

Board of Selectmen
October 1, 2014
Minutes

Members present: William Elovirta, Jeanne Pryor, Angela Hilton

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Nina Weiler, Colleen O'Connor, Chris Bouchard, Rita Furlong, Bob Ronzio, Dave Bonney, Cindy DelPapa, George Fuller, Chris Post, Linda Bacon, Eva Birkette

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, Angela Hilton and Bob Ronzio are recording the meeting.

The Chair led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jeanne motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen minutes of September 3, 2014, Bill seconded. Angela abstained. Motion passed.

The Board discussed their meeting schedule. Angela explained that since she started her new job she has not been able to get Wednesday nights off to attend Selectmen's meetings and is asking the Board to change the meeting nights to Mondays. Jeanne asked if having additional meetings would help. Angela stated that it would help but she would rather attend the regular meetings. Bill explained that the Board meetings are already published in the MMA book and in other places and the Board just voted to have the meeting schedule placed in the Community Calendar. He also asked how many Monday holidays would they need to circumvent. Bill also explained that the agendas would need to be posted on the previous Wednesdays because the Town Clerk does not work on Thursdays or Fridays. Bill would not be opposed to changing the meeting nights on a temporary basis but Angela does not think this will be temporary and she cannot afford to not work. Bill advised that Mondays and Fridays are not good days for him to meet. Angela stated that she believes this has been done in the past when a Selectman could not make meeting nights because they worked so the nights were changed. Bill advised that the Selectmen have been meeting on Wednesday nights for 26 years. Jeanne feels this would be a big inconvenience because the other boards and committees and the public know that the Selectmen meet on Wednesdays. Jeanne motioned to not change the meeting nights, Bill seconded. Angela opposed. Motion passed.

The Board briefly discussed the resignation of Kathleen Hayn, Tax Collector, effective December 5, 2014. Ed advised that this position will need to be filled and this position is appointed by the Board of Selectmen. He and Nina will work on a letter of thanks for Kathy that the Selectmen can sign.

The Board briefly discussed the search for a tax collector. Ed advised that even though it is the Board's appointment, he will add his two cents about going about filling the position of tax collector. He is recommending that the assistant tax collector, Ken Bilodeau, be promoted to the tax collector position and that they concentrate on filling the assistant tax collector position. Bill feels that in order to have total transparency in the process of hiring a tax collector, they should advertise the position and if they find that Ken is the top applicant then they can appoint him. He advised that this is what they have always done in the past with the positions of department heads. Jeanne feels that Ken has been in the position of assistant tax collector and has the training to be able to fill this position when Kathy leaves so she feels that they

Board of Selectmen
October 1, 2014
Minutes

should concentrate on finding an assistant tax collector. Jeanne motioned to consider appointing Ken Bilodeau to the Tax Collector position and conduct a search for an Assistant Tax Collector, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Ed will bring both job descriptions to the next meeting with any changes or recommendations.

The Board discussed the Draft Audit Report. Ed advised that he would be professionally contracting with Melanson & Heath to work with the Tax Collector and Treasurer to clean up the tax title issue. He feels this will be completed over two fiscal years. Briefly discussed changing the operations of the Transfer Station by January 1, 2015 so there will be no cash collected there. Bill advised that he would read the draft at a later time. Ed advised that he has gone over the financials and did not find anything out of the ordinary but thought the Board should concentrate on the Management Letter.

Ed advised that he incorporated everyone's comments in the draft response to letter from the Board of Health member. He would like the Board to make any edits they want before he sends this letter out. The Board will table this until their next meeting.

Ed advised that the Board received a letter a number of months ago regarding the drainage easement over on Yokum Pond Road. He, Chris Bouchard and Bill Elovirta went on a site visit and found that the drainage ditch goes through a heavily vegetated and wooded part of the property. This easement has been there for over 40 years and it can be documented as such and is grandfathered. Jeanne asked if there was a safety issue because in the letter from the resident, she stated that the culvert was open and could be dangerous if someone fell in it. Ed advised that he did not see any red flags that would show that it was dangerous. It is in a heavily vegetated area and he does not think anyone would walk into it. He recommends that the letter state that this is a grandfathered drainage ditch that has been there for over 40 years.

The Board was given a list of goals of the Town Administrator from last year. The Board will table this until they have a working meeting. They will add some items and delete goals that have been completed

Ed advised that the Town finally received the FEMA grant for the Bonny Rigg Hill Road culvert replacement. FEMA will cover 75% of the cost of this project which amounts to \$399,488.00. Chris Bouchard explained the process that has been followed to get to this point. He advised that he is asking Mass Highway and MEMA if they could hire a Massachusetts Highway Pre-qualified engineering firm so they do not have to bid this out. This would expedite the project. The down side would be that the road will be closed for approximately 60 days. The work will be done during the summer because it has to be done during the lowest flow period. Bill will come in to sign the contract when the town clerk is in the office to notarize it.

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

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Angela asked Chris Bouchard if all of the highway department employees have the proper licenses that are listed in the amended Employee Handbook. Chris advised that two employees do not currently have the required licenses but they are in the process of obtaining them.

Board of Selectmen
October 1, 2014
Minutes

Briefly discussed the article in the Berkshire Eagle regarding CBRSD and about the possibility of the Becket Washington School closing. Bill feels they should stay on top of this issue. Parents of children that attend Becket Washington School should contact the school committee about their concerns. Colleen O'Connor feels the approximately 40 children under the age of five should be included in the student body at Becket Washington School because that would be important and should be considered when they start discussing the school closings.

Town Administrator's report: Ed advised that they held the kick-off meeting with Tighe and Bond for the Public Water Feasibility Study funded through the grant with the U.S.D.A. Jeanne Pryor, Christopher Bouchard and he attended along with representatives from Tighe and Bond. The expected timeline should complete the feasibility study in mid January.

Ed advised that Dave Shorey has completed the repairs to the sheds at the Transfer Station along with staining them. He is currently working on staining the pavilion next to Town Hall. Once that is completed he will be moving down to Fire Station #1 and will be repairing the exterior rear gable trim as necessary and painting the trim.

Ed advised that Addition Networks has completed the set up for the Broadband internet service here at Town Hall and at Fire Station #2/Ambulance Garage. Both facilities are utilizing the new service and it has been functioning well.

Ed advised that the new sediment pre filters for the Public Water System serving the Mullen House and the Becket Arts Center were installed and are functioning as they were intended.

Ed advised that the Planning Board had their continuation meeting this morning for the Small Wind Turbine and Large Wind Turbine Bylaws. They will be continuing the Public Hearing on October 16th at 8:30 AM.

Ed advised that the State through Mass DOT has granted the Town \$30,000.00 in Summer Rain Storm mitigation funding however, they have tied this funding to the Winter Storm mitigation grant and all invoices and paperwork have to be submitted for reimbursement by October 21st. This is a very narrow timeframe for Chris to complete the work.

Ed advised that the Wade Inn Road Full Depth Reclamation and paving is going along well. Chris Bouchard reported on the project status.

Ed advised that he will be attending the Finance Committee meeting tomorrow at 7 PM.

Public Input: Colleen O'Connor reminded the Board that she is planning on transferring the property by Bidwell Park on November 15th to her neighbor. Bob Ronzio asked why the town only completed a partial survey on the property near Colleen's house. Bill advised that he is not an attorney. The town's attorney advised the Board that the town owns this property but Colleen's attorney said she owns it. Bill asked Colleen to give them copies of property layout and they will forward it to the town's attorney.

Board of Selectmen
October 1, 2014
Minutes

Bob Ronzio asked if the town had a survey of the property being discussed in the last five years and wanted to know if the fence was moved after the survey was done. He does not understand why the survey was only partially completed. Bill asked if the town's attorney suggested that a survey be done on the entire piece of property that includes Bidwell Park. Ed advised that the attorney did not suggest this.

Any other business: Rita Furlong is requesting that the Selectmen allow the logo that was chosen for the 250th Anniversary Celebration to be available to the public. The 250th Anniversary Committee has no interest in selling anything with the logo on it. It feels that the stores could sell t-shirts and different items with the logo on them. Rita advised that the only thing the committee will be selling is the history book. Briefly discussed copyright infringements. Rita advised that the person who created the logo is not interested in having it copyrighted. Bill feels that the 250th Anniversary Committee should approve the vendors that they feel should use the logo for merchandise. Angela motioned to allow them to use the new logo, Bill seconded. A question came up as to who will be allowed to use the logo. Angela motioned to withdraw her initial motion, Bill seconded. Bill motioned that the 250th Anniversary Committee approve vendors allowed to use the logo on merchandise, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Rita Furlong asked if the brush that is in the pathway to the North Becket Park be cleaned up. The Town Administrator will look into this.

Chris Post is requesting a one-day liquor license for October 5, 2014 at Canterbury Farm for a "Gravel Grinder" event. Bill asked that if he ever wants to get a one-day permit that he comes in a couple of weeks before the event to get this permit. Mr. Post was unaware that the Board needed the information well in advance of their meeting. He advised that he would name Canterbury Farm and the Town as additional insured on his liquor liability insurance policy and would provide certification that he is a TIPS server. This would be a beer only permit and the beer would be provided by his brewing company. He will submit an application and a copy of his liability insurance and his TIPS Certification. Jeanne motioned to approve the one-day malt only license for October 5, 2014 from 12:00 – 6:00 PM pending the receipt of the liquor liability insurance, the TIPS Certification and the application form from Wandering Star Brewing Company, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeanne advised that after receiving a number of phone calls and a letter from Mr. Ronzio about an issue regarding the Sherwood Forest Road District voters list, she drafted a Policy for Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District Voter List. This policy is strictly for making and presenting the SFRMD its voters list. It has the names of all of the roads that were included in the Act Establishing the Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District and the changes that were made to these road names when the town went to the Emergency 911 System back in 1993. Jeanne feels we should have this policy in place and the SFRMD and others at the Town Hall should have a copy of this policy for their information.

Nina advised that Bud Moylan has resigned from the Conservation Commission effective immediately. The Board signed a letter of thanks to Bud.

Reviewed correspondence.

8:35 PM Angela motioned to go into Executive Session under MGL c. 30A, section 21 (a) (6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property that the chair declared that an open meeting may

Board of Selectmen
October 1, 2014
Minutes

have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body, Jeanne seconded. Roll call vote: Jeanne-aye, Angela-aye, Bill-aye.

The Board of Selectmen will not reconvene after the Executive Session.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Weiler, Secretary



William H. Elovirta, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Letter from Angela Hilton requesting to change the Board of Selectmen Meeting Night.
- Draft Audit Report
- Draft response to letter from Member of the Board of Health
- FEMA Grant for Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert Replacement Project
- Monthly reports of the Police Department, Citations Issued, Highway Department, Ambulance Department, Animal Control Officer, Fire Department, and Building Inspector
- Email from Chris Post regarding the One-Day Liquor License for October 5, 2014 at Canterbury Farm
- Colleen O'Connor's Property Information
- Draft Policy for Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District Voter List