

Board of Selectmen
July 16, 2014
Minutes

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

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Nina Weiler, Colleen O'Connor, Kris McDonough, Milt Reiss,
Katherine Hoak, Linda and David Bacon, Jenn Beatty, Rita Furlong, Jeanne
Morano, Julia Maynard, Heather Anello, Judy Cote, Holly Chaffee, Bob Hirsch,
Carl Rosenstein

6:00 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 is recording the meeting.

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

Jeanne motioned to go into executive session under MGL c. 30A, section 21 (a) (3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation BRD vs. Town of Becket as having the discussion in open session would have a detrimental effect on the public body litigating position, Bill seconded. Roll call vote: Jeanne-aye, Bill-aye.

6:35 PM The Board returned to open session.

The Board reviewed the bid for the new police cruiser. Kris McDonough advised that this cruiser will be identical to the 2013 Ford Interceptor as far as the graphics are concerned. Ed advised that there will be no trade in for this vehicle. Jeanne motioned to approve the bid from MHQ for the new police cruiser in the amount of \$37,642.00, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Jeanne motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of June 4, 2014 and June 18, 2014, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Jeanne motioned to appoint the following registered voters as election workers per the Town Clerk's request: Gale LaBelle, Stephen LaBelle, Sr., Adrienne Metcalf, Jerome Schwartzback, Charles Garman, Priscilla McEwen, Josh Lombard, Alvin Blake, and Ruth Rosenthal, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

The Board reviewed the monthly reports of the Police Department, Citations Issued, Animal Control Officer and Ambulance Department.

Jeanne motioned to approve Jeff Waite's request to carry over 5 vacation days to the next fiscal year, Albert Goodermote's request to carry over 5 vacation days to the next fiscal year and Christopher Bouchard's request to carry over 5 vacation days and 136.5 hours of comp time to personal/sick time to the next fiscal year, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Ken Smith updated the Board regarding the Historic Quarry property. He gave a synopsis of how the property was acquired and how the Becket Land Trust raises money through donations. He also gave the Board a rundown of all the maintenance that has been done to this property. He advised that visitors that

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have gone to the quarry have advertised that this place is ideal for cliff jumping. This has brought many visitors to the quarry which has led to vandalism, alcohol consumption, littering and other crimes. The BLT has tried to hire a guard with its minimal funds to try to curtail these activities but they cannot afford to pay a guard to cover the quarry full time. Recently the Board of Directors has attempted to enforce a no trespass policy around the quarry to stop the partying that goes on. Kris McDonough advised that the Environmental Police may be able to assist the BLT by checking the quarry from time to time. He will also coordinate other surrounding police departments and the state police to do random visits to make the violators know that they cannot have fires, drink alcohol or swim in the water. This may deter them from coming if they know there are frequent police visits. Briefly discussed doing fund raisers to help with the cost of having a guard at the quarry. Also discussed towing cars that are parked at the quarry after hours. Kris advised that it is really hard to do anything because the cars are on private property. Ed offered to look into whether the BLT could authorize the Police Department to ticket and tow cars that are parked in the lot when the quarry is closed. Bill motioned to authorize the Town Administrator to look into the legality of doing this, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.

Rita Furlong addressed the Board about a dog park in town. She was approached by some residents who asked if the town has ever thought about having a dog park in town. Ed explained that there are ways to do this if the town wanted to have a dog park. The first thing would be whether the town would have the taxpayers fund this or if the park would run on donations. The town would need to own a large enough piece of property so the dogs could run around and it would need shaded areas and a water supply available for the dogs. The park would need to be fenced in and some parks are divided in two so the small dogs would have their own area and the large dogs would have their area. The park would also need to have a parking area. There is also the maintenance of the park that needs to be considered. If it is a park with grass then it would need to be mowed or there could be mulch that requires less maintenance but would need to be replaced every now and then. Rita will pass this information on to the residents who were inquiring about the dog park.

Linda and David Bacon of Canterbury Farms addressed the Board regarding the "Music in the Garden" event they would like to have on August 10, 2014. This is a fund raising event for the Becket Food Pantry. They have had this event for the past four years. The Board would need a certificate of insurance from Canterbury Farm and need to know that there will be a TIP certified server available for this event and would also like the police department to know about this event. A question came up about the insurance. The Becket General Store is supplying the beer and wine and they already have liability insurance and was told that they just need to add Canterbury Farms to their insurance but Ed advised that the owner needs to supply the insurance. Ed will check on this to see who needs to carry the liquor liability insurance. Jeanne motioned to approve the entertainment license for Canterbury Farms for August 10, 2014, Bill seconded. Motion passed. The Bacon's also advised that they were having a wedding at Canterbury Farms on August 9th and are looking for an entertainment and one day liquor license for this. Jeanne motioned to approve the entertainment license for Canterbury for August 9, 2014, Bill seconded. Motion passed. Jeanne motioned to approve a one day liquor license for August 10, 2014 pending our research on the insurance certificate, Bill seconded. Bill withdrew his second on the original motion. Bill motioned to tentatively approve the one day liquor license for August 10, 2014 for Canterbury Farms/Becket General Store pending research on insurance clarification, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed. Jeanne motioned to waive the fees for the entertainment and one day liquor license for Canterbury Farms on August 10, 2014, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

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Carl Rosenstein addressed the Board regarding herbicide application to Buckley Dunton Lake. He advised that Buckley Dunton Lake is a beautiful lake that the State designated as Park Land so that logging would not take place around it. He also advised that people come from all over to visit this lake. He is disturbed by the use of herbicides in this lake to take care of native plants on the southern end of the lake. He advised that only abutters were notified. He feels that more people should have been notified. Jeanne advised that because the town does not have its own bylaws, the Conservation has to follow the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act for the abutter notifications. There were no signs on the lake when it was treated to let people know they should not swim in the lake or drink the water. The Board feels the Conservation Commission did what they were supposed to do and feel he should go to them if he has issues with what happened. The Board feels that the posting at the lake should be more prominent so people see that they should not swim in the lake while it is treated with herbicides. It was brought up that only a few people who live on the lake were the ones that wanted the herbicide treatment but the Board informed the residents that the Department of Conservation and Recreation was the one who applied for the permit. Bill recommends that the residents who are concerned about herbicide treatments should contact the Planning Board and ask them to look into creating a bylaw about this.

Jennifer Beatty addressed the Board regarding the Apothecary Shop. She advised that she found out that the property that has the Apothecary Shop is for sale and she and the Historical Commission are interested in this property. She showed the Board pictures of the shop as it currently looks. It has a hole in the roof and one of the windows is boarded up. The building still has artifacts from the Apothecary Shop in it but the building has not had any upkeep in quite some time. She feels that this building should remain part of Becket's history but was not sure how the town could stop it from continuing to deteriorate. She asked the Board what they thought should happen to this building. Bill asked if the Historical Commission had spoken with the sellers and if they had asked if they would be interested in donating this property. The Historical Commission would love to get this property and have it restored or at least see if they could have the artifacts that are in the building before it gets torn down. Ms. Beatty advised that the building inspector checked out the building and does not feel it is ready to fall down but it would need a lot of work to get it restored. Bill asked if there were any historical grants available that could be used to repair the building if they were to get it through a donation. Rita Furlong advised that there are CPA funds that could be used also. Bill suggested that the Historical Commission first find out if the town could get the property as a donation then they could decide what to do with it.

The Board reviewed the Form C Application for Approval of Definitive Plan from the Planning Board for property located at 1210 Main Street. The Board has no suggestions for this application.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Bill advised that he would be attending the dedication in Washington for the Byway.

Jeanne had drafted a letter regarding the fracked gas resolution that was passed at the Annual Town Meeting. She is asking the Board to sign this letter and send it to our representatives so they are aware of the Town's concerns about it. Jeanne motion to send a copy of the resolution to ban fracked gas to Senator Downing and Rep. Pignatelli, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

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Jeanne advised that she has gotten a request from the Becket Democratic Town Committee asking if they could have their meetings posted on the town's website. Ed will research to see if other towns in Berkshire County allow this.

Town Administrator's report: There is no report at this time.

Public Input: Colleen O'Connor stated that the Board of Health did not meet again because there was not a quorum available. This is the second time this has happened. Bill would like the Town Administrator to speak with the Board of Health about being consistent with meeting times and making sure there is a quorum at the meetings so people do not waste their time by coming all the way to the town hall to find there will not be a meeting. Briefly discussed the possibility of changing the Board of Health from an elected office to an appointed one.

Any other business: Discussed visiting nurse services. Ed spoke about the contracting which has historically been done by the Board of Selectmen. He feels it would be good to have Board of Health input on the contracts. He suggested that they have a special meeting to finalize a visiting nurse contract. Holly Chaffee spoke about all of the services that Porchlight VNA provides to the town. Bill apologized to Porchlight Visiting Nurse Association for coming to the Board of Health meeting to do a presentation and not being able to do so because there was no quorum but he thanked them for coming to tonight's meeting.

It came to the Board's attention that Shep Evans' term on the Conservation Commission expired on June 30, 2014. Bill stated that he does not like having the agent of the Conservation Commission appointed as a member because he is there to advise the commission and not to vote on matters before the commission. He understands that the commission has a lot in front of them right now and they are short members so he is willing to appoint Shep temporarily. Jeanne motioned to appoint Shepley Evans to the Conservation Commission term to start July 15, 2014 and end June 30, 2015 with the recommendation that the Commission try to recruit more members, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

The Board discussed scheduling a working meeting to finalize the different policies that the Board has been working on. The Board picked a few dates and times and Nina will check with Angela to see if she can make any of those dates.

Reviewed correspondence.

9:20 PM Jeanne motioned to adjourn, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

Respectfully submitted,



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Nina Weiler, Secretary

William H. Elovirta, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Bid Package for New Police Cruiser
- Request for one-day liquor licenses from Canterbury Farms for “Music in the Garden” event and a wedding and Entertainment License Applications for both events
- Form C Application for Approval of Definitive Plan from the Planning Board for Property located at 1210 Main Street
- List of Election Workers Appointments
- Requests to Carryover Vacation Time from Christopher Bouchard, Jeffrey Waite and Albert Goodermote
- Monthly reports of the Police Department, Citations Issued, Animal Control Officer, and Ambulance Department
- Information and Photos of Apothecary Shop
- Letter to Senator Downing and Rep. Pignatelli regarding Resolution to ban Fracked Gas Pipelines
- Porchlight VNA Information Packet