

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
March 16, 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: Colleen O'Connor, Cindy Delpapa - Conservation Commission Member,
Rita Furlong - Historical Commission Member; Jeremy Dunn - WiredWest
Delegate, and Tom Geser – U.S. Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife (Hadley,
Massachusetts)

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. Beverly for the Board of Selectmen indicated that she was recording the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairperson led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Bill moved to approve the meeting minutes of 2/17/16. Angie seconded. Jeanne abstained because she did not attend the 2/17/16 meeting. Motion carried.

Quitclaim Deed – Corrective Deed from Treasurer of the Town of Becket to Robert H. Connor March 11, 1960

Tom Geyer from the U.S. Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife (Hadley, MA) discussed a corrective quitclaim deed with the BOS. Ed explained that in 1960 the town transferred a specific property through a treasurer's deed to Robert H. Connor. However, because the property was in the custody of the town, it should have been transferred in a deed signed by the Board of Selectmen. Town Counsel reviewed this matter and recommended that the BOS sign the corrective deed. Bill moved to sign the corrected Quitclaim Deed from the Town of Becket to Robert H. Connor, seconded by Angie. Motion carried unanimously. "This Confirmatory Deed will be delivered to the United States of America to be recorded simultaneously with the deed from the heirs of Charles Del Regno to the United States of America, the heirs of Charles Del Regno being the current record title holders of the premises and intending to convey their interest in the real estate to the United State of America."

Tom Geyer discussed his research on his title work concerning a 110 acre tract that the Town of Becket took for non-payment of taxes in 2000. Ed will submit Tom's reporting to Town Counsel.

Becket Room Day Access

This item had been tabled from the 3/2/2016. The BOS discussed Rita Furlong's request to keep the Becket Room unlocked during business hours. Rita stated that she would like convenient access for those wishing to view artifacts on display. Due to security concerns, to facilitate the smooth operation of town business, and to prevent loitering, Jeanne suggested keeping the room locked and posting a friendly sign directing visitors to see the Town Secretary for entrance into the room. Angie moved to keep the Becket Room open during Town Hall business hours, seconded by Bill. Motion carried with Jeanne opposed.

Annual Town Report: Cover, photographs, and dedication page

A discussion ensued regarding the Annual Town Report. Jeanne made a motion to use blue ink for words (250th Anniversary – Incorporated 1765) appearing at the bottom of the report cover, seconded by Angie. Motion carried unanimously.

The BOS revisited the photographs for the cover. Because it was not possible to obtain releases for all the cub scouts appearing in the Memorial Day parade photograph, the BOS selected a photograph of the Quarry from Sandi Jarvis' album of Becket's 250th Anniversary Events.

Town Administrator's Evaluation – Request for Feedback

Jeanne confirmed the list of employees that the BOS will ask to complete a staff survey (due 3/31/2016) as part of the Town Administrator's evaluation. She will send Bill and Angie an evaluation form for each to complete.

Seasonal Liquor License Renewals for the following: Berkshire Berries – Seasonal All Alcoholic Package Store, Becket Country Store – Seasonal All Alcoholic Package Store

Bill made a motion to renew Seasonal All Alcoholic Package Store licenses for MDA, Inc. d/b/a Berkshire Berries, and the KMS, Inc. d/b/a Becket Country Store, contingent on being current with town taxes, and inspections. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill made a motion to acknowledge that Jacob's Pillow conveyed (letter dated 02/19/2016) they will not renew their Seasonal Liquor license (Outside establishments will sell food and beverages at Jacob's Pillow). Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Boston Post Cane

The Town Clerk provided a listing of the oldest residents. Bev will go through the list and try to contact and determine the oldest individual able and amenable to accepting the Boston Post Cane. Jeanne asked that Bev confirm with the Town Clerk that those on the list submitted their annual census form.

Nomination of the Inspector of Animals – Madelaine Elovirta

Angie made a motion to nominate Madelaine Elovirta as the Inspector of Animals from May 1, 2016 through April 30, 2017. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried with Bill abstaining since he is Madelaine's husband.

Discussion for continuing services for Porchlight VNA/Home Care in FY2017

Ed advised that the town contracts with Porchlight VNA/Home Care for nursing services. The BOS tabled this agenda item and will send the Board of Health a letter requesting if they favor using Porchlight VNA/Home Care in Fiscal Year 2017.

Appointment Applications to discuss and for possible vote:

Karen Karlberg, Westfield River Wild & Scenic Committee, 2nd Alternate Member

It has come to the BOS' attention that in addition to a member and an alternate member, each town belonging to the Westfield River Wild & Scenic Committee has a 2nd alternate member. Jeanne indicated that Karen Karlberg who has been active on this committee submitted an appointment application. Jeanne moved to appoint Karen Karlberg, 2nd Alternate Member of the Westfield River Wild & Scenic Committee for a term beginning March 16, 2016 and ending 6/30/2016. Angie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Resignation: Planning Board Member Martin Schlanger

Because he is moving out of town, Martin Schlanger tendered a letter of resignation from the Planning Board effective 4/13/2016. The BOS will notify the Town Clerk that there will be a vacancy on the Planning Board. There is an amended caucus warrant for the BOS to sign to add the Planning Board Office. The Board expressed gratitude for Marty's many years (since 1998) of hard work and dedication to the town while serving on the Planning Board. The BOS signed a letter of appreciation.

Selectmen to discuss designating a preferred Vocational High School for Becket Students

Ed provided his analysis of four vocational high schools typically attended by Becket students: McCann Technical, Taconic, Westfield Technical, and Smith Vocational & Agricultural. He summarized the list of programs offered at each of the schools. A preferred vocational high school designation means that if a student wants to attend a vocational high school and if his or her course of study is offered at the preferred vocational high school, the student must attend the preferred vocational high school to obtain town funding for such. The town will fund a non-designated vocational high school if it offers training programs not available at the preferred vocational high school. Students currently enrolled in a non-preferred vocational high school would not be required to change to a preferred vocational high school. Due to the reputation for quality education, and the large array of programs available, Ed recommended designating Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School as the designated high school. Angie made a motion to designate Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School as the preferred vocational high school for Becket Students. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Ed will notify the superintendent's office.

Discussion and possible vote to consider sponsoring Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article to reduce Conservation Commission from seven to five members

Cindy Delpapa, member of the Conservation Commission, discussed the possibility of the BOS sponsoring an ATM Warrant Article to reduce the Conservation Commission's membership from seven to five members. The Conservation Commission's concern is to be able to conduct business and vote as needed.

Jeanne stated it is her hope that the Conservation Commission will recruit a full board as she thinks it would be beneficial to have seven members with experience and training to make it easy for the Conservation Commission to function when a member leaves.

Ed had researched this matter, and suggested adding a section to the town's Conservation Commission By-law to change the definition of quorum from 4 members to a majority of the members then in office. This would coincide with the definition of the quorum under the Wetlands Protection Act. Cindy will communicate this proposal to the Conservation Commission.

Monthly Reports: Building Inspector, Police Department, and others to be announced

The BOS reviewed the monthly reports of the Building Inspector, and Ambulance, Fire and Police Departments.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

None

FY17 Budget Summary

Operating

Capital

Ed updated the BOS on the FY17 budget summary:

Last week the MIIA Representative advised that 1) health insurance rate increases for municipalities ranged from 4½ to 12 percent. Becket's health insurance rate will increase 5.6 percent; and 2) Liability insurance (workers comp and general insurance) will increase 10 to 12 percent.

Vocation tuition/transportation figures will be determined. Students have until April 1st to file for vocational schools.

After the Community Preservation Committee votes on its recommendations, Ed will provide figures relating to designation of funds for FY17 tax revenues. The amounts are only to set a maximum level which can be received and paid each year in each of the funds and do not involve a direct appropriation. He pointed out that the funds must be authorized annually but do not involve a direct appropriation.

Town Hall Roof Project Update

Ed showed the BOS roof shingle samples of which will be displayed on a roof in the Town Hall complex during a daytime working meeting.

Town Administrator's report

MBI Broadband: The current status of the Broadband signups for Becket as of 3/16 is we are 88 percent of the way to our signup goal (82 more locations to go).

Highway Equipment Operator: Chris Bouchard has offered the Highway Department Equipment Operator position to Donald Murray. Ed agrees with his choice. Mr. Murray has all the required licenses and has passed his pre-employment physical and drug and alcohol test. Mr. Murray is scheduled to begin with the town on 3/28/2016 with a starting rate of pay of \$20.95 per hour.

Active Shooting Symposium: Ed attended an active shooter symposium at Deerfield Academy which was sponsored by the Western Region Homeland Security Council & Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Springfield Resident Agency. The training was quite enlightening. Becket was presented by Police Chief Kris McDonough, Officers Michael Sawyer, Nicole Miller and Ken Pettibone was there in his capacity as an Otis Police Officer. Gale Labelle was there representing the Board of Health and Beth VanNess attended as a Planning Board member.

Meetings:

Ed will attend the Finance Committee meeting tomorrow evening and the Community Preservation Committee meeting on 3/30/2016.

Public Input

Jeremy Dunn discussed Massachusetts Broadband Institute's letter dated 3/14/2016 re: a recent pause in funding from the state. Jeremy stated that he believes the state is committed to the Broadband Initiative and will develop clear guidelines about how to release the money.

WiredWest upcoming meeting scheduled on 3/26 at the Town Hall will include a non-public portion. Delegates, alternative delegates, and Municipal Light Plant Commissioners "MLPs" (The Becket BOS members are MLPs) who sign a non-disclosure release are allowed to attend the non-public portion of the meetings. Jeremy described the pole survey process which is on hold until the state releases funds. WiredWest will ask towns for a \$1,000 contribution to help defray lawyers, office space, telephone, and other operating expenses.

**Any other business to come before the Board
none**

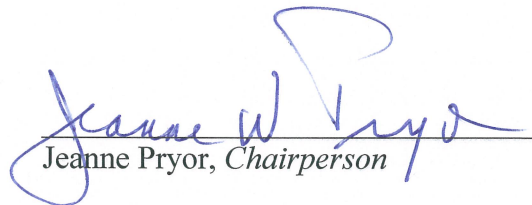
Review Correspondence - TBA

Selectmen to adjourn meeting

Angie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill. Motion carried unanimously. At 8:46 p.m., Jeanne adjourned the meeting.

Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary



Jeanne Pryor, Chairperson

Documents discussed at this meeting:

Town Administrator's Report

Capital Plan Five Year Report

Financial Summary

Fire Dept. February 2016 Report

Police Dept. February 2016 Report

Quitclaim Deed – Corrective Deed from Treasurer of the Town of Becket to Robert H. Connor
March 11, 1960

Tom Geysler Title Search Report for 110 acre tract

Berkshire Berries Seasonal All Alcoholic Package Store renewal form

Becket County Store Seasonal All Alcoholic Package Store renewal form

Town Clerk's Residents' Age List from 01/01/1900 to 01/01/2016

Jacob's Pillow's letter dated 02/19/2016 re: Seasonal Liquor License Renewals

Dept. of Agricultural Resources – Nomination of Inspector of Animals

Karen Karlberg appointment Application

Building Inspector Report – January & February 2016

Town Administrator's comparison of vocational schools

Letter of Resignation from the Planning Board from Martin Schlanger dated March 9, 2016

Ambulance Department February 2016 Report