

Board of Selectmen  
September 3, 2014  
Minutes

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

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Nina Weiler, Colleen O'Connor, Chris Bouchard, Laurel Burgwardt

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 Becket Board of Selectmen Meetings.

Bill asked if anyone was recording the meeting. The Board of Selectmen is recording the meeting.

The Chair led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jeanne motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of August 6, 2014, August 15, 2014 and August 20, 2014, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Jeanne motioned to approve the warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, September 22, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Becket Town Hall, Bill seconded. Motion passed. Ed advised that even though the Town Meeting Bylaw has not been approved by the Attorney General, we would still be mailing the warrant out and putting something in the local newspapers.

7:05 PM Board to open and award bids for Wade Inn Road FDR with Injected Asphalt Stabilization and HMA contract. Ed advised that before the Board opens the bids, Chris Bouchard would need to see if the bidders are pre-qualified because if they are not pre-qualified then the Board would not open them and would send them back. Bill read off all of the bids we received and Chris advised that they all were pre-qualified. The town received three bids for this project. The three bids were from the following: Warner Bros. in the amount of \$485,117.50; Lane Construction Corp. in the amount of \$472,164.55; and DelSignore Blacktop Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$441,388.88. After Chris Bouchard reviewed the bid documents he recommended DelSignore Blacktop Paving. Bill motioned to award the bid for Wade Inn Road FDR with Injected Asphalt Stabilization and HMA to DelSignore in the amount of \$441,388.88 pending review of bids to make sure it meets all specifications, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.

The Board reviewed the Employee Handbook amendments. Bill advised that he found one thing that needed to be changed under the highway department job requirements. The licenses have changed so this section was amended. The section read: "*A job requirement to work on the Becket Highway Department in all positions except laborer is to have a valid Class II CDL driver's license.*" The amended section would read: "*A job requirement to work on the Becket Highway Department in all positions except laborer is to have a minimum valid Class B CDL with air brake endorsement and a minimum Grade 2B hoisting engineer's license, preferably a 2A hoisting engineer's license.*" Ed made the changes that were requested and gave the Board the amended version of the Employee Handbook. Bill motioned to approve the Becket Employee Handbook as amended on September 3, 2014, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed. Jeanne gave the Board some more changes to the Employee Handbook that were discussed a while ago for them to review and discuss at a later meeting.

The Board reviewed the Procurement Tie Coin Toss Policy draft. Jeanne motioned to approve the Procurement Tie Coin Toss Policy, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

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The Board reviewed the Highway Department Snow Plowing Policy. Bill motioned to approve the Highway Department Policy for the Use of Becket Town Plows at Highway Department Employees' Personal Homes, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: The Board would like to know if Angela would be attending the BOS meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup> because they would need to cancel this meeting if she is unable to attend since Bill would not be attending as well. Nina will check with Angela on this. Briefly discussed Angela's responsibilities as a Board member to attend meetings because having only two members attending meetings is not good for the town.

Jeanne advised that she attended the August 21 Conservation Commission meeting and sent Shep Evans and Scott Morley the suggestions that she had presented to the Board at their August 20 meeting in response to residents' concerns about the recent herbicide treatment. She also sent the suggestions to Mercedes Gallagher, Meredyth Babcock and Amy Perlmutter who wrote the Selectmen letters about the weed treatment on Buckley Dunton Lake. She advised that Shep is contacting Carl Rosenstein about abutter notifications.

Jeanne advised that she attended the recent Dalton Board of Selectmen meeting about the proposed gas pipelines. She has information if anyone is interested in this. She stated that the proposed route does not affect Becket but it would affect Washington. She heard at the meeting that if the Feds are not able to put the pipeline where they want it then they may put it along the Mass Turnpike which would go through Becket. Briefly discussed the gas pipelines and how it would affect the towns in Berkshire County.

Town Administrator's report: Ed advised that due to the time scheduling for transportation of the Becket Vocational High School students to and from Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, Keith Sharp will be the lead van driver for this school year. The Board will need to vote approval of his salary at the rate of the lead driver for the 2014-2015 school year at \$16.32 per hour. Jeanne motioned to approve the salary rate for Keith Sharp as the lead driver at \$16.32 per hour for the 2014-2015 school year, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Ed advised that one of the Town's part time police officers was recently involved in an accident and will be out of work for approximately three months. As a measure to keep overtime costs down to a minimum, Chief McDonough and he would request that the Board of Selectmen appoint Kenneth Pettibone of 226 Huckleberry Lane as a probationary part time police officer subject to a pre-employment drug/alcohol test for a period of six months; appointment to expire March 3, 2015. Mr. Pettibone was one of the people who applied for the part time police officer position when they recently hired the newest police officer and was ranked highly. Bill was concerned about spending the money to outfit this officer for only a three month period. Ed advised that two of the full time officers are due to go on vacations and they will need to rely on the part time officers and it could lead to overtime hours. Ed also advised that Mr. Pettibone is an officer in another town so they would not need to fully outfit him. Bill suggested that they keep him after his probationary period in case another officer gets injured. Ed advised that that is the intent of appointing him. Jeanne motioned to appoint Kenneth Pettibone as probationary part time police officer subject to a pre-employment drug/alcohol test for a period of six months appointment to expire March 3, 2015, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

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Ed advised that Additions Networks will be setting up the Broadband internet service here at town hall and at Fire Station #2/Ambulance Garage at 629 Jacobs Ladder Road on Thursday, September 4, 2014. This will allow these two town locations to have faster more reliable internet service. Bill asked when Fire Station #1 would be hooked up and Ed advised that he has no plans to hook it up since the fire station is not being utilized and it did not make sense to spend the money if it is not being utilized. Briefly discussed the cost involved with bringing broadband to the station.

Ed advised that the new sediment pre filters for the public water system serving the Mullen House and the Becket Arts Center will be installed next Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> in the morning. This will improve the efficiency of the chlorination system and lengthen the expected useful life of the pressure tank.

Ed advised that he would be attending the Energy Committee meeting tomorrow Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM as well as the finance committee meeting tomorrow night. He will also be attending the MEMA Region III EMD Quarterly meeting at MEMA headquarters in Agawam on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

Public Input: Colleen O'Connor is asking the Board to avoid issues that could lead to litigation whenever possible. She also feels the Board of Selectmen should help the Board of Health out because there is too much business for the Board to handle. She also feels the Town should have a Water Commission to deal with all of the water issues in town. Colleen complained about three Board of Health meetings that had to be cancelled because they did not have a quorum. Bill asked Laurel why they are having a problem getting a quorum at their meetings. She advised that the town is paying the Berkshire Health Alliance \$50 per hour to help them in the office and she is being paid under \$14 to do work for the Board of Health. She also feels she should be paid to attend meetings of the BOH. Jeanne feels that elected officials should not be paid to attend BOH meetings. Briefly discussed the problems the Board of Health is having and the Board of Selectmen feels there should be rules and regulations set up to deal with how the Board of Health pays themselves and how they conduct business. Also discussed trying to change the Board of Health from elected to appointed positions. This would give the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator some leverage in getting people on this Board that will be able to handle the work or to be able to remove a person from this Board who cannot perform the duties of the Board of Health. Bill and Ed will talk about the possibilities of changing how the Board of Health works.

Any other business: The Board received a letter from the new School Superintendent, Robert Putnam, and discussed possible dates in which the CBRSD administration and the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee could meet together. The Board would like to know if the Finance Committee could attend a joint meeting on the following dates: October 15<sup>th</sup>, November 5<sup>th</sup> or November 19<sup>th</sup>. Ed will check with the Finance Committee to see which date works best for them so this meeting can be set up.

Reviewed correspondence.

9:00 PM Jeanne motioned to adjourn, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Nina Weiler, Secretary

  
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William H. Elovirta, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Bids for the Wade Inn Road FDR with Injected Asphalt Stabilization and HMA
- Warrant for the Special Town Meeting on September 22, 2014
- Employee Handbook
- Procurement Tie Coin Toss Policy
- Highway Department Policy for the Use of Town Plows at Highway Department Employees' Personal Homes