

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
October 21, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall
557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees:

Board of Selectmen: Jeanne Pryor *Chairperson*; Angela Hilton, *Clerk*

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

Others: Colleen O'Connor, Jeanne Morano, Julia Maynard

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

Angie moved to approve the 10/7/15 minutes. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried.

Possible vote to award Bid for Wade Inn Road Improvement and Paving Project: (#16-005 FDR with Injected Stabilization & HMA)

Ed advised that the Highway Superintendent reviewed and recommended awarding the bid for the Wade Inn Road Improvement and Paving Project to the lowest responsive contractor, Warner Bros. Angie moved to award the bid for the Wade Inn Road Improvement and Paving Project to Warner Bros, LLC Sunderland, MA for \$320,717.75. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried.

Winter Road Closings as per request of Highway Superintendent

Angie moved to approve the Winter Road Closings as per the request of the Highway Superintendent. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried. Prior to the vote, Ed indicated that this year's list of roads for winter closings was identical to last year's.

BOS to consider sending a Letter to State House Representative in support of WiredWest's proposal to amend Chapter 427 of the Session Laws of 2008 re: Bond Issuance Option for Regional Last Mile Fiber Network

Jeanne reported on communication she had with WiredWest Delegate Jeremy Dunn. In the 2008 session laws, Massachusetts Legislature gave permission for the Town of Hingham to finance its

Last Mile Fiber Network by continuously rolling over debt as one-year notes, rather than having to issue long-term debt after five years. WiredWest would like to offer all 31 towns this same financing option. To facilitate this, WiredWest suggested that each town send a letter to State Rep. Peter Kocot in support of WiredWest's request to amend the Chapter 427 of the Session Laws of 2008 to include the 31 WiredWest towns eligible to participate in the regional network. This amendment would save each of the towns the cost of bond counsel, the cost of issuance of the bonds and the cost of annual audits.

Angie moved for the BOS to send a letter to the State House Representative in support of WiredWest's proposal to amend chapter 427 of the Session Laws of 2008 in order to add the Town of Becket to the list of towns that may finance the last mile fiber network using one-year notes. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Resignation: Scott Morley from Conservation Commission

Scott Morley had tendered his resignation from the Conservation Commission effective 10/8/15. Mr. Morley's work schedule prevents him from participating on the Commission at this time. The BOS signed a letter of appreciation to Mr. Morley.

Board to consider Appointments: Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee Alternate Member, & Parks & Recreation Committee Member.

Jeanne moved to appoint Alvin Blake Alternate Member to the Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee for a term ending 06/30/15. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeanne moved to appoint Ginger Connor to the Parks & Recreation Committee for a term ending 6/30/18. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Board to Consider forming a Broadband Ad Hoc Committee

Jeanne reported that she joined a telephone conference with several WiredWest Delegates of other towns including representatives from the Town of Shutesbury which met the 40% WiredWest signup goal. Those participating shared ideas to facilitate increasing broadband signups. One of the suggestions Jeanne thinks is worthwhile for the BOS to consider is forming a Broadband Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of working with Becket's Wired West Delegates to bring high speed fiber connectivity to all residents of the town. She drafted a statement outlining the structure and objectives. One of the advantages of this committee would be that the members would be informed when conducting outreach to residents. The BOS will discuss establishing a Broadband Ad Hoc Committee matter at the November 4th meeting.

Jeanne updated and is distributing an informational sheet (available on the town's website townofbecket.org) on how residents may help support the subscription campaign to bring Broadband High Speed Internet to Becket. Jeanne brought information and WiredWest application sheets to the Library which has computers for convenient sign-ups.

Angie suggested asking the school to send WiredWest promotional materials home with students. Jeanne agreed and will also write to the principal to inquire if the school's newsletter can include information about supporting the campaign.

Those needing sponsorship of the \$49 pre-sign up deposit may contact our Wired West Delegate Jeremy Dunn or Jeanne Pryor who will anonymously arrange to match donations.

Monthly Report(s): Building Inspector, Police Department

The BOS reviewed the September reports of the Building Inspector, and Police Department. The Selectmen praised the Police Department's community policing presence and regular Monday morning programming at the Becket/Washington School.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

None

Town Administrator's report

MBI Broadband: the current status of the Broadband signups for Becket as of 10/7/15 is we are 86% of the way to our signup goal: 98 more locations to go to reach our goals of a required 40% take rate.

MEMA EMPG FY2016 Grant: We have applied to MEMA for a FY2016 Emergency Management Grant to purchase a Town Employee and Volunteer Credentialing System. This system would enable us to provide photo identification for our employees and volunteers and in case of a natural disaster would also allow us to credential volunteers, police, fire, highway and EMS employees from other communities. This system would allow our residents (year round and seasonal) to know who official town employees and officers are and give them confidence that those portraying themselves as Town of Becket Officials really are who they say they are. We are eligible for a grant of \$2,460 for this fiscal year.

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: Dave Shorey has inspected the roof of the Fire Station/Ambulance Garage and patched the edge of the roof where needed as some of the poured sealed material had begun to crack. Also the heating system at that location has been repaired under warranty for the upcoming heating season.

Meetings: Tomorrow Ed will attend the Energy Committee (morning) and Finance Committee (evening) meetings

Public Input

Jeanne Morano & Julia Maynard inquired about the schedule for the Wade Inn Road Improvement and Paving Project. Ed advised that the culvert is slated for this autumn and the paving, contingent on warmer weather, will likely occur in the Spring 2016.

Any other business to come before the Board

The Board signed a letter of appreciation to Mark White who retired from the Highway Department.

Jeanne indicated that she will advise the Board of Health that the Selectmen agreed to include an abandoned wells bylaw on the upcoming ATM. The Bylaw Review Committee is reviewing the draft bylaw.

Jeanne suggested that the BOS ask the Board of Health to please consider developing regulations for private wells.

Colleen O'Connor initiated a discussion about the importance of developing a public water supply in the North Becket Village and the need for funding.

Review Correspondence

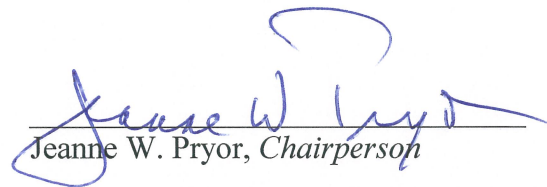
None

Adjourn:

Angie made a motion to adjourn. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried. At 7:40 p.m. Jeanne adjourned the meeting.

Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary



Jeanne W. Pryor, Chairperson

Documents discussed at this meeting:

Highway Superintendent memo dated 10/16/15 re: Winter 2015/2016 Road Closings
Town Administrator's Report
September Reports of the Building Inspector Police Department
Scott Morley's email notification of resignation
Appointment Applications from Alvin Blake and Ginger Connor
WiredWest letter dated 09/19/15 re: amend Chapter 427 of the Session of 2008