

**Town of Becket  
Board of Selectmen's Working Meeting  
November 23, 2015  
3:30 p.m.  
Town Hall  
557 Main Street, Becket**

**Attendees:**

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

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

**Call to Order**

Jeanne called the meeting to order at 3:31 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.

**Discussion to adopt Town Acceptance of a Private Road as a Public Way Policy**

Jeanne provided draft Street Acceptance Procedures (based on her research of other town policies and Mass. General Laws) which the BOS and the Town Administrator reviewed and discussed. The BOS agreed to add/include the below listed to the draft:

- The Board of Selectmen shall not consider or approve any road layout of a private road unless the same intersects or connects with an already existing town or state road in the Town of Becket.
- The petition must be signed by at least two thirds of the property owners on a road requesting that the town accept the road as a public way.

*Under Assessment of road condition*

- The Highway Superintendent will assess the roadway condition, determine if there are any items to be completed prior to road acceptance and will have an engineer prepare a cost estimate based on his findings. The engineering costs will be at the applicant's expense.
- The street shall be inspected by the Highway Superintendent to ensure the street improvements have been completed.

Relating to Referral to Planning Board and Planning Board Review:

- Ed advised changing the word "may" to "shall" (...Planning Board **shall** solicit recommendations...)
- The Board will use the language as provided in Becket's Zoning Bylaws for notifying and soliciting recommendations from other town boards and agencies.

On 12/2/15, the Board of Selectmen will finalize the draft policy for review by Town Counsel.

**Discussion to adopt Remote Meeting Participation Policy**

Jeanne indicated she would recommend that the town adopt a remote meeting participation policy

because the clarification relating to the logistics would be helpful to the committees/boards. Jeanne (with Ed's input) provided a draft Remote Meeting Participation policy which the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator reviewed and discussed. The BOS agreed to move the definition section to the beginning of the document. The BOS will finalize and anticipate voting to adopt this policy on 12/2/15.

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

Bill moved for the BOS to sign a letter of support for Becket Arts Center's application for a Mass Cultural Council Facilities Grant to install a vertical chair lift that would permit physically handicapped individuals to access the Art Gallery on the second floor of the Arts Center. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ed advised he received verbal communication relaying that the equipment operator and mechanic candidates passed their physical and drug and alcohol testing. The mechanic started today, and the equipment operator will begin on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. Bill moved to approve \$20.95 for the hourly pay rate of the equipment operator and \$18.50 for the hourly rate of the mechanic. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ed and Bill reported on the CBRSD Seven Town Advisory Meeting held at Nessacus School on November 19th. The majority of discussion related to Cummington's Official Request to withdraw from the school district, and possible financial impacts to the remaining six towns if the school committee grants approval after conducting a review.

Bill moved to close the Town Hall for business on Friday, 11/27/15 and employees should use their floating holiday for such. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion ensued regarding accepting cash at the Transfer Station. Auditors had recommended that the town issue receipts (with customer's name) for all cash transactions occurring at the Transfer Station. Bill and Angie stated that it is not practical for transfer station employees to write a receipt every time a bag sticker is sold as doing such would cause significant delays. The BOS entertained the possibility of discontinuing the sale of bag stickers at the Transfer Station. If this were to happen, residents would need to purchase bag stickers outside the transfer station (Town Hall, town's website or several local stores) but they could continue paying at the Transfer Station for bulky items. Jeanne made a motion that as of 2/2/2016, no bag stickers will be sold at the Transfer Station. Angie suggested that to avoid confusion the motion should also specify that bags will only be accepted with stickers which will not be sold at the Transfer Station.

Ed suggested that the BOS consider possible options: 1) do away with bag stickers (no cash and no checks); 2) do away with cash and use checks for everything or 3) payment accepted only for bulky items (no cash, checks only)

The BOS will place this matter on the 12/2/15 agenda.

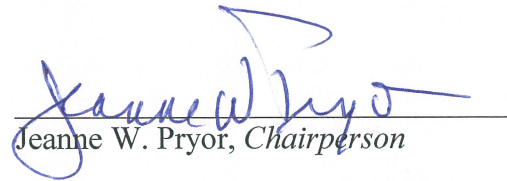
In response to Bill's inquiry, Ed advised that upon receipt of information from the Highway Department, he will post a listing of town's surplus equipment/vehicles on GovDeal's.com (and publish a legal ad).

Ed advised that the windows at Fire Station #1 were tested for two out of the three items he had requested. They tested positive for asbestos, negative for lead, and must undergo PCB testing before disposal & replacement may occur.

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Angie moved to adjourn, seconded by Bill. Motion carried unanimously. At 4:54 p.m., Jeanne adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary



Jeanne W. Pryor, Chairperson

**Documents discussed at this meeting:**

Draft Town of Becket Remote meeting Participation Policy (11/12/2015)

Draft Town of Becket Street Acceptance Procedures (11/23/15)

FY2016 Amended Authorized Pay Rate dated 11/23/15

BOS letter dated 11/10/2014 in support of Becket Arts Center's grant application