

Board of Selectmen
December 17, 2014
Minutes

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

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Nina Weiler, Colleen O'Connor, Karen Karlberg, Meredyth Babcock,
Cindy DelPapa, Chris Bouchard, Gale LaBelle, Ann Spadafora, Jaclyn Pacejo-
BRPC, Patricia Mullins-BRPC

7:04 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 November 19, 2014 and December 3, 2014, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Karen Karlberg and Ann Spadafora of the 250th Anniversary Committee presented the 250th Anniversary Flag to the Board. Photos were taken of the Board and 250th Anniversary Committee.

Patricia Mullins from BRPC addressed the Board regarding the FY 2015 CDBG grant. BRPC is currently preparing to assist the Town of Sheffield in submitting a CDBG grant application for FY 15 and would like the Town of Becket to serve as lead community in this regional application. Pat advised that Becket has already been through the process of receiving CDBG funds so she thought it would be good to have Becket serve as lead community. She said there are two things that need to be done before they can start the application process. One would be to sign a Memorandum of Agreement that would allow BRPC to assist with the application process and administer the grant. The second thing would be to approve the submission of the grant when it is available. Jeanne motioned that the Board of Selectmen request the assistance of BRPC in the submission of the Becket-Sheffield CDBG application to the FY 15 funding round, Bill seconded. Motion passed. Jeanne motioned that the Select Board Chair agrees to be available to approve the submission of the FY 15 CDBG application due on February 13, 2015, Bill seconded. Motion passed. Pat advised that towns that enter into a regional grant application have a far better chance in being approved than a town applying by itself. She explained that the town would need to enter into an Inter-Local Agreement with Sheffield and she gave the Board a copy of the draft agreement. Briefly discussed the possibility of adding the engineering design of the Maple Street Bridge to the application. Pat advised that the town would score more points and possibly get more money if they have another component to the application than if they only apply for housing rehabilitation funding. Another component to this grant could be making the Town Hall ADA compliant. We already have the plans completed for this. One item that needs to be done to be part of this grant is the town's Community Development Strategy. This document needs to be updated as part of the CDBG grant. There will need to be a public hearing on updating the CDS. Pat advised that there is a survey that residents could fill out that asks what would be the most important and immediate priorities for the town. This survey will be put on the town's website and will be available in the town hall for anyone to fill out. This information will be compiled and the CDS will reflect this information.

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Bill motioned to approve the Town Administrator's appointment of Adam Gonska as part time police officer term to start December 17, 2014 and end June 30, 2015, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.

Bill motioned to approve the Becket Arts Center Lease for a five year term from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2019 with an option for a second five year term from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.

The Board discussed the objections to proposed Massachusetts new EPA Storm Phase 2 Regulations. Chris Bouchard explained what it would cost the town if this new regulation applied to Becket. Jeanne asked if the town would get a waiver since the population is under 2,000. Chris advised that it would right now but this could change. Jeanne was concerned that this could affect all of the roads in town and the road districts may not be able to afford to comply with these regulations. This is why the towns need to oppose these regs. Cindy DelPapa stated that none of the regulations apply to Becket and probably never would. She explained why it does not apply to Becket. She also feels that if Becket sends a letter opposing the regs when it does not even apply to it then it would hurt the towns that it would help. Bill advised that the MMA is against this and is urging towns to oppose it. He stated that they are not opposed to the entire regulation only a portion of it. Jeanne would like the word "objections" changed to "comments regarding" proposed Massachusetts new EPA Storm Phase 2 Regulations. Bill motioned to approve the letter to the US EPA Region 1 reference comments regarding proposed draft Massachusetts new EPA Storm Phase 2 Regulations, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.

Jeanne stated that she wanted to send a letter out with the census regarding where the town is at with WiredWest but it is too late to include it with the census. She would still like to send this letter out and is asking that the town fund the mailing of this letter. Jeanne read the letter to the public. Ed feels they should wait to send this letter out because the numbers are not what they originally were. Jeanne wants to get the letter out so people start thinking about it. The cost to send this letter out will be approximately \$400. Jeanne motioned that the Board of Selectmen agree to pay for the mailing of the Wired West letter to the voters in the amount of about \$300 from available funds, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Bill motioned to estimate the temporary increased resident population of Becket as of July 10, 2015 at 9,000 residents, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.

The Board discussed the Green Communities/Town Hall AC. Ed advised that if the Board decides to change the plan for the AC at town hall he would need to extend the application date by the end of the year. He explained the options to the Board. Briefly discussed the different systems that could be used. Ed will ask for the longest contract extension possible and have Jim Barry and Mike from Hesnor come to speak with the Selectmen about the different systems.

The Board discussed the Tax Collector and the Assistant Tax Collector positions and salaries. Briefly discussed the tax collector salary. Ed advised that Ken would become certified in one to two years. The Board feels he should not get the top rate until he becomes fully certified. Jeanne motioned to approve \$25 per hour for the tax collector position, Bill seconded. Motion passed. Ken would need to become fully certified before he would be eligible for the full salary. Discussed the assistant tax collector position and salary. Ed explained that Nina would continue to update the website as the assistant tax collector and would also keep handling the sale of transfer station permits and the sale of bag stickers. He and Ken

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decided that a fair salary would be \$20 per hour for this position. The assistant tax collector position is appointed by the tax collector with the approval of the town administrator and the Board of Selectmen. Jeanne feels that Nina should remain at her current rate because this position will have more responsibilities because the transfer station sales and the website upkeep are moving to this position. Briefly discussed the salary for the assistant tax collector. Ann Spadafora feels that Nina's knowledge of the town and her experience with all of the offices in town hall is worth paying her her current rate of pay. Jeanne motioned to pay the assistant tax collector \$20.81 per hour, Bill seconded. Bill withdrew his second because they have not approved her as assistant tax collector. Bill motioned to approve the tax collector's recommendation and the town administrator's recommendation that Nina Weiler be appointed the assistant tax collector at the rate of \$20.81 per hour with additional duties, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed. Ed asked the Board's permission to advertise and update the Town Secretary job description. The Board agreed to this.

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

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Bill advised that the Bonny Rigg Hill Road culvert replacement Notice to Proceed has been approved. The Board thanked Chris Bouchard for his work to get this done.

Town Administrator's report: Ed advised that he met with the engineers from Tighe and Bond on Friday, December 5th at their Westfield office in order to review the town map they have developed which highlights town owned parcels and existing public water supplies in Becket. They removed several of the parcels which had been highlighted on the map that were cemeteries and public parks and these will not be considered for the possibility of sighting a potential public water supply in town. They also added one town owned parcel to the map as a potential sight for a PWS. Tighe and Bond contacted Ed this week with some follow up information. They have obtained and are reviewing the information from over nine hundred wells which have been reported to be drilled here in town. Tighe and Bond expect to have their preliminary "Draft" report to us by the end of the calendar year.

Ed advised that he attended the MBI Last Mile Broadband Financial Forum for Finance Committees and Selectmen on Thursday evening, December 11th in Lenox. MBI and WiredWest have refined their presentation and cost estimates since their November presentation. While they have provided new and refined information, they will need to do additional work to provide the level of information which will be required for a presentation to Town Meeting for a potential vote for its local funding. Ed personally believes bringing Broadband Internet to Becket through this endeavor has a great deal of potential for sustaining population growth and increasing economic development opportunities. Some of the areas which will need to be refined are cost build out estimates per individual community along with the revenue sharing model, clarification of the ownership of the assets should WiredWest fail financially and clarifying the distribution of the state funding to member communities by rendering it in writing.

Ed advised that Chris Bouchard notified him this afternoon that we have received our "Notice to Proceed" and our executed contract for the Bonny Rigg Hill Road culvert replacement which will be performed under a State grant.

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Ed advised as a follow-up to comments made at a December 3rd Board of Selectmen meeting, he contacted Jason Dion from the Central Berkshire Regional School District concerning work performed on the schools septic tank and leach field which was done on or around August 23rd. Mr. Dion let him know that the pumping which was done at the time to the septic tank and the two grease traps (one located outside the school in the parking lot and a second in the school kitchen) was performed as part of their annual maintenance plan during the summer vacation when school was not in session. The pumping was not done as a response to a backup but as part of the normal annual maintenance plan. The exterior grease trap was pumped from outside the building however the grease trap in the kitchen was pumped from that location as would normally be done. At this same time the repairs which were needed to be completed to the distribution box which were noted in last year's Title V inspection were performed. One note: the item which was referred to as what looked like part of a dishwasher with a broom handle attached to it was actually an in-line filter which had been recommended to be added to the system. However, as it turned out the filter turned out to be too fine a filter and was removed during this normal maintenance. When Ed told Mr. Dion that the filter had been left on site, he asked where it was located and assured me that it would be removed by the end of the day. When visiting the site that evening it was confirmed that the filter had been removed from the school property.

Ed advised that he attended the Conservation Commission training session last evening provided here in Becket Town Hall by Mark Stinson of the DEP. The training centered on changes to the wetland protection regulations and new regulations which have recently been implemented. The training was well attended with representation from the towns of Peru, Hinsdale and Washington as well as Becket and several local engineering companies. He was very happy that three members of the Becket Conservation Commission took the time to attend the training. He thought the subject matter was well presented and very helpful to those in attendance. He thanked Mark Stinson and the DEP for making this training available to local Conservation Commissions.

Ed advised that he met with Bruce Augusti from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. They reviewed the contract and infrastructure information which MEMA has on record in case of emergency situations. The information was updated and is now current. He and Mr. Augusti will meet again in a week between Christmas and New Year and they are going to review our current NIMS levels as it pertains to emergency response personnel. Mr. Augusti will also be updating Ed's NIMS course with him at that time. He also intends to take the Public Information Officer class when it is offered at the beginning of March in Amherst.

Public input: Ann Spadafora feels that the party that is done every year should be called a "Holiday Party" but she saw in the store that it is called a "Christmas Party". Briefly discussed how this party is funded every year. Bill advised that when they first came before the Board and asked for money it was supposed to be "Seed" money but they come every year and ask for money.

Chris Bouchard asked if he could get rid of the surplus property over at the highway department. He is asking the Board to declare some of the equipment as surplus so he could get rid of it. Ed wants Chris to come up with a list of items to declare as surplus.

Any other business: Jeanne advised that Karen Karlberg will be submitting an application for the Conservation Commission. She also advised that she will be gone from February 19th through April 9th.

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She will be gone for three meetings.

Reviewed correspondence.

10:24 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:

- Becket Arts Center Lease
- Letter to residents to be included in census mailing regarding WiredWest last mile
- Letter with objections to proposed Massachusetts new EPA Storm Phase 2 Regulations
- Monthly reports of the Police Department, Citations Issued, Highway Department, Fire Department and Animal Control Officer