

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
June 17, 2015
7:00 PM
Town Hall,
557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees:

Board of Selectmen: Jeanne Pryor, *Chairperson*; William "Bill" Elovirta, *Vice Chair*
Angela Hilton, *Clerk*

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

Others: Colleen O'Connor, Eva Birkette, Paul Merrill, Jeremy Dunn

Call to Order

Jeanne called the meeting to order at 7 PM. She stated that the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and Guidelines for the Becket Board of Selectmen Meetings.

Jeanne asked if anyone was recording the meeting. Beverly Gilbert for the Board of Selectmen, and Angela Hilton were recording the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deed for Sherwood Greens Map 213, Lots 124 & 125

Bill moved for the BOS to sign the Deed conveying the two parcels in Sherwood Greens; Map 213, Lots 124 and 125 which bid was awarded at the April 15, 2015 Board of Selectmen's meeting in the amount of \$12,000. Angie seconded. Motion carried. George Roberts notarized Bill and Angie's signatures on the deed. Jeanne, a resident of Sherwood Greens, did not sign the deed because she recused herself from this matter to avoid a possible conflict of interest. Prior to the vote, Ed indicated that Dawn Blume, who is contracted to work for the town on tax title, prepared the deed and included restrictions voted on during the 5/20/12 annual town meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Bill moved to accept the June 3, 2015 minutes as written, Angie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and possible vote Town Administrator's appointments of Building Inspector

Jeanne moved that the Board accept Ed's recommendation to re-appoint William Girard as Building Inspector for a term beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018, seconded by Bill. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and possible vote Tax Collector's appointment of Assistant Tax Collector

Bill moved that the Board accept the Tax Collector's recommendation to reappoint Nina Weiler as Assistant Tax Collector for a term beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, seconded by Angie. Motion carried unanimously.

Board of Selectmen Reappointments of Committee and Board Members

Jeanne read a listing of those who had submitted Applications for Re-appointment. Bill conveyed his preference to vote separately on the Zoning Enforcement Officer's appointment.

Jeanne moved to reappoint William Girard as Zoning Enforcement Officer for a term beginning 7/1/15 through June 30, 2018. Angie seconded. Motion carried with Bill opposed.

Jeanne moved to reappoint the below listed. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Geraldine Walter, Board of Assessors for a term 7/1/15 through 6/30/18

Steve Rosenthal, Harbor Master for a term 7/1/15 through 6/30/16

Shep Evans, Conservation Commission Member for a term 7/1/15 through 6/30/18

Shep Evans, Conservation Commission Agent for a term 7/1/15 through 6/30/16

Katherine Hoak, Energy Committee for a term 7/1/15 through 6/30/18

Gail Kusek, Historical Commission for term 7/1/15 through 6/30/18

William Robinson, Jacobs Ladder Trail Advisory Committee for a term 7/1/15 through 6/30/16

Neil Toomey, Athenaeum Ad Hoc Committee for a term 7/1/15 through 6/30/18

Victoria Bleier, Zoning Board of Appeals for a term 7/1/15 through 6/30/18

Designation of Special Municipal Employees

Jeanne moved to designate WiredWest Delegates, and members of the Athenaeum Ad Hoc Committee, Bylaw Review Committee and Parks & Recreation as Special Municipal Employees, seconded by Angie. Motion carried with Bill abstaining since his wife is on the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Recruitment of Bylaw Review Committee

To review the town's bylaws to ensure their consistency with any applicable law and town charters, the board will seek applicants to serve on the newly approved Bylaw Review Committee. This will include continuing the BOS's work relating to the Animal Control Bylaw. The Board reviewed the ad Jeanne wrote to recruit 3 members. Jeanne made a motion to submit the ad to the Country Journal, Berkshire Eagle (Public Announcement), and to post the ad under the town's website opportunities section. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeanne made a motion to create a Bylaw Review Committee web page set up in the format of other committee pages on the town's website. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Town of Becket updated By-Laws Draft for Proofreading Comment

Jeanne went over her proofreading comments with the board:

Page 5 – formatting – paragraph spacing needed in section 5

Page 12 – Awaiting reply from Town Counsel before section 4 may be completed. Does the combining of the Parks & Recreation Committees require ballot vote or special legislation?

Page 23 – Typo error: two periods (end of Section 1.)

Page 24 – Get rid of question mark (end of Section 7.)

Page 40 –Instead of Community Preservation Committee By-Law, it should say, Community Preservation Committee

Page 41 – There should be a paragraph space between Board of Selectmen. and All vacancies.

In addition, the Board would like the Town Clerk to list all of the revision dates on the cover page

Bill moved to approve the above listed changes as submitted by Jeanne Pryor to the Town Clerk, seconded by Angie. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief Notification re: change in detail & cruiser rates policy/rate increase

Kristopher McDonough read and discussed his memo dated 6/3/15 addressed to the BOS re: Raising Becket Police Department detail rate/cruiser rate. The memo attached 1) a memo to All Contractors, Municipal, State and Federal Governments, Utilities, Businesses and Groups requesting off duty police details and 2) over-time rate for full-time Police Officers in Becket, Lee, Dalton and Lanesboro, and 3) a rate comparison listing for 32 towns.

In order to offer a more competitive hourly rate for detail work performed by the police department employees (Becket's hourly rate of \$35 is amongst the lowest in the county), Kris requested that the hourly rate increase from \$35 to \$40. In addition, Kris asked that the hourly cruiser rate increase from \$5 to \$15 per hour, and notice for cancellation increase from 1 hour to 12 hours. A four-hour minimum will be charged if cancellation notification requirement is not met.

A discussion ensued about the cancellation policy.

Ed commented that to avoid large increases, detail rates should be revisited every year. For this year, if Kris can get the letters out in tomorrow's mail, Ed indicated that he would recommend for the board to approve the July 1st effective date but in the future, he would like to see at least 30 days notification to vendors. In addition, Ed stated that an ad should go into the Berkshire Eagle in case there are vendors who have never used the Town of Becket.

Bill moved to approve the new Police Department detail rates effective 7/1/15 as outlined by the Becket Police Chief (with the stipulations that by tomorrow he mail a letter of notification to businesses with today's date and that the letter revise the cancellation deadline from 12 hours to 6 hours prior to the scheduled start time). Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Board to Consider Giving WiredWest Consent to File Grant Application for Broadband Marketing & Financial Costs on Behalf of the Town

Jeremy Dunn explained that Mass Broadband Institute (MBI) sent a grant proposal solicitation to all the WiredWest delegates and town administrators. MBI has made \$5,000 available to each town to help determine what they want to do in terms of broadband strategy, and to help in the

planning process. WiredWest is asking the towns to complete a one page affidavit to authorize WiredWest as an umbrella organization to apply for \$5,000 from MBI on behalf of each of the 32 towns. The collective grant moneys awarded will be used on behalf of all the towns. Although the town is welcome to apply on its own, Jeremy suggested it would be more efficient to apply through the town's cooperative which is designed to support the participating towns in such matters. Jeanne moved for the Board to consent to designate WiredWest, serving as the town's Municipal Light Plant Cooperative, to apply for and if awarded to administer the MBI Last Mile grant from Massachusetts Broadband Institute's, seconded by Angie. Motion carried unanimously.

Selectmen's Approval of FY16 Pay Rates

Based on the auditor's recommendation, Ed presented the BOS with a listing of authorized pay rates for fiscal year 2016 for a vote of approval. These pay rates include a 2% cost of living adjustment approved at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting. The Town Treasurer and Town Accountant produced the list. Jeanne moved to approve and sign the FY2016 Selectmen Authorized Pay Rates, seconded by Angie. Motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports of Police Department, Highway Department, & Animal Control Officer

The BOS reviewed the monthly reports of the Police Department (April & May 2015), Highway Department (April & May 2015) & Animal Control Officer (May 2015).

Selectmen's Comments re: Homer D. Layne's Dimensional Special Permit Application for Property located at 17 Lakeshore Drive

The BOS members will review the above referenced application. Jeanne indicated that looking at the Zoning Board of Appeals' plan copy showing the dimensions will be helpful. Such will appear on the Selectmen's July 1st agenda.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

Jeanne gave a brief update on WiredWest. Jeremy had reported to her that at the WiredWest board meeting dated 6/13/15, the Board of Directors voted to rescind the existing 6/30/15 deadline to reach the 40% subscription rate. They didn't establish a new deadline as of yet but it looks like they will delay until June 2016. Their rationale was the purpose of the deadline was to generate sufficient interest and signups so that the town select boards and finance committees would have the confidence to take the steps to place a bond authorization on the town meeting warrants and for the towns to vote on it (which occurred). WiredWest determined that the financial models being developed are realistic.

Jeanne saw a copy of the Berkshire Regional Planning draft 2016 Berkshire Regional Transportation Plan which included the following policy recommendation: to encourage the development of high speed internet access to outlining communities as a way to provide accessibility to both the elderly and cottage or home based industries.

Jeanne: The Town Meeting Bylaw Review Committee's recommendations were approved at the 2014 Special Town Meeting. They completed a Town Meeting Handbook which they would like to present at an upcoming BOS meeting.

Angie initiated a discussion regarding the BOS's reorganization which had occurred on June 3, 2015.

Town Administrator's report.

MBI Broadband – The current status of the Broadband signups for Becket as of June 17th is we are 71% of the way to our signup goal. Two hundred and six more locations to go to reach our goal of a required 40% take rate. Jeremy, Jeff and Dan and a host of others are working very diligently to increase the number of Becket residents who have signed up.

Deed for Sherwood Greens Map 213, Lots 124 & 125:
Discussed above.

Citation for 250th Tree Planting Ceremony – The Governor was supposed to provide a citation but this is not going to happen.

250th Proclamation: The Selectmen's Proclamation for the 250th Celebration and Tree Planting ceremony is available for the Board of Selectmen's signatures. Ed requests that this signing occur under "Any Other Business". Ed recommended that we frame and hang one of the two signed copies for display in the Town Hall.

Energy Informational Session: The Energy Savings Forum which is sponsored and presented by the Becket Energy Committee will occur this Saturday, June 20th, in the Town Hall. The forum will include reviewing steps to implement an energy efficiency plan opportunities for Solar and Small wind Turbine projects as well as an overview of renewable energy sources.

Request for SFNA Additional Mailboxes: Ed received an email requesting the Town to identify whether it owns the area on Wells Road that the group mailboxes are set. They are looking to add additional mailboxes and will have to get permission from the property owner to place a cement pad and have the mailboxes installed. A brief discussion ensued. Ed will research this matter.

Surplus Generator: We are lucky to be awarded the government surplus 50Kwh propane fired generator and the matching transfer switch which was available from the FAA in New Hampshire. This generator was new in 2008 and was utilized by the FAA. Ed will make arrangements to transport and install it along with a propane tank here at Town Hall to replace the existing generator.

Highway Department: The bid packages for the Highway department Dump truck are available. The bid has been advertised with a bid opening of Wednesday, July 1st, at the Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

Reserve Transfer: He will request approval of several Reserve Transfers at the July 2nd meeting of the Finance Committee. As of today the definite Reserve Transfer Requests are: \$182.79 for Emergency Management Expenses, \$3,100 for Liability insurance, \$1,148.60 for Veteran's Benefits and \$593.70 for Planning Board Expenses.

Vacation Carryover: to be discussed under “Any Other Business”.

CET Collection of Household Hazardous Waste Agreement: Ed signed the extension for the town’s agreement with CET for our participation in the Multi-town collaborative for Collection of Household Hazardous Waste. The extension will cover the period from July 1, 2015 through June 20, 2016. Becket’s Annual Fee for FY2016 will be \$1,178 and the estimated additional disposal fees for items collected based upon historical data will be approximately \$311.

Meetings: Ed will attend a meeting with the Chairman of the Board of Health and the Health Alliance on Friday morning and the Energy Committee Forum this Saturday morning at 10 AM.

In his letter dated 6/16/15, because he will move out of the area (lose Becket voting status) Jeff Piemont tendered his resignation as the WiredWest Delegate Alternate effective August 1, 2016.

File for Life – The File for Life refrigerator magnets cost approximately \$0.78 each. Ed recommends that the town sponsors and purchases File for Life magnets to be distributed by the Council on Aging, Health Department, Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Department.

Public Input.

Ken Smith of Becket Land Trust discussed security concerns at the Quarry with the BOS and Police Chief McDonough. Topics included parking/towing, signage, coolers, charging fees, use of pepper spray/weapons, donations/fundraising, insurance, liability, draining the water out of the quarry, security cameras, vandalism, rules, ideas to discourage swimming, and additional police support. Ken would like to see the police or environmental police arrest some rule breakers (cliff jumping, drinking alcohol, graffiti, etc.) early into the summer season so that the word will get out that the Quarry is not the place to go for partying and mischief. Jeanne asked Kris to contact the environmental police to inquire about available support they may provide. Kris indicated that starting 7/1/15, the Becket Police Dept. will have additional patrols at the Quarry (he will contact Ken about the schedule), and he suggested that the Becket Land Trust Security guard may call the police if he feels threatened. Jeanne suggested posting rules on the Becket Land Trust website. Ed suggested banning coolers. Ken stated that, with some additional public safety support, it is his hope that the security guard will continue as he thinks last year’s security proved to be a positive force.

Any other business to come before the board

Bill asked Ed about the status of taking a surplus junk vehicle to auction. Ed took photos of the vehicle, will obtain a description of the Fire Chief’s ex-vehicle, and arrange with an auction company to sell online.

Ed fielded Bill’s questions regarding the town’s health insurance plans (town does not have two-party because it drives up the cost of family and single plans)

Angie brought up that the rate for the health agent will increase to \$98 an hour from \$50 per hour.

Bill moved to grant Nina Weiler's request to carry over 4.5 vacation days into fiscal year 2016, seconded by Angie. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved to grant Elizabeth Will's request to carry over 1.5 vacation days into fiscal year 2016, seconded by Angie. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeanne moved to approve the BOS signing of 250th recognitions (certificates and proclamation), Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

At the tree planting ceremony on June 21st, in recognition of the 250th Anniversary Committee's hard work, Jeanne, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, will give each member a certificate of recognition.

The BOS will present a Proclamation (attached) at the tree planting ceremony on June 21st.

Selectmen to adjourn meeting.

Angie moved to adjourned, seconded by Jeanne. Motion carried unanimously. Jeanne adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary

Jeanne W. Pryor, Chair

Documents Discussed at this meeting:

Deed for Sherwood Greens Map 213, Lots 124 & 125

Tax Collector's letter of recommendation to appoint Assistant Tax Collector

Kristopher McDonough' memo dated 6/3/15 addressed to the BOS re: Raising Becket

Police Department detail rate/cruiser rate with attachments 1) a memo to All Contractors, Municipal, State and Federal Governments, Utilities, Businesses and Groups requesting off duty police details and 2) over-time rate for full-time Police Officers in Becket, Lee, Dalton and Lanesboro, and 3) a rate comparison listing for 32 towns.

Bylaw Review Committee Ad

Town of Becket updated By-Laws Draft

Reserve Transfer Requests: \$182.79 for Emergency Management Expenses, \$3,100 for Liability insurance, \$1,148.60 for Veteran's Benefits and \$593.70 for Planning Board Expenses.

WiredWest Consent to File Grant Application for Broadband Marketing & Financial Costs Reports of the Police Department (April & May 2015)

Reports of the Highway Department (April & May 2015)

Report of the Animal Control Officer (May 2015).

Zoning Board of Appeals: Homer D. Layne's Dimensional Special Permit Application for Property located at 17 Lakeshore Drive
250th Anniversary Certificate, and Proclamation