

Board of Selectmen
March 4, 2015
Minutes

Members present: William Elovirta, Angela Hilton
Jeanne Pryor participated remotely

Others Present: Ed Gibson, Nina Weiler, Colleen O'Connor, Beth VanNess, Michael Lavery,
Mercedes Gallagher

7:05 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.

Bill announced that Jeanne Pryor would be participating remotely due to geographic distance. All votes will need to be done by roll call.

The Chair led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Angela motioned to accept the Board of Selectmen minutes of February 4, 2015, February 6, 2015 and February 18, 2015, Bill seconded. Roll call vote: Angela-aye, Jeanne-aye, Bill-aye.

Michael Lavery of the Sherwood Greens Road District Prudential Committee addressed the Board regarding property declared as surplus in the Sherwood Greens Development. Mr. Lavery gave a history of the two pieces of property within the Sherwood Greens development that they were interested in purchasing from the town. He advised that the prudential committee has already voted to allocate funding for this purpose and would like to finalize it. If they do not succeed in purchasing this property then they can use the funding for something else. Ed advised that the bid packages will be ready on March 13, 2015 and the due date for the bids would be April 15, 2015 so the Board can review the bids at their meeting on that date. Ed explained how the sealed bid works and what the bidders would be required to do. He also explained that he will make it clear that there are restrictions on this property and they are not buildable lots. Mr. Lavery thanked Ed and the Board for going forward with this sale.

Mercedes Gallagher addressed the Board regarding the yearly report of the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Committee. She advised the Board of all of the activities that the committee completed last year and what they plan on doing this year. This is the fifth year that the committee has given out grant funding. She asked the Board to call her if they have any projects that they are interested in doing where the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Committee could administer grant funding. Bill advised Mercedes that the retaining wall by Ballou Park is in need of some work because the wall is collapsing. Ed told Mercedes to speak with the Conservation Commission agent about this project. The Board thanked Mercedes for coming with her report.

The Board reviewed the One-Day Temporary Liquor License application from Wandering Star Brewing Co. for an event on March 15th at Canterbury Farm. Bill advised that this is similar to an event that was held last fall. Angela motioned to grant the One-Day Temporary Liquor License on March 15, 2015 for event at Canterbury Farm, Bill seconded. Roll call vote: Angela-aye, Jeanne-aye, Bill-aye.

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The Board reviewed a Special Permit Application from Planning Board to remove two dwellings on two separate lots and build new dwelling on combined lots on East Shore Drive. The Board reviewed the plans for this project and has no objections to it.

The Board reviewed a Special Permit Application from Planning Board to extend gravel road and provide a gravel pad for food and beverage delivery and preparation at the Palmer Brook Fishing Club. Bill advised that the applicant would also need to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Board has no objections to this application.

Ed advised that he recommends that probationary police officer Ken Pettibone be appointed as a part time police officer as his term as probationary part time officer has been completed. Bill motioned to approve the Town Administrator's appointment of Ken Pettibone as a regular part time police officer term to expire June 30, 2015, Angela seconded. Roll call vote: Angela-aye, Jeanne-aye, Bill-aye.

Ed advised that after interviewing four applicants for the town secretary position, he is recommending that Beverly Gilbert be hired to fill this position. She has nine years of experience since she worked in Sheffield as the Administrative Assistant. He feels she will get along with all of the employees at town hall and has the personality to handle residents who come in to town hall. Ed explained the benefits she would be receiving. He is also recommending that she be hired at \$18.00 per hour. Angela motioned to accept Ed's recommendation to hire Beverly Gilbert as Town Secretary at \$18.00 per hour starting on March 11, 2015, Bill seconded. Roll call vote: Angela-aye, Jeanne-aye, Bill-aye.

The Board received a letter of resignation from Martin Winters from the Conservation Commission. The Board accepted his resignation and signed a letter of thanks to Martin.

Ed explained the MIIA 2 year guarantee proposal for Property and Casualty Insurance. There is no proposed increase for FY 2016 and a 2.5% increase for FY 2017. Angela motioned to accept MIIA's 2 year guarantee proposal for Property and Casualty insurance, Bill seconded. Roll call vote: Angela-aye, Jeanne-aye, Bill-aye.

The Board reviewed the "draft" bylaws: Vacant Properties and Abandoned Wells. Angela motioned to submit the Abandoned Wells Bylaw to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as proposed, Bill seconded. Roll call vote: Angela-aye, Jeanne-aye, Bill-aye. Briefly discussed the Vacant Properties bylaw. Bill questioned whether any person who is aggrieved by the requirements of this article or by a decision issued hereunder may seek relief in any court of competent jurisdiction as provided by the laws of the commonwealth. He feels that it should state the Southern Berkshire District Court as where the aggrieved persons may seek relief. Jeanne feels that these bylaws would need to go before town counsel before they can be placed on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Bill motioned to approve the Vacant Properties bylaw to go on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for a vote with research on the Appeals section, Jeanne seconded. Roll call vote: Angela-aye, Jeanne-aye, Bill-aye.

The Board reviewed the monthly reports of the Building Inspector and Police Chief. The Board would like the January and February monthly reports from the Building Inspector for the next meeting. Bill also thought the amounts of citations issued and warnings issued by the police department were a bit skewed.

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Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements: Angela inquired about the substitute vocational transportation bus driver. She is concerned about the driver not having the proper licenses.

Town Administrator's Report: Ed advised that as of today the only FY 2016 budget figures we are not positive about are the CBRSD assessment and the MIIA health insurance rates. The range for insurance has been a 3 to 10.6% increase with the average increase being 9%. He has included an updated "Draft" budget as of today in their packets.

Ed advised that the revised numbers and edited maps for the MBI Broadband proposed project in Becket were returned to them today. He thanked Liz Will, Geri Walter and David Shorey for their help in completing this project in the very short time frame which they were given. The project took five days to complete. He was told that we are ahead of the curve on this part of the preparation as there are a number of communities who could not complete the task by Friday, March 6th as was requested. These revised numbers and maps will be what Becket's final cost projections will be based on for the project. He also advised that Jeremy Dunn has asked if the Board of Selectmen would be willing to offer some proposed dates for a joint meeting of the WiredWest Representatives and the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee.

Ed advised that Governor Baker announced his FY 2016 budget proposal today. On the surface his budget is good news for cities and towns across the State. Local aid accounts have not been reduced from 2015 levels. Most of them have increased. Unrestricted Local Aid receives an increase of 3.6% and Chapter 70 an increase of 2.4%. The increases as a whole may be slightly inflated depending on your perspective as the comparison figures from FY 2015 are from the post 9C reduction figures. Those accounts level funded to the post 9C reduction figures include the special education circuit breaker, charter school reimbursements, payments-in-lieu of taxes, regional school transportation, Shannon anti-gang grants and library aid.

Ed advised that he would be attending the Finance Committee meeting tomorrow evening and the Berkshire Managers Association meeting on Tuesday, March 10th in Great Barrington, along with the MMA Legislative Breakfast on Friday, March 13th in New Marlborough.

Public Input: Colleen O'Connor advised that she read the Tighe and Bond PWS feasibility report. She feels there is clearly a need for public water. She also advised that she spoke with the DEP regarding the routine maintenance at the school. She also spoke with the DEP regarding her water issues and the DEP advised that the Board of Health could approve her using water from the school. When she spoke with the Board of Health she was told it is up to the Selectmen to decide whether she can use the school water. Briefly discussed the brownfields at the Becket General Store.

Any other business: Bill would like to try to come up with a date that would work for a WiredWest meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. The Board will try to meet with the Finance Committee on March 19, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

The Board will try to wrap up the One-Day Liquor License policy on the first meeting when Jeanne returns.

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Reviewed correspondence.

8:25 PM Angela motioned to adjourn, Bill seconded. Roll call vote: Angela-aye, Jeanne-aye, Bill- aye.

Reviewed payroll/expense warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Weiler, Secretary



William H. Elovirta, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- 2014 Annual Report of the Wild and Scenic Westfield River Committee
- Application for a One-Day Liquor License from Wandering Star Brewing Co. for event at Canterbury Farms on March 15th
- Special Permit Application from Planning Board to remove two dwellings on two separate lots and build new dwelling on combined lots on East Shore Drive
- Special Permit Application from Planning Board to extend gravel road and provide a gravel pad for food and beverage delivery and preparation at the Palmer Brook Fishing Club
- Letter of resignation from Martin Winters from Conservation Commission
- MIIA 2 year guarantee proposal for Property and Casualty Insurance
- Two proposed draft bylaws: Vacant Properties and Abandoned Wells