

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
August 19, 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*

Call to Order

Jeanne called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 and Angela were recording the meeting.

Appointment – Becket Cultural Council

It was noted that Roberta Goldman, Chairperson of the Cultural Council, recommended appointing Yana DeLuca. Bill moved to appoint Yana DeLuca to the Cultural Council for a three-year term ending 6/30/18. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Notice of Retirement from Mark White

Mark White sent a letter dated 8/7/15 to the Highway Superintendent, Ed and the BOS, stating his intention to retire from the Highway Department with his last day of work to be on 10/16/15. The Board will place this on their 10/7/15 agenda to acknowledge Mark's retirement and write a letter of appreciation.

Board to consider Appointing Mark White as the Becket Representative to the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District per the Highway Superintendent's Recommendation.

Ed reported that the Highway Superintendent submitted a request for the BOS to appoint a Representative to the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District. Mark White has been unofficially serving in this capacity since 2007 and is willing to continue. Chris Bouchard specified that he recommends for the BOS to appoint Mark White. Angie moved to appoint Mark White as the Representative to the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District for a term beginning 8/19/15 through 6/30/16. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Monthly reports of the Police Department, Animal Control Officer, & Fire Department.

BOS reviewed the reports of the Police Department (July 2015, Citations, Monthly Calls), Animal Control Officer (July 2015) & Fire Department (July 2015). Comments:

- Police Report -- The BOS agree there is merit to the Police Chief's recommendation to look into a by-law (for next summer) to allow Police Officers to issue tickets to vehicles without the required beach sticker at the Town Beach. This will help deter non-residents from using the Town Beach and encourage residents to obtain their beach sticker.
- Animal Control Officer's Report -- It was noted that it was necessary for the woman bitten by a cat on 7/15/15 and the cat's owner to undergo the rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) shots.
- Volunteer Fire Dept Report -- The Fire Department has 5 new probationary Firefighters.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

Bill reported on a Dept. of Environmental Protection sponsored Hazardous Materials Training re: fuel spills. The training occurred last night at the Fire Department. The new probationary Fire Department Members were amongst those who attended.

On 8/11/15 Jeanne gave a WiredWest presentation at the Becket Senior Center. She observed that many of the seniors are not computer-savvy and therefore not aware of how the internet can enhance their lives. Jeanne would like to suggest that the Council on Aging consider purchasing a couple of tablets for the seniors to acquaint themselves with technology and what it may offer (games, photos, etc.). Ed suggested that the Council on Aging may want to offer basic computer classes. Jeanne reported that several seniors indicated that they are not just interested in Bingo and would enjoy other activities such as Yoga, meditation, and exercising. Jeanne will approach the Senior Center Director with these ideas as a way to entice people to venture outside their homes. While at the Senior Center, Jeanne provided information about a program for those who can't afford the \$49 sign-up fee.

Angie mentioned that it has come to her attention that an executive session minutes from 2013 has not yet been accepted. She noted that until executive session minutes are accepted, the town is required to maintain a recording of the session. However, in the case of the executive session minutes from 2013, the town did not maintain a recording. She recommended that the BOS schedule an executive session periodically for the purpose of approving executive session minutes. (See additional discussion relating to this under **Any other business to come before the Board**)

At Angie's inquiry, Ed will contact the Highway Superintendent to check the status of the Highway Department Employees' licenses. Last September the Highway Department – Job requirement section of the employee manual was updated:

“A job requirement to work on the Becket Highway Department in all positions except laborer is to have a minimum valid Class B CDL with air brake endorsement and a minimum Grade 2B hoisting engineer's license, preferably a 2A hoisting engineer's license.”

About one year ago, she had a conversation with Chris Bouchard in which he indicated that two of his employees needed to obtain their hoisting license.

Town Administrator's Report

Ambulance: The Ambulance Director advised that on 8/17 the ambulance was out of service for the repair of an air conditioning unit. The cab unit air conditioner was repaired, and the chastity box unit air conditioner will be scheduled for repair.

MBI Broadband: As of today, Becket is 84% of the way to our signup goal with 115 more locations needed to reach our goal for a required 40% take rate. Ed observed that every two weeks, the town gains about 10 subscribers. Jeanne suggested that the BOS mail WiredWest information to new property owners. Ed will ask the Assessors for a list of new property owners within the last six months.

Town Hall ADA Entrance Improvements: Bids are out for the Town Hall ADA Entrance Improvement project. The Pre-bid conference for contractors for the Town Hall ADA modifications will occur on Wednesday, August 26th in the Town Hall at 10 AM. The bid opening is scheduled for the September 2nd BOS meeting.

Winter Road Salt Statewide Contract Meeting: Yesterday Chris Bouchard hosted a meeting for the Mass. Operational Services Division concerning the statewide contract for the purchase of winter road salt in the Town Hall. Steve Lyons, Contract Manager for OSD for this contract, conducted this meeting and went over some of the changes to the contract for the upcoming winter. The meeting was attended by twelve individuals from Berkshire Highway Departments. Ed considered this meeting as informative especially after some of the issues which were faced last winter with actually obtaining road salt once we were into the late January and February time frame.

Berkshire County Educational Task Force: The task force is up and running. It consists of 20 individuals from specific backgrounds divided into representatives from South County, Central County and North County. Ed provided a "Draft" White Paper to outline the Task Force's objectives and guidelines presented at their meeting on 8/8/15. The group has three sub-committees: Fiscal Factors, Capital Inventory, and Communications. Ed has been appointed the Chair of the Capital Inventory sub-committee which has been tasked with obtaining all the pertinent data including ages of buildings, number of classrooms, most recent student enrollment, student capacity and condition of the buildings concerning every school building in the Berkshires. Ed fielded questions regarding the Capital Inventory sub-committee.

Meetings: Ed will attend the Energy Committee Meeting tomorrow morning at the Town Hall, the ADA Entranceway and Door Replacement Project pre-bid conference at the Town Hall on Wednesday, 8/26 at 10 AM and the Berkshire County Educational Task Force meeting on Saturday, 8/29 at Nessacus Middle School.

Public Comment:

Bev reported on a discussion she had with Cathy DeFoe, the Director of the Becket Athenaeum regarding copies of the book entitled, A Bicentennial History of Becket, 1765-1965. The library paid for printing these books with the intention to sell them to raise funds for the library. The traffic at the library no longer seems to yield interest in this book of which there are approx. 200 copies remaining. Bev asked if the library is no longer able to store the books, would the BOS be

interested in the books to prevent them from being discarded. The BOS agreed to have Bev contact Kathy DeFoe to advise that next week Dave Shorey can transport the books from the Library to the Town Hall. The BOS will determine at a future meeting specifically what will be done with the books. Possibilities include: selling for discount and/or giving them away (maybe students attending the Becket/Washington School, or the Historical Commission). While discussing books, it was suggested to advertise the 250th Anniversary book on the Town's website. Because there are still a fair number of these remaining, the BOS thinks it would be best to focus on promoting the sale of these.

Any other business to come before the Board

Angela suggested that the BOS schedule a working meeting to review and vote on approving any open Executive Session minutes. It was agreed to first ask Nina Weiler to look through the records to present Executive Session minutes in need of BOS approval.

The BOS discussed and agreed to look into the Mass. General Laws pertaining to the BOS responsibility to locate the town's boundary markers which is something that should be done at regular intervals.

Correspondence:

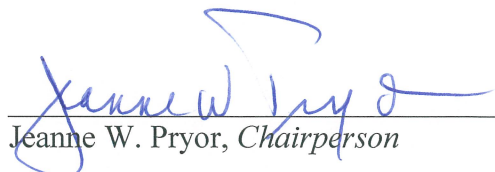
Tighe & Bond letter 8/11/15 re: Public Notice of PSS Submittal – Diesel Fuel Release, Mass Turnpike, Mile Marker 19.6

Selectmen to adjourn meeting

Bill moved to adjourn, seconded by Angie. Motion carried unanimously. Jeanne closed the meeting at 7:52 PM

Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary


Jeanne W. Pryor, Chairperson

Documents discussed at this meeting:

Appointment Applications from Yana DeLuca for Cultural Council
Reports of the Animal Control Officer (July 2015), Police Department (July 2015, Citations, Monthly Calls) & Volunteer Fire Department (July 2015)

Mark White letter dated 8/7/15 re: notice of retirement

Becket Highway Superintendent letter re: S. Berkshire Solid Waste Mgmt. Dist. Appointment
Berkshire County Educational Task Force "Draft" White Paper