

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
August 5, 2015
7:00 PM
Town Hall,
557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees:

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

Staff: Ed Gibson, *Town Administrator*; Christopher Bouchard, Highway
Superintendent

Others Present: Nicole Clemo from Eversource, Gale LaBelle, and
Chris Lynch from Matrix Design Group

1. 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. Ed for the Board of Selectmen was recording the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes

Bill moved to accept the Open Session minutes of July 15, 2015 as written, Angie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Monthly Report of the Volunteer Fire Dept.

Item 9 from the Agenda was taken up next as it was not yet 7:05 PM and time for the Public Hearing on Utility poles. There was no discussion or questions.

12. Board to consider appointing Robert Gross as the Alternate WiredWest Delegate

Item 12 from the Agenda was taken up next as it was not yet 7:05 PM and time for the Public Hearing on Utility poles. Bill moved to appoint Robert Gross as the Becket Alternate Delegate to WiredWest for a term to expire on June 30, 2017, Angela seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Hearing regarding Pole Petition dated 7/16/15 from Western Massachusetts Electric Company DBA Eversource and Verizon New England, Inc. re Hamilton Road

At 7:06 p.m., Jeanne called to order the Public Hearing re: the petition dated 7/16/15 from Western Massachusetts Electric Company DBA Eversource and Verizon New England for additional Utility Poles on Hamilton Road. Jeanne stated that the town sent notification of this hearing to the abutters, and that a copy of the petition was submitted to the Becket Highway Department. Nicole Clemo from Eversource was present to address the Board of Selectmen. Chris Bouchard, Highway Superintendent, spoke about the placement of the poles. Gale LaBelle questioned the representative from Eversource about the older poles and equipment on Quarry Road. She asked if there were any plans to replace the older poles and equipment as there were frequent power outages and loss of the telephone services from inclement weather conditions. Nicole Clemo the Eversource Representative responded to Ms. LaBelle as best she could as some of Ms. LaBelle's questions applied to Verizon for the telephone company issues. Bill moved to approve the joint pole locations; Angela seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Bill moved to close the hearing; Angie seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Jeanne closed the Public Hearing at 7:17 p.m.

5. Massachusetts Broadband Initiative - This agenda item will be rescheduled because the Board was informed that Director Nakajima had an unforeseen matter that prevented him from attending tonight's meeting.

6. Discussion and possible award of the RFP for engineering services for the design, permitting and oversight of construction for the Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert Replacement project.

Ed indicated that the Evaluation Committee and he recommend that the contract for engineering services for the design, permitting and oversight of construction for the Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert be awarded to Foresight Land Services. The composite evaluation which was completed from the committee's ratings was that of Highly Advantageous. The other responding firm was rated only as Advantageous. Foresight Land Services hourly rate proposal ranged from 5 to 20% less expensive per hour depending on the category of service than the other firm which responded (Hatch Mott MacDonald). Chris Bouchard and Bill Elovirta gave their thoughts to the Board from their rating of the RFP serving as the Evaluation Committee. Bill Elovirta moved to award a contract to Foresight Land Services for the design, permitting and construction oversight for engineering services for the Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert Replacement project. Angela seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Election Worker Appointments

A brief discussion ensued about the appointment of election workers requested by George Roberts, Town Clerk. The Town Clerk's letter included the below listed names:

Charles Francis, Meredyth Babcock, Beth VanNess, Eva Bonney, Julia Kay-Grace, Ann Krawet, Barbara Winters, Martin Winters, Patricia Clemons, Gale LaBelle, Stephen LaBelle Sr., Adrienne Metcalf, Jerome Schwartzbach, Charles Garman, Priscilla McEwen, Alvin Blake, Ruth Rosenthal, Katherine Hoak, Joan T. Moylan

Bill moved to appoint the list of election workers submitted by George Roberts with a term to expire August 3, 2016, Angela seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Annual Town Meeting Handbook

The board discussed the request for approval of the cover for the Town Meeting Handbook. Bill moved to approve the Town Seal. There was no second to the motion. Angela moved to approve the 250th Logo for the cover; Jeanne seconded. A vote was taken and the motion to approve the use of the 250th Logo for the cover of the town meeting handbook passed.

10. Discussion on Athenaeum Ad Hoc Committee

There was no Action taken. Ed reported that the Trustees of the Athenaeum were comfortable with the way things were progressing for funding of the athenaeum operating budget and capital repairs by the town and they were not interested in pursuing the possibility of the town purchasing the Athenaeum building and leasing it back to the Becket Athenaeum.

11. The Federated Church of Becket Community Calendar

The Board addressed the request of the Becket Federated Church for listing the Board of Selectmen's Meeting dates on their 2106 calendar. Bill moved to approve listing the Becket Board of Selectmen meeting dates on the calendar; Angela seconded. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously. Ed will check the meeting dates.

13. Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements.

Angela requested to receive copies of the Town "Cell Phone Use Policy" and the Town "Internet Use Policy".

Bill mentioned that he had heard that the Monument Mountain School District was going to speak with the Lee School District concerning the possibility of a merger of the two school systems. He stated that if the Becket/Washington school closed, because the majority of school-age children reside in the southern side of town, Becket should weigh the option of joining another school district. Bill asked Ed if the educational task force deals with consolidation issues. Ed described some of the activities/goals (short and long term) of the educational task force. He indicated that the task force will be analyzing a variety of issues including the possibility of dividing the Berkshires into three districts. The task force will consider the condition of the school buildings, population projections, and what will make sense for the location of school buildings. It may not be practical to rebuild some of the schools on the same property. Ed stated that towns need to remain responsible to its taxpayers for school funding. Funding for construction of school buildings remains a complex matter and towns should not necessarily delay using funds awarded (for example, M.S.B.A.) because delays may result in higher than budgeted construction costs or in loss of the funds. Bill asked if the Lee and Monument School Districts participated on the task force. Ed indicated that the committee membership includes very good representation throughout the Berkshires including about twenty something individuals from north, central and south county (town managers, superintendents, school committee members).

Ed stated that George Roberts, Town Clerk had incorporated the suggested edits to the Town Meeting By Law Amendments. However he had not added the list of Amendment dates to the

front page as that may get a little confusing as the dates of the Amendments were already incorporated into the document and appeared with the text of the Section which was amended at that time.

The section which we are awaiting a response from Town Counsel as to the correct way to proceed with the Charter Change amendments would be added at a later date when Town Counsel finally responds to our question on procedure.

14. Town Administrator's Report:

MBI Broadband: As of today we are 82% of our signup goal with one hundred and twenty-four more locations to go to reach our required 40% take rate. We've been getting about two dozen every two weeks.

Vocational Transportation: Ed reported on his research for vocational transportation. Currently the town runs its own van. He obtained quotes for vocational transportation service for the FY16 school year to take students to and from Smith Vocation High School in Northampton. The Lee Public School contacted Ed to inquire about the possibility of joining Becket's transportation efforts for a Lee student attending Smith Vocational High School this year.

- Lecrenski Bros - \$159.46 per day for service (180 school days equals \$27,844.20)
Only would come as far as Becket
- Dufour - \$295 per day (180 school days equals \$53,100).
- Dufour's cost would be the same if they just came to Becket or went to Lee and Becket for stops. Risk for doing DuFour is that the cost would remain \$53,100 regardless if the Lee student dropped out of program.
- The parents are willing to drive the Lee student to the Sherwood Shoppe (common bus stop).
- Cost of the town run van FY15 was \$32,100 and this figure does not include fuel.
- Other advantages of farming out transportation include if the bus breaks down or requires repair/maintenance they will arrange for another bus and if their driver is not available, they will arrange for a substitute driver.

Ed recommended that the board approve contracting Lecrenski Bros. Inc. for vocational transportation and to allow the Lee Public School System to join with Becket in transporting students to and from Smith Vocational High School with the cost to Lee being proportional to the cost of the number of their students to the total amount of students overall. An example would be if Lee has one student and the total number of students from Becket and Lee totals nine, Lee would pay 1/9 of the total transportation costs. If the BOS vote to accept his recommendation, in December Ed would evaluate, and if it's working well, he would create an RFP for a 3-year bid.

Bill moved to accept Town Administrator's recommendation to accept the Lecrenski Bros. quote for vocational roundtrip transportation from Becket to Smith Vocational School in Northampton and to authorize Ed to enter into an agreement with the Town of Lee to allow their students to join for a one-year contract. Angie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Hall ADA Entrance Improvements: The pre-bid conference for contractors for the Town Hall ADA modifications will be at 10 AM on Wednesday August 26th at the Town Hall. The bid opening is scheduled for the 9/2/15 BOS meeting.

Meetings: Ed will attend the newly created Berkshire County Education Task Force meeting on Saturday, 8/8/15 at the Nessacus Middle School. He has been chosen to represent the Central County Town Administrators. He will attend the Finance Committee Meeting tomorrow evening, and the Berkshire Manager's Administrator's meeting Tuesday morning 8/11 in Lee.

15. Public Input:

Gale LaBelle stated that she would like to see smaller desks placed in the Board of Health Office which is shared with the Conservation Commission so that the Planning Board and ZBA Clerk would be able to have space in this office rather than be in the Committee Room with the copier which may interrupt the work flow.

Angela asked about the shed for Center Cemetery and Ed reported that a 10 X 12 shed with no windows and a six foot wide door had been ordered and should be delivered around mid September.

16. Any other business to come before the Board:

At the request of Christopher Bouchard, the Board of Selectmen signed the Chapter 90 paperwork for the funding of the paving and improvements to Wade Inn Road.

17. Review of Correspondence:

Letter dated 7/21/15 from Mass. Dept. of Housing & Community Development stating that the Mass. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) FY 2015 Program was not funded.

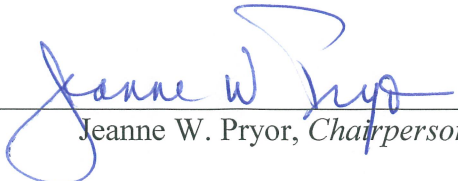
18. Vote to enter Executive Session

Jeanne moved that the Board of Selectmen to go into Executive Session under MGL c. 30A, section 21 (a) (3) to discuss litigation strategy with respect to litigation Crystal Pond Homeowners Association vs. Town of Becket if an open meeting may have a detrimental impact of the public body on the litigating position on the town. The Board of Selectmen will not reconvene in Open Session. She further proposed that during the executive session the Board may vote to approve the Executive Session Minutes of July 15, 2015. Angela seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Angela Hilton voted yes, William Elovirta voted yes and Jeanne Pryor voted yes. At 8:24, the BOS went into Executive Session.

Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Gibson, Town Administrator



Jeanne W. Pryor, *Chairperson*

Documents discussed at this meeting:

Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report for June 2015

Town Clerk's letter dated 5/4/15 re: Election Officer Appointments

Western Massachusetts Electric Company DBA Eversource and Verizon New England, Inc.

Petition dated 7/1/16 for two Jointly owned Pole Locations on Hamilton Road

Town Meeting Handbook 2015 Edition

Appointment Application - Robert Gross (WiredWest Delegate)

The Federated Church of Becket letter dated 7/17/15 re: Meeting on the 2016 Community Calendar

Town Administrator's Report dated 8/5/15

RFP and Evaluation documents for engineering services for the design, permitting and oversight of construction for the Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert Replacement project