

Board of Selectmen
 April 16, 2014
 Minutes

Members present: Jeanne Pryor, Angela Hilton, William Elovirta

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Nina Weiler, Colleen O'Connor, Beth VanNess, Steve LaBelle, Ann Spadafora, Jeremy Dunn, Dan Parnell, John Sakata-Berkshire Eagle, Dr. William Cameron-CBRSD Superintendent, Melissa Falkowski-CBRSD Business Administrator, Dr. Robert Putnam-CBRSD Assistant Superintendent, John Les-CBRSD School Committee

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. John Sakata from the Berkshire Eagle is recording the meeting along with the Board of Selectmen.

Jeanne welcomed the CBRSD administration. She introduced the Finance Committee to the school administration. The Selectmen were given the CBRSD adopted final FY 2015 Budget. The Final budget is less than the tentative budget that was approved back in February. Dr. Cameron spoke about the FY 2015 school budget and gave a quick explanation of the budget. He explained that some of the reduction was from eliminated teaching positions. He advised that some of the increase in the budget was from a new Special Education pre-school class, some new teaching positions, health insurance increases, salary increases and increases in transportation costs. He also advised that the school committee has voted to keep Berkshire Trail open for one more year. The budget assessed for Becket is 1.97 % over last year's budget. Dr. Cameron is asking for the Board's support for the budget. The Board feels that the 1.97% increase is reasonable. The Selectmen thanked the CBRSD administration for coming to the meeting.

The Board reviewed the capital and operating budget. Ed advised the Board of the new changes since the last meeting. There is a new line item "Town Meeting Expense" since the Town Meeting Bylaw passed at the STM. The amount of this line item is \$3,500. There is also another new item "Crystal Pond Dues" in the amount of \$10,262. Ed explained that this is for a parcel in Crystal Pond that the Town acquired through tax title. He also advised that the Municipal Building line item went from \$62,500 to \$63,000 and the Municipal Utilities went from \$65,000 to \$67,900 and the Vocational Transportation decreased to \$90,000. The Selectmen went section by section of the operating budget and asked questions as they went along. Ed advised that he will remove the ambulance department salaries and expenses from the operating budget and make a separate article for this. Bill motioned to approve the operating budget of \$5,009,567.50, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Jeanne motioned to recommend an article that would fund the Ambulance Department in the amount of \$323,116.50 and use \$89,000.00 in Enterprise Revenue with the balance coming from raise and appropriate, Bill seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to approve the Debt and Interest article in the amount of \$361,228, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend transferring \$98,157 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend transferring from Free Cash \$18,500 to perform a FY 2013 Audit, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend transferring from Free Cash \$63,400 for the Snow and Ice Deficit for FY 2014, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend transferring \$15,000 from the Community Preservation Fund to fund the Becket Athenaeum exterior restoration and painting article, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to

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recommend appropriating \$25,000 to the 250th Anniversary Committee expenses, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend appropriating up to \$10,262 for the Crystal Pond Homeowners Association dues for a parcel owned by the Town through tax title, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend an article to replace the front and rear double doors at Town Hall in the amount of \$6,692, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend an article to make the Town Hall front entrance ramps and handrails ADA compliant in the amount of \$14,500, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend an article for carpet replacement in worn areas in Town Hall in the amount of \$6,500, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend an article for the purchase of a Zero Turn Lawn Mower for the mowing of town owned properties in the amount of \$11,900, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend an article to purchase two mobile tablets for the police cruisers in the amount of \$10,000, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend an article to purchase a 2015 Ford Explorer Utility SUV for the Police Department in the amount of \$39,000, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend an article for the purchase of a sander for Highway Truck #5 in the amount of \$5,500, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend an article for the purchase of Ground Speed Computer Controllers for Material Spreaders for Truck #2 and Truck #6 for the Highway Department in the amount of \$17,000, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend an article for the purchase of a Grader for the Highway Department as debt in the amount of \$385,000, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend an article for Becket Athenaeum Capital Repairs in the amount of \$20,000, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend an article for CPA Allocation and Administrative Fees in the amount of \$46,740, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend an article for the purchase of two tasers for the police department in the amount of \$4,000, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend an article for a shed for the Center Cemetery in the amount of \$3,000, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to not recommend an article for the Becket Arts Center request for an ADA Lift in the amount of \$40,000, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to recommend an article for the purchase of Computer and Software Replacement in the amount of \$12,900, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board will have a working meeting on April 24, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. to sign the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting.

The Board discussed releasing and discharging two real property liens on 732 Main Street. Ed explained that the property at 732 Main Street is currently under foreclosure proceedings and a foreclosure will wipe out and discharge the two liens. Instead of a foreclosure the owner has been attempting to achieve a short sale whereby the residence will be sold for less than what is owed. The only interested buyer has submitted an offer which equals, but does not exceed, the total amount due and owing to the Credit Union. The residence cannot be sold short to the buyer unless there is a release and discharge of the two outstanding rehabilitation loans. The owner's attorney is respectfully requesting that the Town of Becket, acting through the Berkshire Housing Rehabilitation Program, release and discharge the two outstanding liens which are recorded against the property. Ed advised that the remainder of the loans is approximately \$7,100. If the house is foreclosed, the town would lose the loan payment and the house would remain unoccupied which may leave it subject to vandalism or destruction. Ed feels it would be better to have someone purchase this house and live in it then to let it sit and deteriorate. Jeanne motioned that the Town of Becket, acting by and through the Berkshire Housing Rehabilitation Program, release and discharge the

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two outstanding liens which are recorded against the property on 732 Main Street, Bill seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeanne asked Nina if she could post the voter registration session that will take place on Friday, April 18th from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. on the website. This will be the last time a person could register to vote in order to vote at the Annual Town Meeting and the Annual Town Election.

Bill motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of April 2, 2014, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

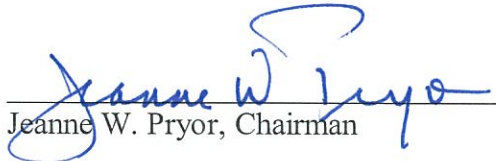
Town Administrator's Report: Ed advised that he received the resignation of Raymond Tarjick as Fire Chief effective April 18, 2014 today. He will accept this resignation since the Board had no objections.

Any other business: None.

8:56 PM Angela motioned to adjourn, Bill seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Weiler, Secretary


Jeanne W. Pryor, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Central Berkshire Regional School District Adopted Final FY 2015 Budget
- Capital and Operating Budget Overview
- Correspondence regarding the release and discharge of two real property liens on 732 Main Street