

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
February 3, 2016
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: Alison Dixon, Conservation Commission Chairperson; Steve Rosenthal

Call to Order

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:02 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. Beverly for the Board of Selectmen indicated that she was recording the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Angie moved to approve the meeting minutes for 1/13/2016 and 1/20/2016. Jeanne seconded.
Roll call: Angie voted yes, Jeanne voted yes and Bill voted yes.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Steve Rosenthal re: Becket Washington Map Project

Steve Rosenthal requested financial assistance from the town in order to re-order professionally produced large size maps of Becket and Washington for distribution at the Post Office, Town Hall and Becket Athenaeum. To cover the cost of the initial 1,000 maps printed, Becket and Washington businesses had paid for small advertisements appearing on the side of the maps. The maps have been very well received as a public service and help promote local businesses. Steve will offer businesses in Becket and Washington an opportunity to advertise when he re-orders. Because of the jump in price from \$1 to \$1.50 per map plus shipping, Steve asked the Selectmen if they would consider contributing up to \$750 if there is not enough funding through advertising (and possibly the Town of Washington) and if so the maps will print on one of the outside covers an acknowledgment of the town's support and emergency telephone numbers. Angie moved to approve a grant up to \$750 to support Steve Rosenthal's Becket Washington Map project. Jeanne seconded. Roll call: Angie voted yes, Jeanne voted yes and Bill voted yes.

Energy Committee's Request for BOS to consider sending a letter to the Legislators re: the State Solar Policy

Ed advised that the Becket Energy Committee ("BAC") unanimously voted to ask the BOS to send a letter (BAC provided a draft) to the legislators who appear to be stalling the progress on solar projects due to the lack of consensus of handling the net metering policy. The letter

encourages the legislature to take measures relating to net metering to make it possible to achieve continued progress and meet our ambitious solar energy goals.

Angie moved to send a letter to the state legislators on the State Solar Policy as requested by the Becket Energy Committee. Jeanne seconded. Roll call: Angie voted yes, Jeanne voted yes and Bill voted yes.

Police Department

Police Chief's Request to recruit Replacement for Officer Tyler Miller who has tendered his resignation

Discussion ensued regarding Officer Tyler Miller's letter of resignation effective 2/1/2016 to accept a full-time position with the Town of Hinsdale. Ed indicated he favors Police Chief McDonough's request to recruit a part-time police officer to replace Officer Tyler Miller. The Board of Selectmen will send a letter of appreciation to Officer Tyler Miller for his service to the Town.

Officer Adam Gonska's request for a Leave of Absence

Bill moved to grant a leave of absence to Part-time Officer Adam Gonska from 01/30/16 to 05/01/16 to enable him to attend employment (not Town of Becket) training. Angie seconded. Roll call: Angie voted yes, Jeanne voted yes and Bill voted yes.

BOS and Town Administrator to discuss ideas for collaboration to suggest at the Shared Services Meeting with other towns and State Rep. Pignatelli scheduled on 2/4/2016 at the Great Barrington Town Hall.

The BOS will convey to Smitty Pignatelli's office the following ideas for discussion at tomorrow's Shared Services meeting: Ambulance Service, Animal Control, Highway equipment for tree trimming/roadside weed maintenance, Health Agent, Conservation Commission Agent, and Building Inspector.

Discussion re: BOS Annual Report

After the BOS agreed on suggested changes, Angie moved to approve the final version of the Selectmen's 2015 Annual Report, seconded by Jeanne. Roll call: Angie voted yes, Jeanne voted yes and Bill voted yes.

Monthly Reports: Fire Department, Ambulance Department

The BOS reviewed the Fire Department's December, and Ambulance Department's January reports.

Appointment Applications Received

Katherine Hoak for Historical Commission

Jeanne moved to appoint Katherine Hoak to the Historical Commission for a term ending 6/30/2017. Angie seconded. Roll call: Angie voted yes, Jeanne voted yes and Bill voted yes.

Conservation Commission

Alison Dixon, Chair of the Conservation Commission spoke in support of appointing Barbara Brand to the Conservation Commission. Bill moved to appoint Barbara Brand to the Conservation Commission for a term ending 6/30/2016. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Alison Dixon discussed recruitment efforts for the Conservation Agent and other Conservation Commission members. She will research if state law allows for a five member Conservation

Commissions as she thinks reducing membership from seven to five would not compromise the quality of the Conservation Commission and would make it easier to meet quorum. Ms Dixon discussed training. Ed indicated that for FY17 Alison has requested \$700 more for training because there will be at least three new members. Alison and Ed will meet to discuss responses to the advertisement for a Conservation Agent and to schedule interviews.

Letters of interest Received for Board of Health Vacancy

Gale Labelle, Chairperson of the Board of Health, will discuss letters of interest received for the Board of Health vacancy with the Selectmen at their next meeting scheduled 02/17/2016. The BOS clarified that appointment applications should accompany letters of interest. Jeanne suggested asking applicants if they are considering running for election.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

Bill asked Beverly to provide the status of BOS reappointments.

Bill indicated that the owner of the Becket General Store asked if the town had changed the legal age to purchase tobacco products to 21 years. Ed will contact the Becket General Store to advise that the Board of Health has not voted on this matter. Ed had conveyed to the Board of Health that it is his opinion that they would need a public hearing (or at least send to stores a notification with a meeting agenda that includes the discussion and possible vote re: the minimum age of tobacco purchase) before they vote to change the legal age to purchase tobacco products.

Angie indicated that she heard that the Election Warden moved to Florida. Jeanne indicated that if necessary, the Town Clerk may assign another election worker to serve as the warden.

FY17 Budget Summary

Operating

Capital

Town Administrator Ed Gibson presented highlights, held discussion and fielded questions on his draft FY17 operating and capital budget summaries. Specific budget operating accounts discussed included Treasurer, Conservation Commission, Highway, Cemetery, Moth, Tree, Central Berkshire Regional School District Operating Assessment, Police Department, Fire Department, Board of Health, Stabilization, Ambulance Department, CPA Funding, and Information Technology. Specific capital budget items discussed included Storage Shed at the Town Hall, Fire Station Repairs, Main Street Playground Equipment (It is anticipated that a CPA grant will pay for this), Town Hall Parking Lot Repaving, Fire Department mini pumper for Fire Station 1, Police Department purchase of an all wheel drive vehicle to replace the Crown Victoria, Highway Department's requests for Dump Truck/loader/storage, and funding of Tighe & Bond's Services to proceed with North Becket Village Water project.

Ed initiated a discussion and asked the BOS to consider if the town should replace the 2008 Tahoe Municipal Vehicle which is not expected to last much longer (maybe six months). The Tahoe is used primarily by the Assessors, Building Inspector, and Building/Grounds Custodian. Angie indicated her recommendation would be for employees to use their own vehicles and receive mileage reimbursements. Bill stated that he would not want to travel on the many gravel roads in town during the mud and winter seasons in his own vehicle unless it had 4-wheel drive.

Town Administrator's Request for an Additional Two-hours per week for the Treasurer to work

Treasurer's account: Ed reported that because of additional monthly reconciliations to implement auditing comments relating to the accountant, assessors, tax collector, and ambulance accounts, Ed thinks the Treasurer's workload warrants increasing her workday from 7 ½ to 8 hours, Monday through Thursday. Based on Ed's recommendation, Jeanne moved to authorize the Treasurer to work an additional two hours each week throughout the remainder of this fiscal year. Angie seconded. Roll call: Angie voted yes, Jeanne voted yes and Bill voted no.

Town Administrator's report

Broadband signup status: As of February 3rd we are 87% of the way to our signup 40% take rate goal. Eighty-seven more locations are needed.

Town Hall Roof Replacement: Dave Shorey and Ed had discussed bidding phases of the work for the roof replacement with an architect from EDM. The architect inspected the roof and attic to develop the specifications and bid package for construction of the replacement of the roof. These bids will include specifications for new gutters and downspouts (with underground redirecting of water). As another step they may recommend additional insulation or ventilation in the attic and if so they will develop the specifications as an add alternate to address those issues.

Board of Health: The Board of Health is considering increasing the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco products in Becket to the age of twenty-one. A copy of the Power Point presentation concerning smoke free housing and properties that Tri Town health gave to the Board of Health is part of tonight's handouts. Gale LaBelle plans to attend the February 17th meeting of the BOS to follow up and see if there have been additional residents showing interest in serving the vacant Board of Health member position.

Highway Department: Christopher Bouchard and Ed interviewed two candidates for the open Highway Department Equipment Operator position today. The next step will be to follow up on their employment references.

Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert Project: Chris Bouchard reports that in the next three or four weeks, the Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert replacement permitting phase for the project design will begin. Chris will go to Boston when the project is reviewed by Mass DOT.

Annual Town Meeting and Election Calendar: The Annual Town Meeting and Election Calendar as developed by George Roberts, Town Clerk is attached to my report FYI.

Town Clerk: The Election Warrant for the March 1st Presidential Primary is available for the Selectmen's signatures.

Meetings: Ed will attend the Finance Committee meeting tomorrow evening. He will attend the Berkshire Managers Meeting in Adams on 2/9/2016 and the MMA's STAM meeting in Hadley on 2/11/2016 in the afternoon.

Public Input

None

Any other business to come before the Board

Angie received a phone call from a resident who may be contacting the Town Administrator with a complaint regarding an unsatisfactory encounter in December with an Ambulance Department employee.

Review Correspondence

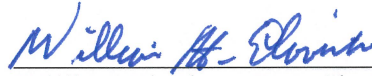
- Notice MMA's Spring Legislative Breakfast meetings
- 12/21/2015 MassDOT Bridge Inspection Report re: Yokum Pond Road
- 1/19/2016 Central Berkshire Regional School District re: Seven Town Advisory Committee Meeting

Selectmen to adjourn meeting

Angie moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill seconded. Roll call: Angie voted yes, Jeanne voted yes and Bill voted yes. Bill adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary



William Elovirta, *Vice Chairperson*

Documents discussed at this meeting:

Town Administrator's Report
Capital Plan Five Year Report
Financial Summary
Steve Rosenthal letter re Becket-Washington Map Project
BOS letter re Reforms to Solar Policy & Elimination of Net Metering Caps
email from Energy Committee re Solar letter
Memo from Police Chief with letters attached
Ambulance Department January 2016 Report
Fire Dept. Report Dec 2015
Appointment Application - Barbara Brand, Conservation Commission
Appointment Application - Katherine Hoak, Historical Commission
Tobacco Intervention Program