoak.

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The Board reviewed the Appointment Application from Alan Mack to the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. Jeanne advised that she was unaware that the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee was looking for more people to appoint to the committee and would like to hear if there are any vacancies that need to be filled before the Board entertains appointing any new members.

The Board reviewed the monthly reports of the Animal Control Officer, Police Department, Citations Issued, Building Inspector and Ambulance Department. Jeanne asked if the Animal Control Officer gave out receipts when someone paid for dog fines. Ed will check to see if the Animal Control Officer hands out receipts. Angela asked if we have received a monthly report from the Fire Department. Ed advised that we have not received one yet. Briefly discussed the building demolitions that the town completed.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: None.

Town Administrator's Report: Ed advised that the Finance Committee approved the requested Reserve Fund Transfer of \$7,500.00 to the Highway Equipment Maintenance Budget at their meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ed advised that we received notification from the Department of Revenue that the Town's Free Cash has been certified in the amount of \$196,557.00 for the General Fund and Retained Earnings for the Ambulance Fund were certified in the amount of \$3,383.00. He gave the Board copies of the submittal and electronic notification for their reference.

Ed advised that he and Chris Bouchard met this morning along with the Towns of Lanesborough and Richmond with the UMASS Boston Collins Center to kick off our Performance Management opportunity offered through the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Grant. The mission of this program is to expand the use of data, measures and goals in Massachusetts municipal government in the short term and to embed data use and performance management in the culture of municipal government over the long term. Municipal Performance Management currently provides analysts to work on the ground with over 25 Massachusetts cities and towns, and it will be heading toward over 35 municipalities over the remainder of FY14. A trial period of five months focusing on the Department of Public Works/Highway Department related topics is available at the subsidized rate of \$200. The initial focus will be on Fleet Inventories possibly looking at integrating those with a vehicle maintenance program or database. Some other areas that will be concentrated on will be manpower usage and possibly reasons for the use of overtime by category.

Ed advised that the request that was filed through BRPC on behalf of the town for a Technical Assistance Grant to complete our Housing Needs Assessment and to serve as liaison between the town and various state housing agencies has been approved. The next step the Town will need to undertake is to form a standing Affordable Housing Committee.

Ed advised that the Town has received a Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant in the amount of \$500. Chris Bouchard applied for this grant and the funding which is reimbursable is to be used to purchase recycling containers, which will be available for Becket residents.

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Ed advised that Tim Sullivan, the Emergency Manager wanted the Board to know that he has a new job with the same company. He will now be working in Becket for three days a week which makes him more readily available to the community in case of an emergency incident; however his new job requires that he be in New Hampshire one day a week. Because of this, he was wondering if the Board of Selectmen wanted to entertain the idea of having an Assistant Emergency Manager he would work with in case an incident came up when he was two or three hours from Becket.

Ed advised that he would be attending the Annual MMA Meeting and Trade Show on January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. He would also be holding his second budget workshop for Town Departments on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM and he was hoping he would be able to attend a portion of the Energy Committee Meeting that would be held concurrently with this budget workshop. Briefly discussed the budget process and how the workshops have assisted the different departments.

Public Input: Colleen O'Connor expressed her concerns about the Conservation Commission enforcing the Wetland Protection Act and the Clean Water Act. Jeanne advised that a few years ago the town voted against a bylaw that would have given the Conservation Commission the ability to fine someone who was not complying with these acts. They have the ability to enforce the laws but not to fine anyone. Ed advised that if the Conservation Commission was having an issue with someone that was not complying with the laws, they could try to get the DEP involved and the DEP could assess fines if they felt the local Con. Com. needed them to do this.

Colleen O'Connor also expressed her concern about the new Title 5 regulations that took effect on January 3, 2014. Briefly discussed the new regulations and how it would affect the town. The Board would like to ask the Board of Health for copies of these new regulations.

Any other business: Bill would like to send Kathy Vsetecka a letter of thanks for her service to the town. Nina will have this letter for the Selectmen to sign.

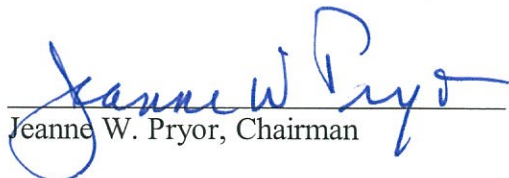
Nina advised that she received an appointment application from Sandi Jarvis to be appointed to the Historical Commission after the agenda was posted so she gave them the application to look over and the Board can take this up at their next meeting.

Reviewed correspondence.

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

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nina Weiler, Secretary

  
Jeanne W. Pryor, Chairman

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Documents discussed at meeting:

- Confirmatory and Corrective Deed on Property Located on Assessor's Map 213, Lot 93
- Financial Reserves Policy
- Special Permit Application for the Construction of a single story addition on house located at 311 Old Pond Road
- Appointment Application from Alan Mack to the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee
- Monthly reports of the Police Department, Citations Issued, Animal Control Officer, Building Inspector and Ambulance Department