

Board of Selectmen
March 5, 2014
Minutes

Members present: Jeanne Pryor, Angela Hilton, William Elovirta

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Nina Weiler, Colleen O'Connor, George Fuller, Patricia Mullins-Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Chris Bouchard, Bruce Garlow, Rita Furlong, Sandi Jarvis

7:03 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.

Patricia Mullins of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission addressed the Board regarding the Affordable Senior Housing Study. She gave the Board a copy of the Becket Affordable Senior Housing Feasibility Study 2013. She explained the process that was followed to get this study done and explained what the next steps would be. The town would need to appoint a standing Affordable Housing Committee who would make recommendations concerning affordable housing opportunities in the town. The committee would review parcels of town owned land for assessing the feasibility and appropriateness of constructing affordable housing units on them. It would also explore public funding and grant money available for the town to create and administer affordable housing and would seek and encourage partnerships with private developers when land becomes available for the purpose of constructing affordable housing. Briefly discussed regionalization of housing developments. The Selectmen advised Pat they would be going over the charge to the Affordable Housing Committee later on the agenda and would be making their appointments at a later meeting. She will send the Board a list of interested people to serve on this committee. The Board thanked her for coming to the meeting.

Bruce Garlow, Rita Furlong and Sandi Jarvis of the 250th Anniversary Committee addressed the Board regarding activities they have planned for the 250th Anniversary Celebration. Rita advised that this committee has been working for about a year and a half and she informed the Board of all of the activities the committee has planned for the celebration. The committee is trying to set up events in all geographical regions of Becket. On May 24th of 2015, the committee is planning on a church service for all religious denominations. The next day, which is Memorial Day, the committee is planning on expanding the Memorial Day Parade in North Becket. On June 13th, there will be an event at Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival on the outdoor stage. On June 6th at Camp Chimney Corners there will be a free dinner and fireworks over their lake. There will be an antique car show but the date has not been set for that as of yet. They are also planning on having a geocaching event among other events that are still in the planning stages. She also advised that the committee thought it would be nice to possibly change the town seal and the town flag. They are trying to get school children and local artists involved in creating a new seal and flag. Jeanne advised that she was confused about the contest because they were calling it a logo contest so she was not sure if this was for the town flag and seal. Rita advised that she did not want to confuse the school children. The committee feels the flag and seal should be updated because the current seal and flag do not represent the town's heritage. Bill advised that the thing that upset him was that the committee never came to the Board of Selectmen to say they were going to try to change the town seal and flag. Sandi advised that it was never the committee's intention to change this on its own. This has to be on a town meeting warrant for a vote and the Selectmen are the ones who can put an article on a town meeting

Board of Selectmen
March 5, 2014
Minutes

warrant unless it is a petitioned article. Jeanne asked how the contest would be handled. Rita advised that the entries would be on display at the town hall and eventually there would be a committee formed to choose the one entry that best fit the Town's character. Jeanne advised that there is a process that needs to be followed to change the town seal and flag because it has to do with town government. Jeanne advised that she has changed her mind about changing the town seal and flag. She feels it is ultimately up to the town to decide. Jeanne motioned to reconsider and help them with the committee, no one seconded the motion. Ed suggested that the Board allow the committee to go forward with the contest and if they do not find anything outstanding then they could just pick something for the logo for the 250th celebration. But if they find something outstanding, then they could reconsider changing the town seal and flag and have the town vote on it at the annual town meeting. Jeanne motioned to entertain Ed's suggestion of going forward with the contest and if they do not like anything then they could just use it as a logo for the 250th Anniversary but if they find something stunning then they could vote to have it go to town meeting for a vote, Angela seconded. Angela and Jeanne voted in favor, Bill voted against it. The motion passed.

Bill motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of February 11, 2014 as amended, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of February 12, 2014, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of February 19, 2014, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the Capital and Operating Budget. Ed advised that there were not many changes since the last budget the Board reviewed. The school assessment changed and the Harbormaster expense increased because the out board needs to be replaced. Ed also advised that the Becket Arts Center is requesting \$40,000 over their annual request of \$2,000. Jeanne asked Ed if there are any other ADA issues at any other town building. Ed was not aware of any issues. Ed asked the Selectmen to think about anything that they think should be addressed in the budget that he may not have included. Bill asked Ed to check to see if the parking area at town hall could be expanded. He explained that when the employees park in front, there are not many spots open for the public. The employees cannot park below because the Council on Aging park out back. Ed will check to see where the septic leach field is located so they do not encroach it. He will look into this.

The Board reviewed the charge to the Affordable Housing Committee. The Board would like the committee to provide a semi-annual progress report to the Board of Selectmen. They would also like fulltime residents of the Town of Becket to be appointed to this committee. Bill motioned to approve the draft as amended of the Affordable Housing Committee, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the Town Hall Use by groups and individuals. Ed advised that he brought this back because the Board decided they did not want to let groups use the town hall if they charged for admission. It came to his attention that Hunter Ed classes were held at town hall in the past and there is a fee to take the classes. Briefly discussed what kinds of programs could be allowed at town hall. Bill motioned to allow the Hunter's Safety Course to be allowed to use Town Hall, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board would like to have a chance to review the information before they decide what they should do about allowing groups and individuals to use the town hall.

The Board discussed holding a Special Town Meeting. Ed asked the Board if they wanted to do the bylaws at a Special or the Annual Town Meeting. The Board feels that it would make the Annual Town

Board of Selectmen
March 5, 2014
Minutes

Meeting too lengthy to go over bylaws. The Town Meeting Bylaw, the Parks and Recreation Committee, the Community Preservation Committee and the Bylaw Review Committee bylaws will go on a Special Town Meeting warrant. Ed also has a few financial items to be on the warrant. He would like to transfer \$20,000 from Vocational Tuition to Vocational Transportation; he would like to add the Mullen House filtration device to the warrant and also to transfer \$5,000 to Municipal Buildings. Briefly discussed what dates to consider for the STM. Briefly discussed dates to hold the STM. Ed will check with the Town Clerk and the Moderator about April 7th or 15th.

The Board reviewed the monthly reports of the Ambulance Department and Highway Department.

Public Input: George Fuller addressed the Board about the policy regarding highway department employees plowing their driveways. He stated that he was here on his own and is not speaking for any of the other highway employees. He was upset about the policy that was written up regarding the plowing of highway employee's driveways. There has been an unwritten policy for years about this and he wanted to know why all of a sudden there is a written policy about this. Bill explained that he has received complaints from residents about employees plowing their driveways after the storms were already over, employees plowing their driveway with the loader during the day and also about employees plowing their rental properties. Bill advised that there is no difference between the verbal policy that has been in effect and the policy that was written after we received these complaints. Chris Bouchard advised that he sent out an email to surrounding Berkshire County towns to see what their policies were regarding highway employees plowing their own driveways. Three towns allow it; eight towns do not allow it although two of these towns that do not allow it will look the other way as long as they do not receive complaints. Chris recommends that the policy state that they can only plow their driveways after hours. Jeanne advised that if the town does not have a written policy and someone complains then they could file an ethics complaint against the town and the written policy would prevent this from happening. Ed and Chris will work together to write a policy that will work for the town and its highway employees.

Chris Bouchard had a Chapter 90 Project Request for the Board to sign in the amount of \$25,379.52 for the truck that is currently being built. Jeanne signed the Chapter 90 Project Request. He will have a Chapter 90 Project Reimbursement Request for the Board to sign tomorrow or Friday to close out the High Street CDBG project. Chris also advised that the Bonny Rigg Hill Road Hazard Mitigation Grant project has made it to the final round.

Colleen O'Connor feels the Board should think about having a public septic system in North Becket instead of having a public water system. She explained that it would cost the town less money and it would not be as big a project.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Bill stated that he was a little disappointed that there were no legislators at the Legislative Breakfast meeting in Tyngham last Friday.

Town Administrator's Report: Ed advised that the Ford Police Expedition has been running rough lately and when it was taken to the dealer the estimate to repair it was \$3,800.00. After bringing the Expedition back from the dealer, it was running better and it will be kept at the Highway Department for further assessment. Ed also advised that since we just put about \$2,000 into this vehicle only a few months ago, this may be the sign that this vehicle has used up its useful life and it will be one repair after another to this

Board of Selectmen
March 5, 2014
Minutes

aging vehicle. He and Chris Bouchard recommend that they park the Expedition and sell it as surplus property if the engine issues continue.

Ed advised that the town has received notification that the licensure application for the Becket Ambulance Department, after the Department of Public Health completed an inspection of the service, was approved. This license is valid from March 31, 2014 through March 31, 2015 at an Intermediate Level.

Ed advised that the Harbormaster reports that after review of state statute of a Harbormaster's jurisdiction, it is his opinion that under state statute he should be permitting floats and rafts only and that the permanent mooring docks should be permitted by the DEP and Conservation Commission and possibly the Building Inspector. This would cut the revenue currently received from the sale of permits roughly in half and would not cover the expenses associated with the costs of providing the Harbormaster service. The current fee is \$5.00; Pittsfield is charging \$50.00 for the permitting of rafts and floats. The Harbormaster would like to recommend a new fee of between \$20.00 and \$25.00 to permit rafts and floats. The Board of Selectmen may want to combine this request with other requests for fee increases such as the fire department which fall under their jurisdiction for future consideration.

Ed advised that he met with the engineers from Tighe and Bond concerning filing an application for a Rural Development Grant through the USDA to perform a feasibility study to develop a phased in Public Water Supply in Becket. He believes we have a very good chance to receive funding under this grant and would recommend moving forward with the application. He gave the Board a proposal from Tighe and Bond to review. He will request to have this added to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting agenda for consideration.

Ed advised that Attorney General Martha Coakley's Office will be holding four free educational forums on the "Open Meeting Law" throughout the State this spring. These forums are part of an effort to assist public bodies in understanding and complying with the requirements of the Open Meeting Law. There will be a forum in Pittsfield on March 20, 2014 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Reid Middle School Auditorium. This is a great opportunity for Becket's Boards and Commissions to become familiar with the requirements of Massachusetts Open Meeting Laws. Jeanne would like an email sent to the Boards and Commissions so they could attend this forum.

Ed advised that he would be attending the MCPPO procurement training in Huntington on March 5th, 6th and 7th. He will also be attending the Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, March 6th and the Berkshire Managers meeting on Tuesday, March 11th.

Any other business: Bill advised that he was approached by Roger Peltier of Pioneer Plumbing and Heating about a job he did for the town at North Becket Cemetery. Mr. Peltier installed a water system at the cemetery and donated his time and parts to do this. He is asking for a letter from the town so he can claim it on his taxes as a charitable deduction. Bill motioned to sign the letter thanking Mr. Peltier of Pioneer Plumbing and Heating for his donation of a water system at the North Becket Cemetery, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeanne motioned to appoint Ken Smith to the Route 112 – Jacob's Ladder Trail Scenic Byways Trail Linkages Advisory Group, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

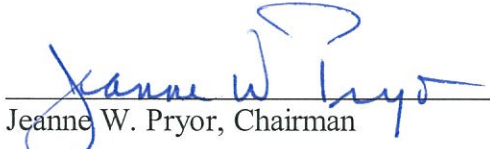
Board of Selectmen
March 5, 2014
Minutes

Reviewed correspondence.

9:57 PM Jeanne motioned to adjourn, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Weiler, Secretary


Jeanne W. Pryor, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Becket Affordable Senior Housing Feasibility Study 2013
- Capital and Operating Budget Overview
- Affordable Housing Committee Charge
- Monthly Reports of the Ambulance Department and Highway Department
- Letter of thanks to Pioneer P&H