

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
February 17, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall
557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees:

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

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

Others: Bob Gross, Becket Energy Committee; Colleen O'Connor

Call to Order

Bill called the meeting to order at 7 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 because she is feeling ill, Jeanne Pryor will not participate in tonight's meeting.

Bill asked if anyone was recording the meeting. Beverly for the Board of Selectmen indicated that she 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 meeting minutes for 2/3/2016. Bill seconded. Motion carried.

Energy Committee Member Bob Gross re: Solar/Electrical Net Metering Aggregation Propositions to consider for Annual Town Meeting

The BOS, Ed and Bob Gross discussed the Becket Energy Committee's request that the BOS place an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the town to initiate the process to enter a Community Energy Aggregation Program. Ed indicated that aggregation is a formalized process and provided and went over part of the Department of Energy Resources Guide to Municipal Electric Aggregation in Massachusetts outlining the process of becoming a municipal aggregator:

A majority Town Meeting vote is required in order to initiate a process to authorize aggregation. After Town Meeting authorization is granted, the town would develop a plan in consultation with the Division of Energy Resources (DOER). The citizens would vote on the plan at Town Election. Any plan voted on would require a public hearing and approval by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy.

Because aggregation is an opportunity for towns to receive electrical service at a more competitive rate, and those who do not wish to participate may opt out, Bill and Angie favor bringing this question to the Annual Town Meeting. In order for Jeanne to provide her input, the Selectmen tabled voting on this matter until their 3/2/2016 meeting.

Gale LaBelle, Chairman of the Board of Health re: Berkshire Partnership for Health/Tobacco Intervention, and Board of Health Vacancy update

The BOS tabled this agenda item for March 2nd.

Vote to sign letter of intention to participate in FY2017 Southern Berkshire County Regional Household Hazardous Waste Program

Bill moved to sign a letter of intention to participate in the FY2017 Southern Berkshire County Regional Household Waste Program. Angie seconded. Motion carried.

Monthly Reports: Animal Control Officer, Fire Department, Others tba

The BOS reviewed the reports of the Animal Control Officer, Fire Department and Police Department. Angie described the occurrence of two loose pit-bulls trespassing on her property (erroneously listed in the ACOs report as Route 8), and the response of Sergeant Portieri.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

On 3/2/2016, the BOS will discuss the Ambulance Policy for Overnight Shifts.

Angie asked about the outcome of ambulance services discussion at the Shared Services Meeting. Bill indicated that the shared ambulance services was a "hot topic" and Representative Smitty Pignatelli is gathering information (including financial information from towns), and will approach Southern Berkshire Ambulance to ask if there is interest in forming a regional ambulance.

**FY17 Budget Summary 1) Operating & 2) Capital
Operating**

Ed indicated that there were no changes to the operating budget to report since the last BOS meeting.

Capital Plan Update of Changes:

Ed advised that now that it is anticipated that the Town Hall Roof will be completed by this early summer, the Energy Committee suggested that the town consider proceeding with the Solar Energy Array project as part of the Capital Plan. Ed indicated that he listed estimates for each portion of the project, divided into three priorities (1st priority Town Hall Roof, 2nd priority Town Hall Pavilion, 3rd Priority Field South of the Town Hall).

Town Administrator's report

MBI Broadband: As of February 17th, we are 88% of the way to our signup goal. We need eighty-four more locations to reach our goal of a required 40% take rate.

Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District and Wells Road Residents: Town Administrator gave the BOS a copy and described the SFRMD's letter to the residents residing on Wells Road. Ed reported that after conferring with Town Counsel who stated that Kopelman & Paige's legal opinion regarding the voting status in the SFRMD is a separate issue from road maintenance taxes which would require a separate ruling, Ed advised the Board of Assessors that should the SFRDMD request that the residents of Wells Road be added to the Assessment of taxes for road maintenance district that it be done only after the SFRMD has supplied the Town with a Legal Court Ruling on the issue. To date, SFRMD has not approached the Assessors to postpone

assessing the resident of Wells Road any taxes for FY 2016 and has not requested that the residents of Wells Road be added to the Assessment of taxes for the road maintenance district.

Route 20 Becket Spring: The town received notification that the Becket Route 20 Spring during routine testing showed positive for total coliform bacteria. The Spring was posted as such by Mr. Shorey. The pipe from the Spring was cleaned and disinfected with a 10% solution of sodium hypochlorite. Additional monitoring will continue until the well does not show any trace of total coliform. The well will remain posted to such until the tests show there is no presence of bacteria.

MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings: Ed announced that the MMA has scheduled one of their annual Spring Legislative Breakfast Meetings in Lee on 2/26. Ed, Bill and Bev will attend.

Meetings: In addition to the MMA Legislative Meeting on 2/26, Ed will attend:

- CBRSD Seven Town Advisory Committee meeting 2/18, Dalton
- Berkshire County Educational Task Force meeting on Sat., 2/20, Pittsfield.

Any other business to come before the Board

The Zoning Board of Appeals forwarded a copy of the site plan dated 12/12/2016 submitted for Ray Michanczyk's Application for a variance for Property Located at 133 Mystic Isle Way. After reviewing the site plan, the board asked Beverly to send a letter to the ZBA with the below listed comments:

- The BOS continue to suggest that it is pertinent for the site plan to show the location and type of septic system (traditional or tight tank) and its components (tanks, leech fields).
- Despite that the width of the proposed garage changed from 24 to 20 feet, the side setback of 10 feet may negatively impact property values, and is a substantial variance of the required 20 foot side setback.
- The Board appreciates Mr. Michanczyk's efforts and expense involved with contracting a professional land surveyor to prepare this document and they thank the ZBA for keeping them informed about Mr. Michanczyk's variance request.

Review Correspondence

- 02/04/2016 MassDOT Bridge Inspection Reports: Maple St./Yokum Pond Brook, Lovers Lane/Morgan Brook & Prentice Pl./Yokum Pond Brook

Selectmen to adjourn meeting

Angie moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill seconded. Motion carried. Bill adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Public Input

Colleen O'Connor urged the BOS to proceed cautiously when appointing a temporary Board of Health member. She stated that a member who does not follow through with the responsibilities assigned to the Board of Health could cause serious damages to the environment and residents.

Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary


William Elovirta, *Vice Chairperson*

Documents discussed at this meeting:

Town Administrator's Report
Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District letter dated to Wells Rd. residents

Capital Plan Five Year Report
Financial Summary
Household Hazardous Waste letter of intent to participate
Guide to Municipal Electric Aggregation in Massachusetts
Email re: Solar-Electrical Net Metering Aggregation
FY2017 Hazardous Waste Program Documents
Animal Control Officer Report
Fire Dept Report
Police Department Report for January 2016
Site Plan dated 021216 re: ZBA Variance Application for 133 Mystic Isle