

**Town of Becket  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
December 2, 2015  
7:00 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*;

Others: Colleen O'Connor, Bob Gross, Chris Olinski, Brenda Olinski

**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 11/18/15 minutes. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Angie moved to approve the 11/23/15 minutes. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion to finalize draft Board of Selectmen Street Acceptance Procedures for review by Town Counsel**

Angie and Bill agreed that Jeanne incorporated the ideas discussed at the 11/23/15 meeting into the draft Board of Selectmen Street Acceptance Procedures that she provided at tonight's meeting. Bill moved to finalize and forward the draft Street Acceptance Procedures to Town Counsel for review. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Board to consider License Renewals for the following: Dreamaway Lodge for an annual all alcoholic Restaurant license, a Common Victuallers license and a Music & Entertainment license; Berkshire Berries for an annual all alcoholic Restaurant license, an annual Wine & Malt Package Store license, and a Common Victuallers license; Mountain Grove Association for an annual all alcoholic Club license, a Common Victuallers license, an Entertainment Device license and a Music & Entertainment license; Sherwood Shoppe for an annual all alcoholic Package Store license, an Entertainment Device license and a Common Victuallers license; Becket Country Store for an annual Wine & Malt Package Store license and a Common Victuallers license; Uncle Larry's Tavern for an annual all alcoholic Restaurant license, a Common Victuallers license, an Entertainment Device license and a Music & Entertainment license; Becket General Store for an annual all alcoholic Package Store**

### **license and a Common Victuallers license**

Jeanne read the list of licenses slated for a one year renewal effective 1/1/2016:

Dreamaway Lodge for an annual all alcoholic Restaurant license, a Common Victuallers license and a Music & Entertainment license; Berkshire Berries for an annual all alcoholic Restaurant license, an annual Wine & Malt Package Store license, and a Common Victuallers license; Mountain Grove Association for an annual all alcoholic Club license, a Common Victuallers license, an Entertainment Device license and a Music & Entertainment license; Sherwood Shoppe for an annual all alcoholic Package Store license, an Entertainment Device license and a Common Victuallers license; Becket Country Store for an annual Wine & Malt Package Store license and a Common Victuallers license; Uncle Larry's Tavern for an annual all alcoholic Restaurant license, a Common Victuallers license, an Entertainment Device license and a Music & Entertainment license; Becket General Store for an annual all alcoholic Package Store license and a Common Victuallers license. Beverly reported that all license applicants submitted the required paperwork including establishments requiring Fire Safety/Building Inspections Certificates. Bill moved to grant license renewals for the list of licensees as read by the Chairman, seconded by Angie. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Discussion to adopt Remote Meeting Participation Policy**

The BOS reviewed the Remote Meeting Participation Policy Jeanne had modified and noted that she incorporated the changes agreed upon at the 11/23/15 meeting. Jeanne stated that the objective of adopting a Remote Meeting Participation Policy was to provide guidance to Boards/Committees. Angie moved to adopt the Remote Meeting Participation Policy. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Discussion to discuss changing Cash Policy at the Transfer Station**

A discussion ensued regarding changing the cash policy at the Transfer Station to satisfy auditing recommendations. Ed advised that the Highway Superintendent indicated that the storekeepers he approached are willing to sell bag stickers. Bill moved that effective 2/2/2016, no cash will be accepted at the Transfer Station: all bags brought there must have stickers attached to them and all other items must be paid by check. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Lois Lenett letter of explanation and request for BOS to consider forgiving Alarm Fines Issued by the Police Department**

The Town Administrator reported that in response to Lois Lenett's 11/22/15 letter of explanation and request for the BOS to consider forgiving alarm fines issued by the Police Department, he had met with the Police Chief. During their discussion, it was agreed that from now on, false alarm notifications/fines will be issued as they occur to alert residents. It is hoped this will help to reduce future false alarm occurrences. Ed stated that he would recommend to the BOS that they forgive fines assessed to Mr. Jarrett Lenett on the basis that Ms Lenett's contention had merit: if the Police Department had not waited until November before issuing a notification for the first false alarm occurrence of 8/17/15, subsequent false alarms may have been prevented. Jeanne moved to forgive \$850 total false alarm fines assessed to Jarrett Lenett, 323 Wells Road, Becket. Bill stated the motion should be on the condition that it's a one-time only exception. Angie seconded Jeanne's motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Possible Appointment to Community Preservation Committee**

Because Bill is related to Jan Elovirta who submitted an appointment application to serve on the Community Preservation Committee, he recused himself from this agenda item. It was noted that Community Preservation Committee appointments may be arranged that as nearly an equal

number of terms as is possible shall expire each year. Angie moved to appoint Jan Elovirta to the Community Preservation Committee with a term to expire 6/30/2017. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried with Bill abstaining. Ed suggested that the BOS may want to consider revisiting the Community Preservation Bylaw to add more specific term guidelines for appointments designated by the Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Parks & Recreation Committee, and Planning Board.

### **Monthly Reports:**

November Animal Control Officer: Bill noted that the Animal Control Officer had removed a dead raccoon from Route 8, and asked Ed to remind the Animal Control Officer that it is not necessary for him to respond to such calls on Route 8 which belong to Massachusetts Highway Department.

November Ambulance Department: It was noted that the Ambulance Department will likely exceed its budget by approximately \$2,000 in order to buy an ambulance battery recharger. Ed and the Highway Superintendent had “asked” the Ambulance Director to purchase the recharger so that the Highway Department will not need to devote so much time tending to the ambulance’s battery. In response to the Ambulance Director’s request that the ambulance department obtain a machine to create identification badges, and have a chip to enter buildings and pump fuel, the Town Administrator indicated that the town has applied for a grant for an identification machine and town employees will be issued identification badges. The BOS agreed with Ed that door locks requiring identification card scan for entry is excessive. The Highway Department recently installed a fuel pump system that requires a key fob for each vehicle plus the employee’s access code so that both the vehicles and employees are identified and tracked.

### **Board of Selectmen’s Comments and Announcements**

Jeanne and Bill will attend MBI’s meeting scheduled on 12/17 to discuss MBI’s analysis of WiredWest’s business plan and operating agreement. At Jeanne’s request, Bob Gross provided his input. Bob discussed MBI’s letter dated 12/1/2015 to Board’s of Selectmen indicating that they disapprove of WiredWest’s agreement and business plan. MBI thinks each town should own its infrastructure. WiredWest thinks it is practical and more efficient to create a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) in which member towns pool their assets and each member town owns a percentage of such. In response to MBI’s letter, WiredWest will have an emergency meeting on Saturday, 12/5/15. Bob asked the BOS if he has permission to convey to WiredWest that the Becket BOS would be comfortable owning a percentage of WiredWest as an LLC. WiredWest is working with an attorney and has a draft agreement to convert WiredWest from a cooperative to an LLC. Bob said WiredWest will need to disband if the state requires it to account for each town’s equipment and infrastructure.

Bob stated WiredWest had hired a “most prestigious consulting firm in this field (broadband)” to provide an independent evaluation of WiredWest’s business plan. WiredWest will forward this report to the Board of Selectmen. The consulting firm gave WiredWest’s business plan an excellent rating. Bob stated that MBI made its determination regarding WiredWest’s business plan without viewing the consulting firm’s report. Bob stated the consulting firm had recommended that WiredWest “tweak” several items in the business plan. Jeanne stated she is comfortable with an LLC. Angie and Bill agreed. Ed stated that he is comfortable with an LLC and cautioned that his experience in dealing with state agencies is that when they believe their rules will protect the taxpayer, their requirements lack flexibility. Bob stated that he thinks that WiredWest and MBI need further communication to iron out concerns. Bob indicated that

Kopelman and Paige did not find fault with the operating agreement. He will send a copy to the BOS.

### **Town Administrator's report**

MBI Broadband: the current status of the Broadband signups for Becket as of 11/18/15 is we are 87% of the way to our signup goal: 91 more locations to go to reach our goals of a required 40% take rate. The next WiredWest meeting for town representatives will be Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Jeremy Dunn has invited any Selectmen who would like to attend the meeting.

MBI has invited Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees to attend one of two regional meetings wither Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 PM at the John Olver Transit Center in Greenfield or Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from, 2 to 4 PM in the Berkshire South Regional Community Center in Great Barrington.

Fire Station #1 Masonry Repair: Ed obtained a budgetary estimate for the work necessary to repair the mortar joints and cracked block along with rebuilding the rear chimney at Fire Station #1 to be used in the upcoming budget approval process. The repairs to the North and South sides of the building along with rebuilding the rear chimney are estimated to be \$9,450.

Skating Rink Request: Pat Parkins of 173 Bancroft Road called and spoke with Beverly; she wanted to know if the town could install an ice staking rink at the Town Park next to the Town Hall. She offered that if funding were an issue she would be willing to donate funds/time along with other interested parents. The BOS will send communication to the Parks & Recreation Committee for their insight regarding this request.

Tax Certification: The Town's Fiscal Year 2016 Tax Rate has been certified by DOR at \$10.46 per thousand. This is only a one cent increase over the FY2015 Tax Rate. The actual average tax increase for someone with the average valuation single family home will be \$18.57.

Surplus Vehicle & Equipment Auction: The online auction for the town surplus vehicles and equipment is up and running. The auction will close the evening of Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. The web address to view the vehicles and equipment and bid on them is

<http://www.GovDeals.com/BecketMA>. Items listed:

- one 1967 Kaiser jeep military vehicle
- one 1992 International 4800 Dump Truck
- one 1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee
- one 2000 International 4900 cab and chassis
- one 2008 For Expedition
- one 1970 Tarco leaf vacuum

Community Compact: We have received word that the Community compact we applied for along with the other sixteen towns in Rep. Pignatelli's District has been approved for the grant funding. The funding will be used to work on increased collaboration between our communities, starting in the areas of schools and potentially expanding to other areas including municipal management, public works, public safety, and others.

Meetings: Ed will attend the Finance Committee meeting on 12/5/15, the Berkshire County Administrator's meeting on 12/8/15 and the Quarterly MEMA meeting in Agawam on 12/9/15.



## **Public Input**

Bob Gross indicated that WiredWest will be sending out postcards to promote signups, and Jeremy and he will evaluate the campaign after receiving the response.

Colleen O'Connor reported, and Angie agreed, that the Highway Department's vehicle released excessive salt on George Fuller's old route -- Becket and Yokum Roads. After providing figures, Ed stated that the review of the Highway Superintendent's computer readout of the aforementioned salt device did not confirm Colleen's report. Colleen expressed concern about the environment, and asked that the town take measures (including checking if the calibration unit is working properly, training highway employees) to limit road salt.

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

For their review and comment at their 12/18/15 meeting, the BOS received Zoning Board of Appeals Notification re: the application for a variance from Ray Michanczyk, (Map 431, Lot 216), 133 Mystic Isle Way, to build a 2 story, 2 vehicle detached garage. Jeanne requested a larger copy of the plans showing the structures and measurements.

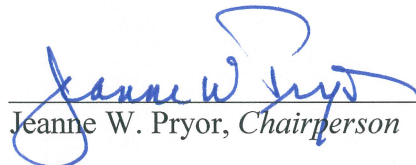
## **Selectmen to adjourn meeting:**

Angie moved to adjourn. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously. At 8:12 p.m. Jeanne adjourned the meeting.

## **Review Correspondence**

## **Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary

  
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Jeanne W. Pryor, *Chairperson*

## **Documents discussed at this meeting:**

Town Administrator's Report  
MBI 12/1/2015 letter and meeting notice re: WiredWest Operating Agreement & Business Plan  
Fiscal Year 2016 Tax Classification Hearing November 18, 2015  
Rev. Draft Street Acceptance Procedures dated 11/23/15  
Jan Elovirta Appointment Application for Community Preservation Committee  
Lois Lenett 11/22/2015 letter of explanation & request for forgiveness of Alarm Fines  
November Monthly Reports: Dog Officer, Ambulance Department  
Zoning Board of Appeals 11/30/2015 notice re: Ray Michanczyk Variance Application  
Remote Meeting Policy dated 12/2/2015