

Board of Selectmen  
March 19, 2014  
Minutes

Members present: Jeanne Pryor, Angela Hilton, William Elovirta

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Nina Weiler, Colleen O'Connor, Cindy DelPapa

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.

Bill motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of March 5, 2014, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bill motioned to approve the Seasonal All Alcoholic Common Victuallers license for Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Inc., Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to approve the Seasonal All Alcoholic Retail Package Store licenses for Becket Country Store and Berkshire Berries, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ed advised that Tighe and Bond will put together the USDA Rural Development Search grant application and submit it to the USDA at no charge to the town. If the town receives this grant, Tighe and Bond will work to get a Water Master Plan for up to \$30,000 from this grant. He also advised that this is a non-matching grant. Bill asked if this Water Master Plan would cover the entire town and Ed advised that it would cover the entire town. The Selectmen feel that the town has nothing to lose by applying for this grant. Bill motioned to accept the proposal for engineering services provided by Tighe and Bond, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the Capital and Operating Budget. The Board reviewed the Capital budget first. Ed advised that the items that he is looking to do this year would be replacing the double doors in the front and back of the town hall, to make the town hall ADA compliant by updating the front entrance ramps and handrails, carpet replacement at town hall, zero turn lawn mower, mobile tablets for police cruisers, and ground speed computer controllers for truck 2 and 6 at highway department. The grader replacement will go as a debt exclusion. Ed advised that there are some items that are in limbo which are the Becket Center Cemetery shed, the replacement of the 2008 Ford Expedition and the sander from truck #5. The Board reviewed the operating budget. Briefly discussed certain line items that were changed since the last budget review. Ed asked the Selectmen to think about the budget and to contact him if they have any questions or if they feel he is leaving something out.

Jeanne read the Special Town Meeting warrant out loud for everyone. Jeanne motioned to approve all nine articles for the Special Town Meeting, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board signed the warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall so it can be posted.

Ed advised the Board that they could vote to have a preferred vocational school if they chose to. Currently there are four different vocational school bus routes but if the Board voted to have a preferred vocational school then students wishing to enroll in a certain program would have to go to the preferred school if it

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provided the program. This may eliminate the town having to bus students to so many different schools. He will check to see what programs are offered at each school so the Board can determine if they want to have a preferred school or not. He also advised that three of the seven towns in the CBRSD have preferred schools. Having a preferred school may save the town money if it does not have to transport students to so many different schools. Ed explained that it would not affect any student currently in the vocational programs. The Board can make their decision at a later time.

Ed left the meeting at this point to join the Planning Board Executive Session.

The Board reviewed letter from Board of Assessors regarding 5K Senior Work-Off Real Estate Tax Abatement program. The Assessors are asking the Board to vote to change the eligibility requirements by considering the senior's assets when determining program eligibility. Currently only financial eligibility requirements are based on a set income amount. Assets are not considered. The Board would like the Board of Assessors to attend a future meeting to discuss this. Bill motioned to table this to a future meeting when the Assessors could attend, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bill motioned to sign the Letter of Intent to Participate in the Southern Berkshire County Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection program, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the Becket Town Hall Use application that they have been working on. Briefly discussed what types of things should be allowed and if there would be fees for the events and also the town's insurance liability. The Board feels the pavilion and park area should be under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Committee. The Parks and Recreation Committee should come up with rules and regulations for groups wishing to use the park and pavilion areas. Briefly discussed allowing alcoholic beverages to be served at the Town Hall. Nina advised that alcoholic beverages were never allowed before but she could not remember if the Board voted not to allow it or if the town's insurance policy did not allow it. The Board would like Ed to check to see if any groups using the town hall that are serving food requires a Serv-Safe certified person on site. Nina will write up something about when the key should be picked up by the group or individuals using the town hall. The Board will hold off on finalizing this application until all research has been completed.

The Board reviewed the monthly reports of the Animal Control Officer, Police Department and Citations Issued. A question came up about the fire department monthly report. The Board has not received a report yet and there were two letters that were sent to the fire chief. Bill advised that Ed was going to have the fire chief come in to see him regarding his monthly report and also his FY 2015 budget that he has not done yet.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Bill advised that he came across the Historical Commission's annual report of 1980 and found a section of this report that refers to the "Becket Relief Fund for Park Purposes". He was wondering if there is still such a fund and if so how much is in this account. There will need to be some research done to see if this fund still exists.

Jeanne asked if Angela or Bill would be attending the rescheduled Wired West meeting in the Town of Washington on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Bill advised that he would be attending the Finance Committee meeting that

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night. Angela advised that she would not be attending this meeting. Jeanne will be attending the Wired West meeting in Washington.

Jeanne asked if an Historical Commission member was designated to serve on the Community Preservation Committee. Nina will check on this.

Jeanne asked if the financial report of the CPC is being done for the Annual Town Report. Nina will check with Ed about this.

Briefly discussed the Town Administrator's evaluation. The Board will complete its evaluation of the TA and they would like Ed to complete a self-evaluation. Bill feels that Ed has been here almost a year and he would like to complete this. Briefly discussed having the Department Heads complete an evaluation form for the TA. Jeanne advised that she does not want this done by email. This should be done by paper only and it should be marked confidential. Nina will email the Policy for Evaluation of Town Administrator to Bill and Angela. The Board would like the evaluations done before the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Briefly discussed the Affordable Housing Committee. The Board would like to appoint three members to this committee and would like to know if the people who have served in the past would still be interested in serving or if the people who showed interest at a forum would like to serve on this committee. Jeanne would like letters to be sent to these people asking if they would like to serve on this committee.

Town Administrator's Report: The Board read over Ed's report. The first item was in regard to the Police Department Ford Expedition. This vehicle is not running correctly and has been taken to the highway garage where it will be stored until it is sold as surplus property. It is both Ed and Chris Bouchard's recommendation to park the Expedition and sell it as surplus property if the engine issues continue.

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 for our region on March 20, 2014 in Pittsfield.

Ed would be attending the Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. He will also be attending the MCPPO procurement training Design and Construction Contracting in Huntington on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is the second of three courses he is required to take in order to receive the MCPPO designation from the State.

Public Input: Colleen O'Connor asked the Board why snow is being tossed over the bridge by the school and into the river. She advised that part of the work done in North Becket was so that salt and sand does not go into the river but if snow is being thrown into the river then it defeats the purpose. She also advised that there is an incredible smell coming from the school's septic system. The pavement around the sewer cover is heaving and this should not be happening. Jeanne will check with Ed on this.

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Any other business: Nina asked if anyone would be attending the Berkshire County Selectmen's Association Dinner Meeting on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Greenock Country Club in Lee. No one will be attending this dinner meeting.

Nina advised that Diane Koch from CBRSD is looking to set up spring meetings with the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. The Selectmen would like to see if April 16<sup>th</sup> or May 7<sup>th</sup> works for CBRSD. Nina will check to see if either of these dates work.

Reviewed correspondence.

8:45 PM Angela motioned to adjourn, Bill seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nina Weiler, Secretary

  
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Jeanne W. Pryor, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Proposal from Tighe and Bond for Engineering Services-USDA Rural Development Search Grant Application
- Capital and Operating Budget Overview
- Special Town Meeting Warrant
- Letter from the Board of Assessors regarding 5K Senior Work-Off Real Estate Tax Abatement Program
- Letter of Intent to Participate in the Southern Berkshire County Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program
- Town Hall Use Application
- Monthly Reports of the Animal Control Officer, Police Department and Citations Issued