

Board of Selectmen  
July 2, 2014  
Minutes

Members present: William Elovirta, Jeanne Pryor, Angela Hilton

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Nina Weiler, Colleen O'Connor, Ann Krawet, Bob Ronzio, Chris Bouchard

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. The Board of Selectmen and Bob Ronzio are recording the meeting.

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

Ann Krawet and Bob Ronzio of the Planning Board addressed the Board regarding the proposed changes to the Large and Small Wind bylaws. Ann advised that when they reviewed the bylaws they realized that the Small Wind bylaws, under the Noise section, the Small Wind Energy Systems had a higher noise level than the Large Wind Energy System. They changed the noise levels so that they are the same for both the Large and Small Wind bylaws. The next change would be under the definitions. The Special Permit Granting Authority shall be the Planning Board. Currently the SPGA is the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Planning Board will be holding a public hearing on the proposed changes on July 30<sup>th</sup>. After the public hearing these proposed changes to the bylaws would need to go to a town meeting to be voted on. The Board would like to analyze this information and put it on the next meeting agenda before they make their recommendations.

Jeanne motioned to approve the minutes of May 21, 2014, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeanne motioned to pay the Berkshire County Selectmen's Association annual dues, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeanne advised that she drafted Automatic Amusement Device License Regulations for the Town of Becket. She followed State laws while drafting this and tried to include what the Board talked about. Discussed the fact that these devices payout. Bill feels that these machines are gambling machines but Jeanne advised that the State considers them to be games of skill and do not treat them as gambling machines. Bill feels the machines are fine to play for skill but he does not like the idea of them paying out. Jeanne thought it would be good to check with other towns that have these devices to see if they have any trouble with them. Angela motioned to accept the Automatic Amusement Device License Regulations as written, Jeanne seconded. Ed asked the Board if they really wanted to accept the regulations without the amendments. Briefly discussed amending the section that allows minors to operate the amusement devices. Angela motioned to withdraw the original motion to accept the Automatic Amusement Device License Regulations, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Board will review this further and make some changes at a later meeting.

The Board reviewed the Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy draft. Bill feels that Section III Definitions should have a "Hoisting Engineering License" added to it. Briefly discussed Section 8 Consequences for Policy Violations. The Board needs to decide how long the suspensions should be and how many

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violations would require termination. Jeanne motioned to change the third paragraph of section S. to read "For the first violation of this policy, an employee shall be suspended fifteen (15) days without pay. Employee shall be demoted to a laborer's rate and shall have his/her pay reduced to that pay grade for the duration of the license suspension. For the second violation of this Policy, an employee shall be terminated.", Bill seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Jeanne motioned to accept the changes as agreed to on the Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Ed will make all of the changes and the Board can vote to accept the policy at an upcoming meeting.

The Board reviewed the Drug Free Workplace Policy Draft and Jeanne thought there was a typo on page 1 Section B of Procedures that currently reads "Further prohibited use, sale, possession, distribution, dispensation, manufacture, or transfer of controlled substances " but it should read "Further prohibited use, sale, possession, distribution, dispensation, manufacture, or transfer of controlled substances ". Jeanne motioned on page 1 Section B. to change or to of, Bill seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Ed will make this change and have it for the next meeting.

Briefly discussed the Policy on Issuing One-Day Liquor Licenses. The Board will discuss this at their next meeting.

The Town Clerk gave the Board a list of Election Workers he would like appointed for FY15. Jeanne motioned to appoint the following Election Workers with terms to start July 15, 2014 and end July 14, 2015: Julia Kay Grace, Ann Krawet, Katherine Hoak, Barbara Winters, Eva Bonney, Alymer Trivers, Beth VanNess, Meredyth Babcock, Patricia Clemons, Charles Francis, and Joan Moylan, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Angela motioned to appoint William Robinson to the Jacobs Ladder Trail Advisory Committee term to start July 1, 2014 and end June 30, 2015; William Girard as the Trench Inspector term to start July 1, 2014 and end June 30, 2017; and William Babcock to the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee term to start July 1, 2014 and end June 30, 2015, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ed advised that there is one Reserve Fund Transfer that the Finance Committee will take up at their next meeting. It would be in the amount of \$12,550.00 to be transferred to the Fire Department Expense Account to cover the complete engine replacement of Rescue Vehicle #5. The Board reviewed the Departmental Transfers. Jeanne motioned to transfer \$300.00 from the Staff Coverage Account to the Board of Health Salaries Account, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Angela motioned to transfer \$186.28 from the Staff Coverage Account to the Memorial Day/ Veterans Day Expense Account, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Jeanne motioned to transfer \$4,000.00 from Municipal Building Expenses and \$1,404.38 from Advertising for a total of \$5,404.38 to the Town Counsel Expenses Account, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Angela motioned to transfer \$5,000.00 from Highway Department Salaries and \$4,000.00 from Reconstruction of Gravel Roads and \$555.94 from the General Maintenance Account for a total of \$9,555.94 to the Highway Fuel Account, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Angela motioned to transfer \$811.90 from Highway General Maintenance Account to Winter Roads Account, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Angela motioned to transfer \$850.28 from Ambulance Salaries to Ambulance Expenses, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Bill advised that he would be attending the ceremony on July 19<sup>th</sup> on Washington Mountain Road that dedicates the road as an Iraq-Afghanistan Veterans Scenic Byway.

Town Administrator's report: Ed advised that the equipment swap between the previous equipment and service vendor and the new vendor "Valley Roll-Off" was completed Monday at the Transfer Station. All equipment has been swapped out and is working just in time for the new contract to take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The vendor will be under contract for a three year term expiring on June 30, 2017.

Ed advised that in addition to Rescue Truck #5 being in for the replacement of its engine, the new fire apparatus will need warranty work on its axles.

Ed advised that Chris Bouchard would like to invite the Board of Selectmen to a site visit for the Bonny Rigg Hill Road culvert grant project on Friday, July 25, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the location of the culverts. This meeting will be the last administrative step before receiving funding under this Hazard Mitigation grant.

Ed advised that the BRPC is requesting the Board send a representative to a Southeast subregional caucus at the Lee Town Hall on Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM for the purpose of electing a Selectman as a Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization representative and one alternate representative to the Towns of Becket, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, New Marlborough, Otis, Sandisfield Tyringham and Washington. He would encourage one of our members of the Board of Selectmen to run for one of these positions. This is the body which authorizes the TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan) funding in Berkshire County for the next three years.

Ed advised that Richard Holland from Kopelman and Paige will be at the July 16, 2014 meeting of the Board of Selectmen for an Executive Session concerning the BRD Litigation.

Ed advised that he would be attending the Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup> and will present them with any Departmental Transfers and Reserve Transfers which will need to be approved to complete the FY 2014 budget before the books are closed. He will also be attending a meeting of Mass Broadband 123 on Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup> in Pittsfield. He also advised that any members of the Board of Selectmen who would like to attend are also invited. He advised that Wired West is also requesting Boards of Selectmen send a letter of support for the last mile connection to MBI. He will edit the letter a bit and have the Board review it before he sends it out.

Public Input: Ann Krawet explained her reasons for the changes to the Large and Small Wind Energy Bylaws.

Colleen O'Connor asked about a Public Water Supply in North Becket and wanted to know when the Selectmen would address this PWS. She made the Board aware of a house that is currently being sold that does not have a septic system which is illegal in Massachusetts. She asked the Board to start talking about the PWS in North Becket.

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Bob Ronzio briefly spoke about failed septic systems and uncapped wells and stated that people need to make the Board of Health aware of these situations so they can be taken care of. He asked about the drug and alcohol policies that the Board is currently working on. Briefly discussed these policies. He also feels the Town should follow State laws regarding employee lunches.

Any other business: Chris Bouchard gave the Board a rundown of the proposed Chapter 90 Projects that he is looking to complete. He is looking to chip seal a section of Yokum Pond Road and is also looking to place an inch and a half overlay on part of Wade Inn Road.

Reviewed correspondence.

Briefly discussed letter from Johanna Cornock regarding easement on her property located at 473 County Road.

9:10 PM Angela motioned to adjourn, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nina Weiler, Secretary

  
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William H. Elovirta, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Small and Large Wind Energy Bylaws
- Automatic Amusement Device License Regulations Draft
- Alcohol and Drug Policy Draft
- Drug Free Workplace Policy Draft
- One-Day Liquor License Policy Draft
- List of Election Workers
- Departmental Transfers