

Board of Selectmen
June 4, 2014
Minutes

Members present: Jeanne Pryor, William Elovirta
Angela Hilton-absent

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Colleen O'Connor, Kris McDonough, Adam Gonska

7:00 PM Bill called the meeting to order. He advised that the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and Guidelines for Board of Selectmen Meetings.

Bill asked if anyone was recording the meeting. Colleen O'Connor and the Board of Selectmen are recording the meeting.

The Board and members of the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Briefly discussed the minutes of May 9th. Ed advised that Angela submitted changes but Nina was unsure what she was amending. Jeanne motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of May 9, 2014 as written, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Discussed the Automatic Amusement Devices. The Police Chief advised that when he spoke with the gentleman about these devices, he was never told that there would be money payouts involved. Bill does not like the idea of these machines. He feels they are trouble. Discussed developing regulations and doing more investigating before the Board decides what to do about these devices. Jeanne motioned to table any policy on these devices until they have time to investigate it further, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Kris McDonough, the police chief, addressed the Board regarding the Berkshire County Law Enforcement Council Mutual Aid Agreement. He feels it would be in the best interest of the town to have this agreement in place. Kris explained how the agreement would work. The main thing the agreement would provide would be jurisdiction from other police departments to act on something in another town without having to be called specifically to the one call. Currently, if another police department is in Becket for one thing and is leaving the town, it would not have the jurisdiction to act on anything else unless specifically called to do it. The attorney for the Police Chiefs Association and the Office of the District Attorney have reviewed this agreement and feel it would be good to have. Bill motioned to approve the Berkshire County Law Enforcement Council Mutual Aid Agreement, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.

Kris McDonough advised that he and Ed completed the interviewing of applicants for the part time police officer position. They both think that Adam Gonska is the top candidate for this position and will serve the town and its residents well. Jeanne motioned to accept Chief McDonough's recommendation to appoint Adam Gonska to the police department as a probationary police officer with the term to expire on June 30, 2014, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

The Board agrees that the Alcohol and Drug Policy draft needs further discussion and will do this at a later date. Ed will work on two different policies; one that will pertain to CDL licenses and safety sensitive equipment and one for other employees.

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Ed advised that he would like to just do the police department appointments tonight and do the rest of his appointments at the next meeting. Jeanne motioned that the following members be appointed to the Police Department for a term of one year from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015: Kristopher McDonough, Marc Portieri, Matthew Virginia, Nicole Miller, Michael Hunt, Tyler Miller and Michael Sawyer, Bill seconded. Motion passed. Jeanne motioned to appoint Adam Gonska as a probationary police officer term to be from July 1, 2014 to December 1, 2014, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Ed advised that there is only one Request for Transfer from the Reserve Account and there are three Departmental Transfers. He explained that the Conservation Commission will have a shortfall in the account to cover the remaining salary and expenses for FY14. The Conservation Commission will need approximately \$1,500 to get through the rest of the year. The Finance Committee will vote on this Request for a Transfer from the Reserve Account at their meeting tomorrow night. He explained the three departmental transfers for accounts that will have a deficit. Jeanne motioned to approve the transfer from Treasurer Expenses in the amount of \$499.09 to Software Maintenance Agreements, Bill seconded. Motion passed. Jeanne motioned to approve the transfer from Municipal Building Expenses in the amount of \$128.50 to Town Report Expenses, Bill seconded. Motion passed. Jeanne motioned to approve the transfer from Municipal Building Expenses in the amount of \$248.96 to Town Administrator Expenses, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Agenda item 10 was withdrawn by the person requesting to come before the Board because she was unable to attend the meeting.

Discussed the application for an Entertainment License from the Becket Arts Center for live band during the Summer Solstice Celebration on June 21, 2014. Bill advised that the application does not have a line for the date of the event. Ed advised that this application is made for yearly entertainment licenses so we will need to come up with a one-day license application. Ed also advised that the Summer Solstice has been scaled down from last year and the BAC will not have the road closed off. Jeanne would like the police department to know that this event is taking place even if the road will not be closed off. Jeanne motioned to approve the Entertainment License for the Becket Arts Center for live band during the Summer Solstice Celebration on June 21, 2014 and that the police department be made aware of this, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Briefly discussed the Household Hazardous Waste program. The town has participated in this program in the past. Bill motioned to extend the Agreement between CET and the Town of Becket for the Collection of Hazardous Waste Through the Multi-Town Collaborative to June 30, 2015, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.

Ed gave the Board a summary of the FY12 Audit. Some of the items will be completed now that the accountant's hours will be increased. Ed advised of the steps that would be taken to correct some of the items on the audit report.

The Board reviewed the monthly report of the Fire Department. The Board thanked the fire chief and assistant fire chief for completing the report.

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Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Bill advised that as soon as MassDOT got the letter regarding the catch basin by the post office they improved the area. Now if a car runs over the barrel they will not go into the ditch.

Town Administrator's report: Ed advised that the equipment for the water filtration system at the Mullen House has been installed and the system is functioning. A rep. from the DEP visited the site to view the installation. Ed is awaiting the final (non-conditional) approval from the DEP.

Ed advised that the new pressure tank and filter were installed at Fire Station 2/Ambulance Garage today and is functioning properly.

Ed advised that the Town of Becket has been accepted into the Taxpayer Assistance Program which assists communities in setting their tax rates in November rather than in December. The program offers DLS assistance and expertise to the town and a monitoring system to ensure the community stays on track for their data submittals to set their tax rate. The Department is scheduled to come here on Thursday, June 26th for a kick-off meeting. The Board is welcome to attend this kick-off meeting.

Ed advised that we received a letter from CBRSD letting the Board of Selectmen know that they have contracted with the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) to conduct a study which will provide them with options for planning the future of the School District. He also advised that the NESDEC staff will be in the district from Monday, June 9th through Wednesday, June 11th and may want to speak with members of the town's government.

Ed reminded the Board that the Energy Committee will be holding a Home Energy Savings Informational Session on Saturday, June 21, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Becket Washington School. All are welcome to come to this session.

Ed advised that he would be attending the Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, June 5th. He would also be attending a three day course on June 10th, 11th and 12th which is given by the Inspector General's Office for MCPPO training on Goods and Services Procurement. This will be the final course of the three he needed to take to obtain his MCPPO designation. He will be in Boston on Thursday, June 19th for two JLMC hearings.

Public Input: None.

Any other business: Ed advised that he received renewal paperwork from MIIA for Property and Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance and it needs to be signed and sent back in by June 10th. Jeanne motioned to renew Property and Liability and Workers' Compensation coverage for fiscal year 2015, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Jeanne asked about the Special Town Meeting bylaw changes and Ed advised that he is waiting for legal counsel review on these and will speak with Joel Bard next week about these.

Reviewed correspondence.

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8:16 PM Jeanne motioned to adjourn, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Weiler, Secretary



William H. Elovirta, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Berkshire County Law Enforcement Council Mutual Aid Agreement
- Alcohol and Drug Policy Draft
- Departmental Transfers
- Application for an Entertainment License from the Becket Arts Center for live band during Summer Solstice Celebration
- Extension Agreement between CET and the Town of Becket for the Collection of Hazardous Waste through the Multi-Town Collaborative
- FY12 Audit Report
- Monthly Report of the Fire Department