

Board of Selectmen
February 18, 2015
Minutes

Members present: William Elovirta, Jeanne Pryor, Angela Hilton

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Nina Weiler, Colleen O'Connor, Jeff Piemont, Jeremy Dunn

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.

Jeanne motioned to accept the Board of Selectmen minutes of January 21, 2015, Bill seconded. Motion passed.

The Board reviewed proposed Annual Town Meeting articles that would allow voters to decide if the town clerk position should change to an appointed position. There would be three articles that would be required in order to change this position. They were worded the same way as when the treasurer and tax collector positions changed from elected to appointed positions. Ed will send these proposed articles to town counsel for their review. Jeanne motioned to have the three proposed articles concerning the town clerk on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant pending review by town counsel, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the five year capital plan. Ed explained what was requested for capital spending for the FY 16 portion of the plan. He also explained the anomalies to the operating budget from last year's budget. He still has not received any budget information from the school or the insurance company.

Ed advised that he completed four interviews for the town secretary position along with Bill and Nina. He advised that he received approximately fifteen applications and out of all the applications received he thought there were only four that he thought would be good for this position. He is currently doing a background check on the one applicant that he thought would be the best candidate. If this comes back favorable he will interview this candidate one-on-one. He feels he should have a recommendation by the next BOS meeting on who he would like to hire.

Ed advised that Josh Lombard has resigned from the ZBA and that leaves a full member position open. George Roberts has advised that he would become a full member if the Board would like him to. He is currently an alternate member. Bill would like a letter of thanks sent to Josh for his service to the town. Jeanne motioned to appoint George Roberts to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term ending June 30, 2017, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ed advised that the current delegate for WiredWest has not been attending meetings and they are at a critical time and really need someone to represent Becket at these meetings. The current delegate's term has expired. Jeff Piemont is the alternate to WiredWest and he has not seen the delegate at any of the meetings that he attended. He explained what has been happening and the work that still needs to be done. He also suggested having an ad hoc committee formed for people who are interested in this issue. Jeremy Dunn advised that he would be interested in becoming the delegate to WiredWest. He has attended many

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meetings and feels he would have the time to attend the meetings. He asked the Board if they wanted him to fill them in as to what has been happening so far. There will be a meeting in Becket on February 26th with surrounding towns to get the information of what the town needs to do. Mr. Piemont and Mr. Dunn explained what they think the town will be responsible for. Jeanne recommends that Jeremy Dunn be appointed the delegate and Jeff Piemont remains the alternate delegate. Briefly discussed forming an ad hoc committee to help with mailings, etc. Ed will check to see if this committee would need to be appointed. Angela motioned to appoint Jeremy Dunn as delegate to WiredWest, term to end June 30, 2016, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Ed will send a letter to WiredWest advising that Jeremy has been appointed as delegate.

Jeanne motioned to appoint Alison Dixon to the Conservation Commission term to expire June 30, 2017, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Angela asked why the amount of the deficit for materials for the snow and ice account is at \$29,000 when she thought it was in the amount of \$8,600. Ed explained that there were other invoices turned in that increased this amount.

Angela asked who was currently backing up the voc. school bus driver. Ed advised that Mark White is filling in until they find a permanent back-up driver. Angela stated that she did not think that he could do this because he does not have the proper license to do this. Bill thought that he could not drive more than three consecutive days. Ed will check on this.

Bill advised that there was a vehicle fire in a garage at a residence in Sherwood Forest. He stated that because the police officer that responded is also a fire fighter in another town that this helped in containing the fire and getting it out before it spread to the house. One of the EMT's for the Ambulance Department that responded is also a fire fighter in another town. This joint team effort helped to save the house from burning.

Town Administrator's Report: Ed advised that the CDBG application was submitted on time. He advised that between Becket and Sheffield, there were 48 letters of support included in the application packet.

Ed advised that he would be attending the Finance Committee meeting on Thursday night.

Bill advised that he has a BRTA meeting tomorrow at 4:00 PM and he will also be attending the School Committee meeting at 6:00 PM after the BRTA meeting.

Jeanne advised that she would not be returning until the first week in April.

Public Input: Colleen O'Connor asked what would need to be done to get an article placed on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. She believes that the brownfields site at the Becket General Store is everyone's responsibility to have it cleaned up because it affects everyone. She wants the Board to think about this.

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Any other business: Jeanne motioned to ask the Town Clerk to post the Attorney General's approved bylaws so that they become effective, Angela seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeanne drafted a couple of bylaws that she would like the Board to review. The first one is a betterment bylaw for wells. This is based on MGL that says that open wells need to be capped. The second bylaw is for vacant properties. This would give the building inspector the ability to go and check on properties that are vacant and fine anyone who is in violation of this bylaw. This would also make the property owners aware that they need to follow this bylaw when they vacate a property.

Jeanne was presented a cupcake for her birthday.

8:50 PM Angela motioned to adjourn, Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Weiler, Secretary



William H. Elovirta, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Proposed Articles concerning the Town Clerk position
- FY 16 Operating and Capital Budget
- Appointment Application from Alison Dixon for the Conservation Commission
- Monthly Reports of the Ambulance Department, Fire Department and Animal Control Officer
- Draft Betterment Bylaw for Wells
- Draft Bylaw for Vacant Properties