

**Town of Becket  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
July 15, 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*  
Christopher Bouchard, *Highway Superintendent*

Others: Colleen O'Connor, Bess VanNess

**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. The Board of Selectmen was recording the meeting.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Chair led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

Bill moved to accept the July 1, 2015 minutes, Angie seconded. Motion carried.

**Discussion and possible award of Bid for 2016 Dump Truck All Season Body with Snow Plow and Accessories**

Highway Superintendent Chris Bouchard indicated that after review of his departmental accounts, the Highway Department is in a position to fund \$9,381 for the 2016 Dump Truck All Season Body with Snow Plow and Accessories. He stated that because the bid submitted meets specifications, he recommended that the Board of Selectmen award the Bid for the 2016 Dump Truck All Season Body with Snow Plow and Accessories to Patriot Freightliner Western Star. Jeanne moved to accept Chris Bouchard's recommendation to award the bid to Patriot's Freightliner Western Truck for \$249,381 with the Highway Department paying \$9,381 and \$240,000 paid through the funding approved at the May 2015 Annual Town Meeting. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Announcement of Proposals received for Public Works Engineering Services Design Review and Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert Replacement**

Ed announced receipt of sealed non price service proposals, and sealed hourly rate proposals from 1) Foresight Land Services, Great Barrington and 2) S. Hatch Mont McDonald, Westwood. Ed noted that the Certificate of Good Faith, Tax Compliance and Certificate of Insurance and references were received. Because of their expertise, Bill and Chris will analyze the proposals and report at the August 5, 2015 BOS meeting.

### **Reappointment(s) for Fiscal Year 2016**

Jeanne noted that Joan Moylan, Chairman of the Council on Aging, had recommended reappointing Marc Portieri and Eva Bonney to the Council on Aging. Angie moved that the Board reappoint Marc Portieri and Eva Bonney to the Council on Aging for a three-year term ending 6/30/18. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Angie moved to reappoint Howard Lerner as Associate Member to the Planning Board for a one-year term ending 6/30/16. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Angie moved to reappoint Mercedes Gallagher to the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee for a one-year term ending 6/30/16. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that the term of a member of the Board of Registrars, Colleen Cox (Democrat), has expired. In keeping with Mass General Laws, Jeanne will write a letter to the Democratic Party to request a list of the names of three enrolled members of the Democratic Party who are residents in the Town of Becket to be presented to the BOS to be considered for this appointment.

### **Bylaw Review Committee - Discussion and possible appointments**

#### **Discussion and possible vote**

The Board received three applications for appointment to the Bylaw Review Committee. The charge of this committee requires staggering appointments. The initial appointments shall be of one, two and three years. Bill moved to appoint Mark Karlberg to the Bylaw Review Committee for a one-year term ending 6/30/16. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Bill moved to appoint Jeanne Pryor to the Bylaw Review Committee for a two-year term ending 6/30/17. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Bill moved to appoint Ann Krawet to the Bylaw Review Committee for a three-year term ending 6/30/18. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Discussion on Athenaeum Ad Hoc Committee**

The Board will hold discussion until their August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting after Ed is in touch with Kathy DeFoe, Chairman of the Board of Library Trustees, to see if they would like to extend the Ad Hoc Committee another year.

### **Monthly reports of the Dog Officer, Porchlight VNA, and Building Inspector & Police Dept.**

The BOS reviewed the reports of the Dog Officer (June 2015), Porchlight VNA (FY2015), Building Inspector (June 2015) & Police Department (June 2015, Citations, Monthly Calls).

### **Town Administrator's Report**

Chris Bouchard announced that the Becket Highway Department placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Berkshire County and 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in Mass. Highway Department's Truck "Rodeo". Two employees represented the town. Because of their strong placement, the Becket Highway Dept. is eligible to compete in the finals (date TBA) in the Fall. The "Rodeo" included written and driving tests. The winning municipality of the statewide final may compete nationally.

MBI Broadband: 1) The current status of the Broadband signups for Becket as of 6/17/15 is we are 79% of the way to our signup goal. One hundred and forty-seven 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. 2) Ed attended the WiredWest meeting for beginning a new coop on 7/7/15 in Cummington. The meeting was intended to get personal feedback and answer questions as to what the steps may be and Draft Bylaws may look like if WiredWest has to form a new entity for a Coop providing Broadband service going forward. The need to form a new entity is derived from some of the existing communities who are members of the existing Coop will not be moving forward for one reason or another with WiredWest. If not all the communities who will not be participating do not voluntarily withdraw from the WiredWest Coop then a new entity would need to be formed.

CBDG Grant: He received word from Pat Mullins that the Becket-Sheffield CDBG Grant Application was not funded. Once they have access to the actual scoring they may be able to see where they might be able to improve the application and re-submit for next year if the towns so wish. She stated that there were several reasons why a grant is not funded and frequently tweaking the application and then re-applying during the following grant cycle is successful. Ed included a copy of the State report showing a summary of communities who received funding this grant cycle and a short description of their project or projects.

Reserve Transfers: In order to close the books, Ed requested the below listed Reserve Transfers and they were approved by the Finance Committee last week to balance the expenditures in our Fiscal Year 2015 budget plan:

Municipal Building Labor	\$ 25.28
Building Department Salaries:	\$195.49
Building Department Expenses	\$ 99.73
Outside Payroll Expense	\$ 22.70
Assessors Expense	\$904.69

#### Surplus Generator:

Ed described everything that we would need to do in order to utilize the surplus FAA generator (new pad, installing a shed for it to fit in and probably also contain the transfer switch) due to the fact that this surplus generator was configured to run inside a building and due to its size. Based on this, Ed recommended that we do not move forward with acquiring this generator. It is a wonderful opportunity and a great deal but in this instance to make it work for us Ed suggested we are better off purchasing new or finding a good surplus generator that is made for outside use. Ed or Bill will advise the FAA in New Hampshire.

Meetings: Ed will attend the newly created Berkshire County Education Task Force meeting this Saturday morning. He was chosen to represent the Central County Town Administrators. This new Task Force has been set up through the direction of Senator Ben Downing and our Berkshire legislative delegation for the purpose of addressing the issues facing the future of education in the Berkshires, specifically the challenges faced due to declining school enrollments and the rising costs of educating our students. The group is supposed to meet every three weeks.

### **Public Input**

Colleen O'Connor suggested that the town adopt a policy to specify the criteria outlining the requirement for police detail.

At Chris Bouchard's request, the BOS signed the final report indicating that prior to June 30, 2015, the Town of Becket used the Governor's surplus Pothole funding awarded in the amount of \$36,507.

Chris Bouchard reported that the town was successful in applying for a Beaver Maintenance Grant through MSPCA (Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) to fund the installation and maintenance of a new culvert to replace a plugged culvert located on YMCA Road. MSPCA has funding to assist with installation of water flow devices to humanely, non-lethally, and ecologically mitigate beaver-related flooding in the Berkshires or Franklin, Hampden, or Hampshire counties.

### **Any other business to come before the Board**

Homer D. Layne's Dimensional Special Permit Application for Property located at 17 Lakeshore Drive: The Selectmen discussed a new drawing that Mr. Payne had sent via overnight mail. The Selectmen will send the ZBA a letter to convey their appreciation for relaying their concerns to Homer Layne regarding his application for a special permit for property located at 17 Lakeshore Drive. The new drawing contained additional detail which proved to be very helpful to the Board. After reviewing such, the Board determined that it has no issues with his proposed application, as drawn. The Board will also ask the ZBA to convey their appreciation to Mr. Layne for 1) taking the time and effort to provide a scale drawing of his property along with the existing shed, house & proposed additions; and 1) for taking the additional effort and expense of overnighting the scale drawing for BOS review.

### **Correspondence:**

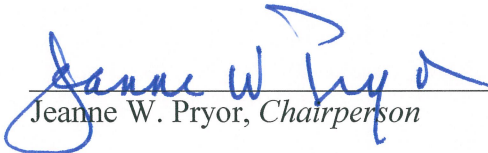
Sherwood Forest Neighbors Association, Inc. letter dated 7/10/15 re: Annual Meeting scheduled on 8/1/15 (discussion/vote on proposed dissolution of the Association). A proxy form to appoint Robert Wollenberg and/or Richard Marx to vote on the Member's behalf at this meeting accompanied the letter. The Board will take no action on this matter. Next week Bill will review the Sherwood Forest Neighbors Association, Inc. file in the Highway Department to research records on the placement of the Well's Road mailboxes.

### **Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.**

**Vote to Enter Executive Session**

Bill moved for the BOS to enter into Executive Session under MGL c.30A, section 21 (a) (3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation re: Crystal Pond Homeowners Association vs. Town of Becket on the basis that an open meeting may have a detrimental impact of the public body on the litigating position on the town; and the Board of Selectmen will not return to Regular Session at the conclusion of Executive Session. Angie seconded. Roll call vote: Jeanne-aye, Angela-aye, Bill-aye. At 7:53 p.m., Jeanne adjourned the Regular Session meeting and the Board entered into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary

  
Jeanne W. Pryor, Chairperson

**Documents discussed at this meeting:**

Patriot Freightliner Western Star Bid for the 2016 Dump Truck All Season Body with Snow Plow and Accessories  
Proposals received for Public Works Engineering Services Design Review and Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert Replacement 1) Foresight Land Services, Great Barrington and 2) S. Hatch Mont McDonald, Westwood  
Reappointment Application from Howard Lerner for Associate Planning Board Member  
Reappointment Application from Mercedes Gallagher for Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee  
Appointment Applications from Jeanne Pryor, Ann Krawet & Mark Karlberg for Bylaw Review Committee  
Reports of the Dog Officer (June 2015), Porchlight VNA (FY2015), Building Inspector (June 2015) & Police Department (June 2015, Citations, Monthly Calls).  
Homer D. Layne's Dimensional Special Permit Application for Property located at 17 Lakeshore Drive.  
Town Administrator's Report  
Sherwood Forest Neighbors Association, Inc. letter dated 7/10/15 re: Annual Meeting scheduled on 8/1/15 (discussion/vote on proposed dissolution of the Association with Proxy  
Mass. Highway Final report re: surplus Pothole funding awarded in the amount of \$36,507.