

**Town of Becket  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
January 13, 2016  
4:00 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: Delsie Dunn, Jeremy Dunn, Robert Gross, Colleen O'Connor,  
Michelle Raymer, Purr McEwen

**Call to Order**

Bill called the meeting to order at 4 PM. He stated that the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and Guidelines for the Becket Board of Selectmen Meetings. He advised that Jeanne is participating remotely due to geographic location.

Bill asked if anyone was recording the meeting. The Board of Selectmen was recording the meeting.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Vice Chairperson led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

Angie moved to approve the 12/9/2015 minutes. Bill seconded. Roll call vote:  
Angela Hilton voted yes, Jeanne Pryor voted yes and Bill Elovirta voted yes

Jeanne moved to approve the 12/16/2015 and 12/23/2015 minutes. Bill seconded. Roll call vote:  
Jeanne Pryor voted yes, Bill Elovirta voted yes, and Angie abstained because she was not present at those meetings

**Purr McEwen & Michelle Raymer Presentation re: Becket/Washington Community Partnership ("BWCP")**

Purr McEwen (BWCP Member representing the Becket Athenaeum) & Michelle Raymer (BWCP Chairman) gave a presentation on the newly formed Becket Washington Community Partnership comprised of the Becket Washington PTO, The Fire Association, The Federated Church, Washington Cultural Council, Becket Athenaeum, Becket Arts Center and the Mullen House organizations. In addition to collaborating on events and fundraising, the BWCP, at the request of the Federated Church, will plan the Town Fair.

They described their vision for this year's fair.

- Part one, 10 a.m. till 4 p.m., will include vendors (artisans, organizations such as non-profits, services, businesses) with their own tables, children's arts & craft activities, bouncy castle, petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, clowns, demonstration from Jacobs Pillow, and

demonstration from the Heartwood school. In the evening, the Fire Department will hold a beer garden & entertainment (possibly the Guthrie Family) fundraiser.

- Purr and Michelle stated that in addition to obtaining feedback from the Selectmen, they would like to seek guidance for town requirements relating to organizing the fair including licensing & permits, liability insurance, and serving beer.
- The BWCP received grants to advertise the fair (\$2,000 from Berkshire Taconic and \$1,800 from Becket and Washington Cultural Councils).
- The BWCP will charge a table fee of \$25 to be donated to the Becket Washington PTO.
- Bill indicated that the Fire Department did not officially vote on the beer garden, and awaits additional information before the vote will occur. He advised that because no member of the Fire Department is TIPS certified and if the Fire Department voted in favor of the beer garden, it would want a TIPS certified server present. Michelle and Purr indicated that profits from the Beer Garden will be donated to the Fire Department.
- Ed advised that the town's insurance does not cover pony rides. Ed will check with the insurance company about the bouncy house. Michelle and Purr will meet with Ed to discuss insurance matters in further detail.
- Michelle and Purr have contacted Police Chief McDonough and will meet with him regarding traffic details.
- Because the fair will include the Town of Washington, Michelle and Purr stated that the BWCP will change the name of the fair to the Becket Washington Village Fair (The BOS had no objection).
- As part of getting the word out, the Washington Select Board had offered to place an article about the fair in its monthly publication, "Washington Tracks" and mentioned that Becket may consider sharing this publication as a communication vehicle. Becket may piggyback on the Washington's bulk mail license. The Town of Washington mails this publication to approximately 200 homes. Michelle and Purr will provide a few copies to the BOS. Jeanne suggested that the BOS may consider adding "Washington Tracks" as a link on the Town of Becket's website.

### **MBI notification regarding Public Comment period for Design & Engineering Support Services RFP for Last Mile Networks Project**

WiredWest Delegate Jeremy Dunn discussed the draft RFP MBI had issued with a public comment period ending 1/15/16. As the WiredWest Delegate, he encouraged the BOS to comment. Jeremy shared and discussed his personal comments. The BOS directed Ed to send a letter which includes the below ideas:

- Because the outcome of recent negotiations between WiredWest and MBI may impact the RFP, it would be better to defer issuing the RFP so that the solutions may be incorporated. It is easier to modify the RFP while it is being developed than to submit change orders once it's in place.

- WiredWest should be listed as an Agency in the RFP because the Town of Becket along with a number of other communities joined WiredWest because we wanted to be part of a coop of towns.
- The draft RFP closes the door on shared ownership. Network design should not assume individual town ownership, this should only be one possible option. Other options should be considered with a cost/benefit analysis of various designs as part of the process.
- The town has a strong interest in developing a FTTH network that is as robust and fault-tolerant as possible and supports the current logical and physical network design which has been proposed by the technology committee of WiredWest. The RFP as drafted appears to give very little opportunity for input to the D&E firm & MBI by knowledgeable network engineers who have already done substantial work to date on the subject of network architecture. The “draft” also seems to give little opportunity for review of the network-design proposed by whichever D&E firm is awarded the contract.
- If the middle-mile is going to be required to be used as the backbone for the last-mile network, the cost of the middle-mile service should be provided at a cost which is no higher than a current market rate which can be offered from another provider. It is imperative to keep the cost of the pass through service as low as possible to the end use customer.
- The “draft” RFP should be amended to allow for a series of inputs and checkpoints during the design process whereby interested parties (towns, MLP cooperatives, etc.) are invited to give input and there should be a formal process for incorporating this input and feedback into the proposed network design.

The BOS gave permission to Jeremy to forward the town’s letter to the WiredWest delegate’s privately created website designed to share comments.

#### **MIAA Voting Delegate for MMA Annual Meeting**

Angie moved to authorize Bill who will be attending as the MIAA Voting Delegate at the MMA Annual Meeting, seconded by Jeanne. Roll call vote: Angela Hilton voted yes, Jeanne Pryor voted yes and Bill Elovirta abstained.

#### **Transfer Station Sticker Update**

Ed reported that three stores received and will sell transfer station bag stickers and have signed agreements with the town. To announce the new transfer station policy, flyers are being distributed at the Transfer Station, an ad will appear in the County Journal, and information has been posted on the town’s website.

#### **Discussion re: Request to Post No Littering Street Signs in the North Becket Area**

Delsie Dunn asked if the BOS would consider posting signs with positive messages (“Please don’t be a litter bug.” with a tag line, "Help Keep Becket Beautiful.”) about keeping the town clean in response to consistent littering on town roads in the North Becket Area. The town also received a similar request from another resident who had seen this agenda item. Ed and the BOS agree with a positive approach (rather than posting signs with negative incentive messages such as, “Do not litter or you will be punished or fined.”) Delsie stated that she and Jeremy observe that substantial quantities of the same items are constantly being discarded: cigarettes butts and packaging, alcoholic beverages cans, bottles & packaging. Ed suggested that we may post a message on the town’s website and he will check with the State Highway Department Office for signs and regulations. Roads and areas slated for consideration include the Washington-Becket line, County, McNerney, Algeria, and Bonny Rigg Hill.

**Monthly Reports: Porchlight VNA, Animal Control Officer, Building Inspector, and others TBA**

The BOS reviewed the reports of the Porchlight VNA, Animal Control Officer, Building Inspector and Ambulance Department.

**Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements**

Angie inquired why Town Counsel is objecting to Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association's ("SFNA") disbanding. Ed advised that SFNA owes the town \$184,000 in back taxes.

Bill asked if Santa's Elves provided an accounting for the Children's Holiday party and if they asked for FY17 funding. Ed advised that to date they have not.

Angie & Jeanne agreed with Bill's suggestion to research the possibility of a regional ambulance.

**Town Administrator's report**

Ed reported on the following matters: broadband signup status (89 more locations to go to reach the 40% take rate), surplus vehicle auction (sold 5 of 6 items listed), 2016 tax bills (mailed by the 12/31/2016 deadline), Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association's request to the Superior Court to dissolve, Status of Community Preservation Act Committee Appointments, 2017 Budget Process, Route 20 Spring Water (Retested: no trace of coliform as of 12/9/2016), Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District (Clarification: Officers of the SFRMD (not town employees) submit information to the Dept. of Revenue for the SFRMD to set the tax rate.), ambulance repairs, Conservation Commission Agent (Shep will be resigning), the resignation of the new Equipment Operator (as of this Friday), and meetings.

**Public Input**

Bill fielded Bob Gross's inquiry about the Bonny Rigg Hill Road culvert work done during the Fall. Bill advised that the culvert is temporary and the state will replace the bridge. The town received grant money for engineering services, and FEMA is contributing mitigation money to replace the bridge.

Colleen O'Connor stated that tomorrow the Parks & Recreation Committee will propose to remove a healthy 100 year old Maple Tree in the North Becket entryway to the park, and there may be plans to discuss the removal of 16 trees to build a walking bridge from the lower main street to across the ball field in the same park. On the basis that the presence of shade trees enhances the beauty and quality of the village's character, she asked the board members to help protect the trees. She believes permission from the Board of Health and Conservation Commission would be warranted. Ed will attend tomorrow's Parks & Recreation Committee's meeting. Bill stated that in order to cut down any public tree, the Tree Warden must be involved.

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

Bill will attend the shared services meeting on 2/4. The BOS will discuss ideas for shared services at its next regular meeting.

The BOS will discuss the draft annual report at its next meeting.

Jeanne inquired if the town received any resignations. Ed advised that Howard Lerner resigned from the Board of Health and this will be on the next meeting agenda.

**Review Correspondence**

Mass DOT 12/31/2015 re Bridge Inspection Report McNerney Road and Shaker Mill Brook bridge

**Selectmen to adjourn meeting**

Angie moved to adjourn, seconded by Jeanne. Roll call: Angela Hilton voted yes, Jeanne Pryor voted yes and Bill Elovirta voted yes. Bill adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

**Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary

  
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William Elovirta, *Vice Chairperson*

**Documents discussed at this meeting:**

Mission/vision statement of the Becket-Washington Community Partnership  
Town Administrator's Report  
Jeremy Dunn email dated 1/11/16 re: public comment on RFP for D/E services  
Town of Charlemont – letter dated 12/31/2015 re: RFP for last mile design and engineering  
Eric Nakajima email dated 12/24/2015 re: Municipal Review of Design & Engineering Support RFP and public  
Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Excerpt of full RFP dated 12/24/2015  
Massachusetts Municipal Association Credential Vote Form  
Transfer Station Cash Policy Poster  
Delsie Dunn email dated 12/29/2015 inquiry about posting signs to discourage littering  
7/1/2015 – 9/30/2015 Report of the Porchlight VNA  
Dog Officer's Report for December 2015  
Building Inspector's Report for December 2015  
Ambulance Department's Report for December 2015