

Board of Selectmen
January 21, 2015
Minutes

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

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Nina Weiler, Colleen O'Connor, Laurel Burgwardt, Katherine Hoak,
Mike Lavery

7:02 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 accept the Board of Selectmen minutes of December 17, 2014, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

The Board reviewed the draft of the Affordable Housing Committee charge. The Board decided to include "in cooperation with the COA" in the first sentence of the suggested addition to the charge to read as follows: "Explore development of a Home Care program in cooperation with the Council on Aging to provide support services to elders with daily living needs to remain in their home.". The Board decided that the committee shall provide semi-annual progress reports to the Board of Selectmen and that the committee shall consist of three voting members and that the members shall be full time residents of the Town of Becket. Jeanne motioned to approve the Affordable Housing Committee Charge with the corrections made tonight, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

The Board reviewed the Annual Report of the Board of Selectmen and made changes and corrections to the report. Bill will make the changes and bring the final report to their next meeting.

The Board reviewed the proposed ADA Accessibility Design changes to the front and rear entrances to town hall. Briefly discussed the design changes. Bill motioned to accept the ADA Accessibility Design changes to the Town Hall front and rear entrances as presented, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.

Ed presented the Board with two drafts of the Employee Expense Reimbursement Policy. One draft has an addition in red that states "Employees are only authorized to pay sales tax and seek reimbursement from the town after said employee has obtained an ST-2 or ST-5 sales tax exemption form from their Department Head or the Town Treasurer and the vendor will not honor that sales tax exemption form." Jeanne motioned to approve the red ink version of the Employee Expense Reimbursement Policy, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

The Board expressed their concerns regarding the ZBA Dimensional Special Permit concerning variance of front yard setback. The Board does not understand why the applicant cannot put the new house on the existing footprint. There appears to be no reason for this house to be moved from the existing footprint. The Board would like the ZBA to get more than one plan from the applicant so that it is easier to review said plan. Ed and Nina will write up the comments and send them to the Selectmen for their okay before they send it to the ZBA.

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The Board will table discussing the Town Secretary job description until their next meeting so the Board can have more time to review this.

The Board reviewed the monthly report of the fire department.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Jeanne asked if Bill looked at the MMA's legislative package regarding the PILOT (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) program. Bill had not seen this so Jeanne will email this to him.

Town Administrator's report: Ed has attached the Annual Town Caucus Warrant for review and discussion and possible signing. He also attached the "draft" Election Calendar developed by the town clerk for the Board's review and comments. Jeanne asked if the constable's terms could be staggered so that they are not elected at the same time.

Ed advised that the Three Year Note for financing the Grader has been bid by Unibank and the low bidder is Easthampton Savings Bank at 1.5%. This is lower than the 2% estimate Unibank used in the financial option scenarios they presented to the town. The result will be the savings on interest paid by the town over the three-year period. The actual sale of the note will take place on January 28th.

Ed has attached the "draft" Inter-Local Agreement between the Town of Becket and the Town of Sheffield which is necessary for our joint CDBG application with Sheffield. He would like the Board to let him know if there are any additional changes to the document and he will send the completed document to Pat Mullins tomorrow.

Ed advised that he would be attending the MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show in Boston on Friday, January 23rd and Saturday, January 24th.

Public input: Colleen O'Connor commented on an incident that took place in North Becket Village last Wednesday. She claims that the sale of homes in North Becket without having a passing Title V is why there are so many issues there. The Board of Health has made strides to improve the issues but there still are issues in the village. She feels that undesirable people will be attracted to this area because they are able to purchase homes that have failed septic systems by purchasing with cash. She also is concerned about how the septic tank would be replaced at the school in the future.

Laurel Burgwardt asked what was happening about her request for a one-day liquor license for an event the church would like to have in July. Ed advised that she was supposed to submit an application but has not done it. She advised that she gave Kelly's Package Store the application but they told her they are not required to submit an application. Ed advised that the petitioner is required to submit the application.

Any other business: Jeanne asked if Town Counsel ever gave Ed an answer about the bylaws. Ed and Bill will be attending the MMA meeting this weekend and will try to get an answer then.

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Briefly discussed having a working meeting to finalize the one-day liquor license. The Board would like to meet on February 6th or February 9th. Nina will check with Angela to see if she could meet on either of those dates.

Reviewed correspondence.

8:28 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:

- “Draft” Affordable Housing Committee Charge
- ADA Accessibility Design changes to the Town Hall Front and Rear Entrances
- “Draft” Employee Expense Reimbursement Policy
- ZBA Dimensional Special Permit Application concerning Variance of Front Yard Setback
- Town Secretary Job Description
- Monthly report of the Fire Department