

Board of Selectmen  
May 7, 2014  
Minutes

Members present: Jeanne Pryor, William Elovirta, Angela Hilton

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Nina Weiler, Colleen O'Connor, Beth VanNess, Robert Ronzio, Chris Bouchard, Heather Anello, Michael Lavery, Laurie Burgwardt

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. Bob Ronzio, Beth VanNess and the Board of Selectmen are recording the meeting.

Heather Anello, manager of the Becket General Store, is requesting a one-day consumption of alcoholic beverages permit for June 29, 2014. Heather explained that she is planning on having a customer appreciation day and will have a live band and pie eating contest. This will begin at 2 pm and run until 5 pm. She is expecting 50-100 people. She advised that she will be providing a TIP Certified bartender for the event. Bill asked her if her insurance would cover an event like this. She advised that it would. Ed advised that the Selectmen should make the TIP Certified bartender part of the permit and they would need to let the Board know the perimeters of the area where the alcohol would be served and no one would be allowed outside these perimeters. Briefly discussed having a police officer available to direct traffic during the event. Bill motioned to authorize Heather Anello, doing business as the Becket General Store, to have a one-day all alcoholic license for Sunday, June 29, 2014 from 2 pm to 5 pm and must have a TIP Certified bartender and must check with the Police Department to see if they require a police officer and that the alcohol beverages need to stay within the roped area at the front and side of the store, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chris Bouchard gave the Selectmen copies of the quotes he received for the Transfer Station. He received a total of four quotes. He explained the different items on the quotes and the prices each company submitted. He advised that Valley Roll-Off is the company with the lowest cost overall. Ed advised that he has gone over the quotes and came to the same conclusion as Chris has. Chris advised that Tyringham and Great Barrington use Valley Roll-Off and have no complaints with this company. Bill motioned to give a three year contract for hauling the Transfer Station waste and the rentals to Valley Roll-Off, Angela seconded. Chris advised that the Town would need to give the current company time to swap over their equipment so the new company can be ready to go. The Selectmen feel this should be done before July 1<sup>st</sup> and the hauler should be licensed. Bill motioned to withdraw his original motion, Angela seconded. Bill motioned to give a three year contract for hauling the Transfer Station waste and the rentals to Valley Roll-Off effective July 1, 2014 and that the hauler must be licensed with the Town of Becket, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bill motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of April 16, 2014, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bill motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of April 24, 2014, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bill motioned to approve the public release of the Town Administrator's evaluation by the Board of Selectmen, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Jeanne read the evaluation information

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including the Selectmen's comments about the Town Administrator's performance. Ed commented on the past year as being challenging but the staff assisted him and made it much easier.

Jeanne advised that after looking for some time, they now have a republican interested in becoming a member of the Registrar of Voters. Bill motioned to appoint Robin Greenspan as a Registrar of Voters term to start May 8, 2014 and end on March 31, 2016 and to appoint Michelle Smith as a Registrar of Voters term to start May 8, 2014 and end on March 31, 2017, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board of Registrars no longer has any vacancies.

The Board discussed the Declaration of Surplus Real Property in Sherwood Greens of two parcels on Map 213, Lot 124 and Map 213, Lot 125 for Disposition and Sale of Surplus Property. Jeanne advised that she will recuse herself from this discussion. Ed gave a description of how this property interest came about. In 2011, the Sherwood Greens Road District asked the Board of Selectmen if they could purchase the two lots in their development. At the Annual Town Meeting in 2012, the town voted to transfer the care, custody, management and control from the Treasurer to the Board of Selectmen for purposes of sale for conservation and passive recreation purposes and to authorize the Selectmen to sell the lots. Ed advised that the value of the land dictates how the town could dispose of the property. He had the two lots appraised and both lots were valued less than \$25,000 which allows the town to post and/or advertise these lots for sale. Because of the conservation and passive recreation restrictions, Ed feels the only interested party would be the SGRD. In order for the Selectmen to dispose of this property they would need to declare it as surplus property. Bill motioned to declare surplus property in Sherwood Greens of two parcels on Map 213, Lot 124 and Map 213, Lot 125 for disposition and sale of surplus property, Angela seconded. Jeanne abstained from voting. Motion passed.

The Board reviewed monthly reports of the Highway Department, Building Inspector, Ambulance Department, Police Department, Citations Issued and Animal Control Officer. Bill advised that at one of their previous meetings a question was raised as to why the ACO is patrolling. The Selectmen wanted to know if he was looking for unlicensed dogs or stray dogs. Bill advised that when he was reviewing the last payables warrant, he noticed that the ACO received mileage for approximately 333 miles for the month of April. Ed feels the ACO is trying to be proactive with Animal Control.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Angela advised that she read the Annual Town Report and saw that there were eleven llama calls for the year. She feels this is a lot because she does not think there are many llamas in town. The Board will check with the ACO about this.

Town Administrator's report: Ed advised that the Energy Committee has been hard at work and is planning on holding a Home Energy Savings Informational Session on Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 AM to Noon at the Town Hall. He has attached the flyer that will be mailed out to Becket residents and posted in Becket and surrounding towns for their reference.

Ed advised that the well pipe at Fire Station 2/Ambulance Garage had to be replaced today as the 40 year old cast iron pipe has started to fail. The pressure tank will also need to be replaced as it has started to leak. David Shorey is making arrangements to have the septic system pumped as it has been three years since it was last pumped.

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Ed advised that the highway department has removed trees which were overhanging Fire Station 1 and were noted as an insurance concern in the 2013 MIIA inspection.

Ed advised that he attended a STATnet meeting in Worcester yesterday with Chris Bouchard. This quarterly session was for DPW's and highway departments and concentrated on Fleet Maintenance and replacement along with employee safety. The meeting was well attended from communities across the State and was very informative. He attended the Emergency Management Meeting in Agawam this morning to learn about the FY14 and 15 Emergency Management grants which actually may be used in combination with each other over a fifteen month period for these two grant rounds. He will be attending the Berkshire Manager's Association meeting in New Marlborough on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> and the Energy Committee Meeting on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Public Input: Colleen O'Connor addressed the Board regarding her water issue at her house. She advised that there is no way for her to have potable water at her house and she just wants the town to purchase her property so she does not have to live in Becket any longer. Briefly discussed the realtor's responsibility in disclosing issues with the homes they are selling.

Any other business: Ed advised that the Board of Health's expense account is running out of funds and its salary account has money in it and he would like to the Board to vote to transfer money from the Board of Health Salary Account to the Board of Health Expense Account. Jeanne motioned to approve the transfer of \$3,500 from the Board of Health Salary Account to the Board of Health Expense Account, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Nina advised that she received a request from someone who would like to have yoga classes at the town hall. The Board has not completed the new town hall use application yet so she did not know what to tell the gentleman. The Board would like to hold off on this until they come up with a new policy for town hall use.

Bill advised that he has gone to Board of Selectmen meetings in other towns and found that they say the Pledge of Allegiance before the meetings and asked if we could start doing this at the start of Board of Selectmen meetings. Bill motioned to start having the Pledge of Allegiance before each meeting starting at their next regularly scheduled meeting, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Laurel Burgwardt advised that she is applying to use the fire station pavilion for the annual steak roast that is held every year at the Fire Station pavilion. She also advised that they do not serve alcohol but people in the past have brought their own alcohol. She was told that this could not be done any longer. Bill advised that there is a town bylaw that does not allow open containers of alcohol on any town property. If something happened at a town property because alcohol was being consumed then the town could be liable for this.

Reviewed correspondence.

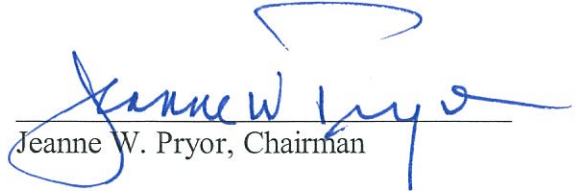
Angela gave Jeanne and Bill an Open Meeting Law Complaint Form that she filed with the Town Clerk. Jeanne asked Angela if she would like to read the complaint and Angela declined.

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8:15 PM Bill motioned to adjourn, Angela 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:

- Transfer Station Vendor Quotes
- Real Property in Sherwood Greens Appraisal Information on Map 213, Lot 124 and 125 for Disposition and Sale of Surplus Property.
- Monthly reports of the Highway Department, Building Inspector, Ambulance Department, Police Department, Citations Issued and Animal Control Officer