

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
October 7, 2015
7:00 p.m.
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, Jeanne Morano, Julia Maynard, & Other Guest

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 approve the 6/4/15 & 9/16/15 minutes. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried.

Appointment: Board of Registrars

Jeanne moved to re-appoint Colleen Cox (Democrat) to the Board of Registrars for a term expiring on 3/31/18. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7:05 p.m. - Bid Opening & possible vote to award Wade Inn Road Improvement and Paving Project: (#16-005 FDR with Injected Stabilization & HMA)

At 7:05 p.m., Chief Procurement Officer / Town Administrator Ed Gibson announced and opened the below listed sealed bids for the Wade Inn Road Improvement and Paving Project (#16-005 FDR with Injected Stabilization & HMA):

- Lane Construction Corp, Cheshire, CT \$393,512.45 base (did not see per unit prices for Chapter 90 reimbursement)
- Delsignore, Troy, NY \$337,342.40 base (unit prices for Chapter 90 reimbursement submitted)
- LB Corporation \$344,435.20 base (unit prices for Chapter 90 reimbursement submitted)
- Palmer Paving, Palmer, MA - \$337,493.05 base (unit prices for Chapter 90 reimbursement submitted)

- Warner Bros., LLC Sunderland, MA \$320,717.75 base (unit prices for Chapter 90 reimbursement submitted)

Highway Superintendent Chris Bouchard fielded questions relating to this project and he will provide his recommendation to the BOS after he reviews the bid documents.

Resignation: Audrey Schlanger from Cultural Council

The BOS acknowledged Audrey Schlanger's letter announcing her resignation from the Becket Cultural Council effective 09/20/15. Bill moved to accept Audrey's Schlanger's resignation from the Cultural Council with regret, and to sign a letter of appreciation for her service to the town. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously

Street Sign Replacement Policy

Chris Bouchard, Ed and the BOS discussed a draft street sign policy (presented at 09/16/15 BOS meeting). Bill moved to adopt the below listed Street Sign Replacement Policy. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

To ensure that emergency services personnel can locate a given address, the Town of Becket, acting through its Highway Department, will replace street signs that abut a private road or a town road to a state road or an accepted town road but the town will not replace a street sign inside a private subdivision or road/maintenance district. Town/state street signs will be blue and private street signs will be green.

Chris Bouchard – Update on Improvements to the Fuel Tanks at the Highway Garage

Chris reported on the improvements to the Fuel Tanks at the Highway Garage. Over the past few years water has seeped into the gas. The town's fuel operator Miller Petroleum jack hammered the slab which provided access for repairs to some corroded pipes (leaks) and fittings. All of the covers were replaced with gasketed, camlock, water tight systems and were raised ¾ inch to shed water even better. In addition, Chris installed an electronic fueling system meter which can generate reports and track information including when fuel was pumped, who pumped the fuel, & mileage of vehicles. This information will be helpful for maintenance of vehicles such as oil changes.

Job Descriptions Discussion and possible vote: Town Mechanic, and Equipment Operator

The Highway Superintendent, Town Administrator and BOS reviewed and discussed two draft Highway Department job descriptions. Jeanne moved to approve the Highway Equipment Operator job description with the changes. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Jeanne moved to approve the Highway Town Mechanic job description with the changes. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and vote for Community Compact Agreement Grant with 16 other Communities in South County to investigate and implement best practices for shared school services.

At the recommendation of Ed who reported on State Representative Smitty Pignatelli's invitation for all the towns he represents to participate, Bill moved to add the Town of Becket to the Community Compact Agreement Grant Application with other Communities in South County to investigate and implement the best practices for shared school services. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Ed had indicated that the Berkshire County Educational Task Force

reviewed and endorses this application as it is in keeping with the task force's goals to analyze potential cost reduction and shared services.

Indian Lake Association, Inc. letter dated 9/18/15 re: Winter Road Closings

The BOS noted Indian Lake Associates, Inc. letter dated 9/18/15 regarding its annual winter closing of four of the seven entrances to its community.

Winter Parking Ban from November 1 through April 15

The BOS agreed to impose the Winter Parking Ban from November 15 (not November 1) through April 15, from 11 p.m. till 7 a.m. Bev will arrange to post the ban on the town's website, and publish an announcement in the Country Journal.

Police Department, Animal Control Officer, Fire Department

The BOS reviewed the August report of the Police Department and the September reports of the Animal Control Officer and the Becket Fire Department.

Town Administrator's report

MBI Broadband: the current status of the Broadband signups for Becket as of 10/7/15 is we are 85% of the way to our signup goal. 102 more locations to go to reach or goals of a required 40% take rate.

Center Cemetery Shed: The new shed was delivered and installed on 9/22. Thanks to Dean Williams, Dave Shorey and the Highway Department Crew for their help in removing the old shed, preparing the sight and helping install the new shed.

Mass DOT Community Capital Conversations: The Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation is holding community conversations concerning their future Capital Expenditure plans. The closest meeting is on Thursday, 10/29 from 6 to 8 pm at Pittsfield City Hall in the City Council Chambers, 70 Allen Street.

Fire Station#2/Ambulance Garage: The old 275 gallon heating fuel tank at Fire Station #2 Ambulance garage has been removed and the tank and its remaining contents were properly disposed of.

Fire Station #1: To prepare for the window replacement project at Fire Station #1, an environmental company has taken samples of the caulk and glazing around the existing windows in order to test for possible asbestos and PCBs.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

Jeanne praised the Town Custodian David Shorey and Ed for installing temporary handrails at the front entrance steps of the Town Hall. Ed specified that Bill Girard provided building code requirements for the railings.

Public Input

Colleen O'Connor stated that she would like the town to apply for Community Preservation Act funding in February 2016 to assist with a public water system in the North Becket Village. To avoid driving on top of old septic tanks not designed to hold significant weight, Colleen

recommended that the town enforce the parking ban on the lawns of the Fine Arts Center and on the school grounds.

Any other business to come before the Board

Jeanne discussed the status of the below appointments:

- Westfield Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee, Alternate Delegate – If William Babcock does not wish to be re-appointed, the BOS will post an opening for this position on the town's website.
- Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Alternate Delegate – Because Ann Krawet had indicated that she does not wish to be re-appointed, Bev will send communication to the Planning Board and ZBA to request help filling this position by presenting possible candidates to the BOS. Bev will ask the Planning Board if they can provide minutes from their meeting voting Bob Ronzio as the Delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Board Commission.
- Community Preservation Commission, Planning Board Representative – Bev will send a memo to the Planning Board requesting a copy of their minutes naming their representative to the CPC.
- Parks & Recreation Committee – Bev will arrange to advertise openings on the town's website.

Earlier in the meeting Chris Bouchard indicated that the Town of Clarksburg sent a letter to the Governor and Lt. Governor to request relief from DEP and MEMA's open bottom culvert unfunded mandates which cause grave and unnecessary hardship to small towns. Bill will send a copy he received to the other BOS members.

Review Correspondence

- Planning Board – notice of Public Hearing scheduled on 10/14/15 re: YMCA's special permit application to replace street signs
- Association of Town Finance Committees invitation for Annual Meeting

Board of Selectmen intends to go into Executive Session under MGL c. 30A, section 21 (a) (3) for discussion & possible vote on litigation strategy & settlement 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.

Approval of Executive Session Minutes: 9/16/2015, 7/12/2012, 8/7/2012, & 10/3/2012

Discussion and vote to release the approved executive session minutes from 7/12/2012, 8/7/2012, & 10/3/2012

Bill moved to enter into Executive Session under MGL c. 30A, section 21 (a) (3) to discuss:

- Litigation strategy and potential vote 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.
- Approval of Executive Session Minutes from 9/16/2015, 7/12/2012, 8/7/2012, & 10/3/2012 and
- Discussion and vote to release the approved executive session minutes from 7/12/2012, 8/7/2012, & 10/3/2012

Angie seconded. Roll call vote: Bill voted yes, Angela voted yes, and Jeanne voted yes. At 8:30 PM the Board entered Executive Session.

At 8:45 p.m., the Board returned from Executive Session.

Release of Approved Executive Session Minutes

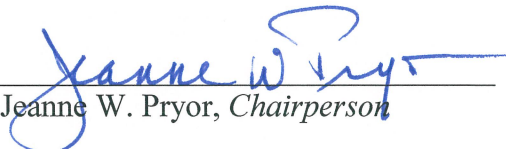
Angela made a motion to release the executive session minutes of 7/12/2012 and 10/3/2012. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn:

Bill made a motion to adjourn. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. At 8:47 p.m. Jeanne adjourned the meeting.

Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary



Jeanne W. Pryor, Chairperson

Documents discussed at this meeting:

Town Administrator's Report
August Reports of the Police Department
September Reports from the Fire Department and Animal Control Officer
Highway Department Town Mechanic Position Description
Highway Department Equipment Operator Position Description
Indian Lake Association, Inc. letter dated 9/18/15 re: winter road closings
Audrey Schlanger letter of resignation
Draft Street Sign Policy