

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
May 20, 2015
7:00 PM
Town Hall,
557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees:

Board of Selectmen: William "Bill" Elovirta, *Chairperson*; Jeanne Pryor, *Clerk*

Staff: Ed Gibson, *Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert, *Recording Secretary*

Others: Colleen O'Connor, Eva Birkett, David Devane, Mark Karlberg, Karen Karlberg

Call to Order

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. He advised that the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and Guidelines for the Becket Board of Selectmen Meetings.

Bill asked if anyone was recording the meeting. The Board of Selectmen and Colleen O'Connor were recording the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectmen to consider reorganizing the Board

Because not all three members were present, Bill moved to table reorganizing the board until June 3rd, seconded by Jeanne. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Jeanne moved to accept the May 6, 2015 minutes as written, Bill seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tax Assessing Services RFP

Ed reported that the reviewing committee comprised of himself and Assessors Liz Will and Geri Walter had a recommendation to bring before the BOS. Each one evaluated the proposals separately. Of the two received, they ranked one highly advantageous and the other advantageous. Once they reviewed the RFPs, they opened the price proposals which further clarified their decision. In addition, Liz and Ed (Geri was on vacation) interviewed both vendors.

The highly advantageous proposal was much more detailed than the advantageous proposal. It addressed what was asked for in the RFP such as times working in the office, times to meet with

staff, etc. The highly advantageous proposal submitted the price proposal in the format the town had requested.

The price proposal for the advantageous proposal did not address many of the important areas specified. The advantageous price proposal did not follow the format requested in the RFP and appeared somewhat ambiguous as to what the cost was for any particular year. It lists a menu of costs (hourly rates) rather than addressing what the town had requested (an annualized cost for the items). It listed the 2016 interim year evaluation service and tax bill preparation but did not list high order technical assistance in the office, property inspections (interior inspections) for field review which is included in the price of the highly advantageous proposal.

Ed stated that Liz and he are mindful that Property Tax Assessing Services is strongly needed to assist gaps concerning assessments (including neighborhood issues, coding issues and help prepare for the 2017 re-evaluation). Because their RFP reflects a more comprehensive product, Ed recommended that the town enter into an agreement with Regional Resource Group for Property Assessing Services for up to \$13,500 for the remainder of fiscal year 2015 (billed by task), \$48,000 for fiscal year 2016, and \$49,200 for fiscal year 2017.

Ed stated that the vendor will come into the office one full day a week or two half days a week and will perform the below listed duties:

- meet with the Board of Assessors once a month or more frequently if needed
- analyze the new growth with the building permits,
- analyze the CAMA system to ensure properly coding
- provide training for Geri and Liz
- reorganize the files
- represent the town at any appellate tax court hearings for defense of values
- present at the tax classification hearing in front of the BOS.

Bill moved to award the contract for Assessing Services to Regional Resource Group for the remainder of fiscal year 2015, and throughout Fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointments:

Zoning Board of Appeals – Joy Lennartz

Zoning Board of Appeals – Victoria Bleier

Historical Commission – Sandra L. Jarvis (reappointment)

Karen Karlberg, Chair of the ZBA, recommended that because Joy Lennartz's has already started to participate (today she attended a workshop and has been in contact with the ZBA to discuss projects), that the BOS consider appointing her through June 30, 2017. To complete the remainder of a term of a member who resigned, Jeanne moved to appoint Joy Lennartz to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term beginning May 20, 2015 through June 30, 2017. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

To complete the remainder of a term of a member who resigned, Jeanne moved to appoint Victoria Bleier to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term beginning May 20, 2015 through June 30, 2015. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeanne moved to reappoint Sandra L. Jarvis to the Historical Commission for a term beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously,

Policy on Issuing One-Day Liquor Licenses (signing)

The board members signed the Policy on Issuing One-Day Liquor Licenses (approved on May 6, 2015).

Dog Bylaw Tickets

Ed followed up on the draft copy of the Dog By-law Violation ticket the board took under advisement at their last meeting. Jeanne moved to approve the revised Dog By-Law Violation ticket, seconded by Bill. Motion carried unanimously.

**Selectmen to appoint Hearings Officer Under M.G.L. Chapter 140 Section 157 Dog Hearings
George Roberts**

Jeanne moved to appoint George E. Roberts to serve as Dog Hearings Officer under M.G.L. Chapter 140 Section 157 to a term from July, 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Selectmen to consider approving and signing contract with the Springfield Materials
Recycling Facility (MRF)**

Ed stated that the town has a ten year contract with the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility that expires June 2015 with a clause to extend the contract for another five years. Chris Bouchard compared the MRF contract with Lenox Valley Waste Recycling Facility, a local business. Unlike MRF, Lenox Valley Waste could not guarantee a no tip fee. At Ed's recommendation, Jeanne moved to sign a five year extension with the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility and to continue with the dual stream recycling plan. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ed pointed out that if we sign and return the contract by June 1st, Mass. DEP and Waste Management Recycle America will pay half of the town's public education fee.

Monthly reports of the Volunteer Fire Department, Animal Control Officer.

The Board reviewed the April 2015 reports of the Volunteer Fire Department and Animal Control Officer.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

Bill announced the Memorial Day Parade will commence 10:30AM on Monday at the North Becket Cemetery.

Town Administrator's Report

MBI Broadband: The current status of the Broadband signups for Becket as of May 20th is we are 60% of the way to our signup goal with 284 more locations needed to reach our goal of the required 40% take rate.

Request for Transfers: Ed will bring one Request for Transfer to the Finance Committee on June 4th. The Board of Health is requesting that \$5,000 be transferred from their Expense Account to their Salary Account.

Public Water Supply Feasibility Study Update: Bill and Jeanne provided Ed with several dates so he may arrange a meeting with Tighe and Bond to follow up on the "Draft" study. During the meeting, Tighe and Bond will share their thoughts and ideas with the Board and ultimately lead to a "Final Study report".

Ballou Park: The Obelisk which is a Revolutionary War memorial has been installed at Ballou Park. The site work at the location and framing for the cement foundation and the installation of the sign post for the monument was provided by our Highway Department.

Fire Station #2 and Ambulance Garage: The new replacement door operators are being installed in the two bays of Fire station #2 and on the Ambulance Garage bay door this week. Tomorrow the weathered and rotted garage door will be replaced at the Fire Station #1 Pavilion.

Meetings: Ed will attend the Arbor Day ceremony tomorrow morning at Ballou Park, which is put on by our Tree Warden, Chris Bouchard, for the elementary school children. He will also attend a JLMC Mediation session for Fire in Chicopee on May 29th.

Public Input

Eva Birkett inquired about the process to request information relating to the town's legal fees. Ed advised that money spent on legal expenses is generally considered public records and the town has fees for copying and for research time if such is required. Ed stated recent records would involve less research because he tracks legal fees in a specific manner. Ed invited her to contact him at his office so he can help her navigate her request for information.

Mark Karlberg reported that on Monday his neighbor had an accident and experienced severe pain from a broken hip. He wanted to alert the board that the wait time for the Becket ambulance was approximately 18 to 20 minutes. Ed will investigate.

Karen Karlberg stated that many people are under the misconception that now that WiredWest has received approval at the Annual Town Meeting and Election, it is a done deal. They are not aware that the Broadband project is contingent upon a 40% required take rate. Jeanne advised that she will attend residential association meetings to promote sign-ups. She is hopeful that the snowbirds who have returned to this area will have a strong interest. The deadline is June 30th.

Any other business to come before the Board

Jeanne reminded Ed about updating the town's bylaws with sections recently approved by the Massachusetts Attorney General.

Jeanne asked if the Listing of appointed/elected officials that she updated could be reviewed, corrected and maintained to assist the selectmen when making their appointments. Ed suggested that they look into data base software to manage appointments and elected officials. Jeanne would like the data base to include party affiliation for Board of Registrar and Election Workers. Jeanne

cautioned that the 2014 Annual Town Report has a few mistakes regarding appointment terms (and Porchlight was listed erroneously as Lee Visiting Nurses).

Jeanne reminded Bill to RSVP to Rita Furlong regarding the June 21st tree planting.

Bill reported on the Emergency Management meeting he facilitated on Monday regarding communications. In attendance were Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Grady from the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department, Sgt. Marc Portieri from the Becket Police Department, Bill Elovirta representing the BOS, Highway Superintendent Chris Bouchard, Becket Emergency Management Director Tim Sullivan, Becket Ambulance Director Jim Kupernik, Pittsfield Communications Systems David Ullrich and John Ullrich, and Adam Chafee of Berkshire Wireless. During this meeting they discussed adding a repeater (to help eliminate dead zones) to the cell tower located on Johnson Road to enhance communications in the hill towns including the Chester town line. Goals were established to move forward with the repeater. Thomas Grady will submit a grant application for Homeland Security funding which he anticipates will cover most of the cost. Bill spoke in support of this venture to enhance public safety.

Selectmen to adjourn meeting

Jeanne moved to adjourn, seconded by Bill. Motion carried unanimously. Bill adjourned the meeting at 8:01 PM.

Review Correspondence.

William H. Elovirta, letter of complaint to Becket Police Dept. dated May 16, 2015 re: Stolen and vandalized political signs

Becket Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing re: application for Special Permit from Andrew Ziegler and Margi Coggins for property located on 211 Captain Whitney Road (Assessor's Map 417, Lot 120)

Announcement of Workshop on Municipal Roles and Responsibilities for Permitting of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines, June 3 (BCC, Pittsfield) and May 26 (Greenfield)

Mass. Emergency Management Agency & Dept. of Conservation & Recreation announcement dated May 2015 (revised April 29, 2015) of the availability of Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding. This post mitigation grant funding is now available as a result of the federal disaster declaration for the January 2015 Severe Winter Storm.

Selectmen to adjourn meeting.

At 8:07 PM, Jeanne moved to adjourn, seconded by Bill. Motion carried unanimously.

Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary



William H. Elovirta, Chairman

Documents discussed at meeting:

- Policy on Issuing One-Day Liquor Licenses (approved May 6, 2015).
- Tax Assessment Services RFPs
- Monthly reports of the Volunteer Fire Department, Animal Control Officer
- Dog Bylaw Ticket (draft)
- Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)
- Applications for Appointment:
 - Zoning Board of Appeals – Joy Lennartz
 - Zoning Board of Appeals – Victoria Bleier
 - Historical Commission – Sandra L. Jarvis (reappointment)