

Board of Selectmen
January 7, 2015
Minutes

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

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Nina Weiler, Colleen O'Connor, Karen Karlberg, Meredyth Babcock, Ann Spadafora, Jaclyn Pacejo-BRPC, Patricia Mullins-BRPC, Alison Dixon, Jeanne Morano, Julia Maynard, Dennis Regan, Sally Soluri, Laurel Burgwardt, Al Blake, Tommie Hutto-Blake, Bruce Garlow, Rita and Richard Furlong, Rita Burnes, Mark Karlberg

7:03 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.

Pat Mullins of BRPC addressed the Board regarding the Community Development Strategy. This is the last meeting to have input regarding the CDS. She explained the process of developing this plan. This plan needs to be updated every three years and needs to be in place before the town can apply for another CDBG grant.

7:15 PM Public Hearing to seek public input on the filing of a regional FY15 Community Development Block Grant application in partnership with the Town of Sheffield opened. The town had a survey available for residents to fill out with what they felt were priorities that they would like to see completed. Jaclyn Pacejo advised that 65 people had filled out the survey. She went over the survey results. By looking at the results, BRPC can see what the town should be focusing on in applying for the CDBG grant. Housing rehab is definitely a priority. Engineering for the Maple Street Bridge could also be applied for and architectural barrier removal could be done at the town hall or any other town owned building. These are three things that they feel are emerging right now. They need to finalize the items they want to apply for because the grant application is due in mid-February. The public asked questions and discussed different things that could be applied for. Briefly discussed relocating the town garage. Jeanne advised that this is already in the plan. Anything the town wants to apply for needs to be in the CDS plan. Jeanne motioned to adopt the FY15 Town of Becket Community Development Strategy, Bill seconded. Motion passed. Jeanne asked Pat to make sure the wording for the highway garage is strong enough.

There were no minutes to review at this time.

The Fire Chief gave the Selectmen a list of fire department equipment that he would like them to declare as surplus so he could donate it to a volunteer fire department in Ecuador. Bill advised that all of the equipment is out of compliance with NFPA regulations which means the equipment is valueless. It is not anything the fire department could use anymore and in Ecuador they do not have any equipment so they could really use this equipment. Bill motioned to declare the fire department equipment as surplus and donate it to the volunteer fire department in Ecuador, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.

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Jeanne motioned to appoint Karen Karlberg to the Conservation Commission term to start January 8, 2015 and end June 30, 2016, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Bill advised that the Agreement for Paramedic Intercept Services is the same one that the town has had for the past few years. Jeanne motioned to sign the Agreement for Paramedic Intercept Services between County Ambulance and Becket Ambulance Services, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

The Board reviewed the monthly reports of the Ambulance Department and Animal Control Officer.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Bill advised that he attended the 250th Anniversary Committee meeting yesterday.

Town Administrator's report: Ed advised that Police Chief Kris McDonough has received approval from the Massachusetts Public Safety Commission on the plan and procedures he submitted to them for the use of Electronic Weapons (Tasers) by our police officers. The next step will be that he will be submitting to the Board of Selectmen a new policy for the use of the Tasers which will need to be approved by the Board before the Tasers are purchased and the police officers are trained in their use.

Ed advised that it is time for the Treasurer to issue notes for the borrowing which was authorized at the May 2014 Annual Town Meeting for the grader. Christine Bleau has obtained four (4) financing options from Unibank who is the town's Financial Advisor. He would like to recommend option #3 to the Board as he believes that Option #1 and Option #2 are going to have higher financing costs when renewing the notes in future years as the interest rate is going to rise faster than anticipated, therefore he believes Option #3 with a fixed rate over three years is the best option for the town to enter into at this time. He also believes that when the three year note is sold, the actual interest rate will be closer to one percent than the estimate of two percent. Jeanne motioned to approve Option #3 for the financing option on the note for the grader for the highway department, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Ed advised that MEMA has scheduled the kick off meeting for the Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert Replacement project, which we received grant funding for Thursday January 15th at noon here at the town hall.

Ed has attached a "Draft" update of the Town Secretary job description which he will be editing over the next week. He would like the Board to review the job description and if the Board has any recommendations for edits to be included to please let him know.

Ed advised that he would be attending the Finance Committee meeting tomorrow evening here at town hall. He will also be attending the Berkshire Managers Association meeting in Cheshire on Tuesday, January 13th, the Energy Committee meeting on Thursday January 15th and the MEMA kick off meeting on Thursday at noon. He will also be attending the MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show in Boston on Friday, January 23rd and Saturday, January 24th.

Public input: Meredyth Babcock asked why the town is looking for a town secretary. Ed advised that Nina is moving to another office in town hall.

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Laurel Burgwardt advised that the Becket Federated Church is looking to have a beer and wine tasting event in July and advised that Kelly's Package Store would be the supplier. Bill advised that the Board is still in the process of approving a one-day liquor license permit and they have plenty of time before this event in July. Laurel would like the approval now so they can get programs made up and find sponsors for this event. She advised that Kelly's has all of the licenses and insurance to cover this event. Ed advised that because it was never applied for and is not on the agenda, that the Board waits until their next meeting in two weeks to address this as an application is needed. Ms. Burgwardt was advised that this application will need to be submitted by the church to the Board of Selectmen. Bill stated that he was surprised that the church wanted to have this event because the church is generally opposed to having a package store close to the church.

Any other business: The Board will review the application in front of the ZBA and have their comments by the next meeting.

Jeanne advised that she has made some changes to the Affordable Housing Committee charge. She explained the changes she made. The Board will review this and bring it to their next meeting.

Bill asked if there were any changes to the Board of Selectmen draft budget for next year. He increased the board's expense budget by \$500. Bill said he had suggested increasing the salary line item by the percentage that is given to other employees. Jeanne did not agree with the salary increase.

Jeanne asked if Ed heard from Town Counsel regarding the bylaws. Ed advised that he should have something by the next meeting.

Reviewed correspondence.

8:10 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:

- Community Development Strategy

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- Appointment Application from Karen Karlberg for Conservation Commission
- Agreement for Paramedic Intercept Services between County Ambulance and Becket Ambulance Service
- Monthly reports of the Ambulance Department and Animal Control Officer