

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
June 1, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall
557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees:

Board of Selectmen: Jeanne Pryor, Chairperson; William Elovirta, Vice Chairperson;
Nicole Ledoux

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

Others: Colleen O'Connor, Purr McEwen, Michelle Raymer, Gene R. Goebel, Chris Post, Robert M. Grace, Julia W. Kay-Grace

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.

Discussion and possible vote on Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen

Jeanne welcomed new BOS member Nicole Ledoux. During discussion on reorganization, Jeanne stated that although it is often traditional for the outgoing member of the board to be named chairperson, because over the past year she has served as chairperson, and since she is away and participates in meetings remotely for two of the winter months, she moved to appoint Bill chairperson. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously. At the next meeting, Bill will begin serving as the chairperson.

Board to review minutes of previous meetings (s)

There were no meeting minutes provided to the BOS.

BOS to consider any Language Changes recommended by Town Counsel in Town Administrator's Employment Contract & possibly sign the Employment Agreement

Jeanne indicated that because it was only this afternoon that she had received town counsel's suggested language changes, and she would like an opportunity to review, this agenda item is tabled for the BOS meeting scheduled on 6/15/16. On 6/15/16, the BOS will first discuss the Administrator's Employment Contract during the executive session, and then return to open session to vote and possibly sign the Employment Agreement.

Chris Post of Wandering Star Brewing Co. request for two One-day Wine & Beer permits in conjunction with fundraising events at the Becket Washington Fair

Chris Post of Wandering Star Brewing Co. discussed his request for two one-day Wine & Beer permits in conjunction with fundraising events at the Becket Washington Fair. He provided insurance certificates for the event. Some of the town's firefighters who will volunteer their time at the fair, obtained TIPS certification. Chris will provide the BOS with the TIPS certificates. Bev advised that the Police Chief Kris McDonough had reviewed the applications and he requires and will arrange for police presence at the fair. Ed will see Kris to discuss and find out the specific plan for police detail. Chris Post discussed and provided a sketch of the perimeter for the event occurring at the lawn in front of the Becket Athenaeum. Chris stated that the profits for the beer garden event will be donated to the Becket Fire Department. The profits for the event at the library will be donated and split between the library and Becket/Washington PTO.

Jeanne moved to approve the one-day beer and wine license to Chris Post of Wandering Star Brewing Co. that will occur from 11 a.m. till 4 p.m. on July 9, 2016 at the Town Fair on the lawn in front of the Becket Athenaeum with the stipulation that he furnish TIPS certificates. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeanne moved to approve the one-day beer and wine license to Chris Post of Wandering Star Brewing Co. that will occur from 7 p.m. till midnight on July 9, 2016 at the Firefighters' Pavilion in Becket with the stipulation that he furnish TIPS certificates. To avoid the appearance of a possible conflict of interest, since he is a member of the Fire Department, Bill recused himself from this vote. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michelle Raymer and Purr McEwen request for the Town of Becket to pay for Police Detail at the Becket Washington Fair.

Michelle Raymer and Purr McEwen asked if the town would be able to cover the cost for the Police Detail at the Becket Washington Fair since the fair is a fundraising event for the community. Ed will talk to Police Chief Kris McDonough to confirm his understanding that Kris will schedule several additional patrols on July 9th at a non-detail rate and the town will not charge the fair.

They inquired about the process for turning Brooker Hill Road into a one-way street (vehicles will travel from downhill to uphill) during the fair. They indicated that the Police chief favors this plan. The BOS indicated they too are okay with this. Ed will discuss this with the Highway Superintendent who may provide special barriers and signage. During discussion it was specified that parking on Brooker Hill may only be on one side of the street.

Per Colleen O'Connor's request, Michelle and Purr will rope-off to prevent parking over a septic system located at the Becket Arts Center and a leech field at the Mullen House.

Gene Goebel cautioned that it is important that cars do not park in a way that blocks traffic on Maple Street.

Michelle and Purr thanked the BOS for their on-going support.

Discussion and possible vote on Beach Permits

Jeanne reported on a meeting she attended with Ed, Rita Furlong of the Parks & Recreation Committee and Terry Smith from Mass. Dept. of Fish and Game; Fishing and Boating Access

Division on May 26. Mr. Smith was able to provide information regarding the agreement between the Town and the State which was entered into in 1991 concerning car top boating access to Center Pond. Mr. Smith provided a copy of the original agreement and information on the signs which were approved by the state in 2006. The state will be providing us with new State approved parking signs for the car top access spots. They have requested that the town grade the area where these parking spots (5) are for the boating access. We may be eligible for up to \$10,000 in services for the state in improvements to the area which provides the "access" to boating on Center Pond.

The improvements may include moving the porta potty to the other side of the shed and placing it onto a cement pad so it will become handicap accessible. Moving the porta potty will yield another two parking spaces.

A discussion ensued about beach permitting which included pros and cons of different types of beach stickers (magnets, hanging from mirror, ones that are affixed to the vehicle), temporary stickers, placement of stickers, possible fee structures, time period for the stickers (permanent vs annual), who may or may not purchase beach stickers (residents, renters, property owners, visitors, adjacent communities, camp personnel, Jacob's Pillow personnel, exceptions, volunteer divers and ways to define each category), enforcement, how to handle replacement stickers, and the number of stickers allotted to properties. The BOS concluded that due to the complexity of this matter, further discussion is warranted and it is too late to implement a new policy for this summer. The BOS will resume discussion about the beach permit policy and will reevaluate after this summer season.

The police will be monitoring vehicles at the beach to ensure that they have stickers and ticketing those that don't. The BOS agreed that the beach is for Becket & Washington residents only.

Jeanne had received communication from Mercedes Gallagher about volunteer divers who remove weeds from the pond and are not residents. Mercedes reported that one of the divers had received a parking ticket from the Police Dept. Jeanne stated that she did not want to see anyone helping with the maintenance of the pond to be penalized. It was agreed that divers belonging to the Center Pond project should receive a "guest pass" so that they can park at the beach when they are diving. The BOS will work to develop such a pass. It was also agreed that the ticket received by the diver should be given to the Selectmen's secretary so that the person does not need to pay. The BOS will request a list of names/license plate #s for the divers, and provide this to the Becket Police Department so that they won't be ticketed at least until the BOS formalize rules and produce a pass.

Ed, on behalf of the Collector's Office, asked for clarification regarding prorating Transfer Station permits. The BOS advised that the town will prorate transfer station permits for new owners and for those who furnish documentation that they are no longer using a private hauler.

BOS to consider voting to extend the agreement between CET and the Town of Becket for the Collection of Hazardous Waste through the Multi-Town Collaborative.

Bill moved sign a one-year extension (7/1/2016 through 06/30/2017) of the agreement between CET and the Town of Becket for the Collection of Hazardous Waste through the Multi-Town Collaborative. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dori Konig's letter of request for the Selectmen to consider forgiving false alarm fines.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed Dori Konig's request to waive false alarm fines issued for activity occurring at the property located at 33 Lady Lucille, Becket on 10/19/2015 (warning only), 2/22/2016 (\$50.00), 2/25/2016 (\$100.00), 3/4/2016 (\$100.00) & 3/6/2016 (\$100.00).

It was noted that the fines had been sent to the previous owner, and in accordance with the town's bylaws it is the property owner's responsibility to register the alarm system with the Police Department. Bill moved to forgive the above named fines totaling \$350 assessed to Dori Konig as a one-time only exception. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Per discussion, Ed will ask the Chief of Police to send a reminder to alarm companies to advise their clients that the town's bylaws required them to register their alarms with the Police Department

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

Because the updated contract has not been received, this item was tabled until the 06/15/2016 meeting.

Town Administrator's Appointment Recommendations: BOS to consider Voting Approval.

Jeanne moved to approve the below listed Town Administrator's Appointment recommendations effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2017:

Kristopher G. McDonough, Chief – Police Department
Marc Portieri, Sergeant – Police Department
Matthew Virginia – Full Time Officer – Police Department
Michael Sawyer, Part-time Officer - Police Department
Nicole Miller, Part-time Officer - Police Department
Michael Hunt, Part-time Officer - Police Department
Kenneth Pettibone, Part-time Officer - Police Department
Margaret McClellan, Town Accountant
Christopher Bouchard, Highway Superintendent/Tree Warden/Pest Control
Mark Hanford, Fire Chief
James Kupernik, Ambulance Director
Albert Gootermote, Animal Control Officer
Mark Levernoch, Plumbing & Gas Inspector – Building Department
Dana Spring, Wiring Inspector – Building Department
Jim LaPier, Assistant Wiring Inspector – Building Department
Doug Mann, Veterans' Service Agent
William Mulholland, Veterans' Grave Officer

Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeanne moved to approve the Town Administrator's recommendation to appoint Travis Derby Probationary Part-time Officer – Police Department, effective 7/1/2016 through 10/13/2016. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports: Police Department, Building Inspector

The BOS reviewed the monthly reports of the Police Department (April 2016) and Building Inspector (March & April 2016).

Town Administrator's Report

MBI Broadband: As of 6/1/2016, the town is 89% of the way to our sign-up goal with 77 more locations needed to reach our goal of a 40% take rate. Ed has a meeting with Bill Ennen, MBI's Last Mile Implementation Coordinator, to get a better idea of how the State may be looking at revamping the broadband last mile projects and the funding for them. All indications are that MBI will approve towns to proceed with their projects who are ready to move forward on a stand-alone basis. However, it appears that MBI will allow towns to seek regionalization and coop with other communities going forward after they have an approved plan and a sustainable project on their own. The town's ad-hoc broadband committee has attempted to model some possible different scenarios to see if any change in plans to develop our own broadband network would be affordable and sustainable. It appears that from early modeling that the cost per subscriber will be slightly higher than originally estimated under a Regional Cooperative model with other WiredWest communities. Ed will have more to report at the next BOS's meeting.

Mass. Fishing and Boating Access Center Pond: This had been discussed under the **Discussion and possible vote on Beach Permits** agenda item.

Police Department Staffing: As requested, Police Chief McDonough has notified the part-time police officers that there is an opening for a full-time police officer in order to provide them with the first opportunity to fill the vacancy. He has requested they express their interest in writing by tomorrow evening. Depending on the level of interest within the department, interviews for internal candidates would begin within the next several weeks.

ID Credentialing System: We have received our ID Credentialing System for Employees and Volunteers which we were able to purchase through the Emergency Management Grant from the state. The system will be used to produce photo IDs of Town Employees, volunteers, and outside emergency responders in case of a disaster. The system should be installed in the next few weeks by the software company and Ed will design Town Employee ID cards before we start entering information into the database and photographing employees and volunteers to supply them with their own town IDs. This system will make it easier for town residents and businesses to identify people who are performing work on behalf of the town.

Meetings: Bill Ennen from MBI on 6/3, Finance Committee meeting on 6/2, the Berkshire Town Administrator's Association on 6/14 in North Adams, and the MMA STAM Annual meeting on 6/9 in Sturbridge.

Public Input

Colleen O'Connor asserted that a home for sale located in the North Becket Village had been condemned. Ed advised that the agent for the Board of Health is scheduled to conduct an inspection on the property she had mentioned.

Cub Scout Master Gene R. Goebel discussed ideas for the Boy and Cub scouts' recycling collection center at the Transfer Station. The BOS suggested that Mr. Goebel provide a written request outlining the details (including the dimensions) of a proposed assembly. The BOS indicated that any new structure such as a shed would replace their current storage.

Any Other Business

Jeanne will draft a letter to the Attorney General to question Assistant Attorney General Kelli Gunagan's letter dated 05/12/2016 in which she replied to the BOS's letter advising that bylaws and amendments adopted by various districts created by special Acts of Legislature in the Town of Becket do not require Attorney General's review and approval.

As outlined in the Conservation Commission's letter dated 5/16/2016, the BOS agreed to support the Conservation Commission's collaboration with the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee to hold the Watershed Blitz at the Becket Washington Elementary School on 9/17/2016.

Review Correspondence

The BOS noted Rhodora Higgins letter of Praise dated 5/22/2016 (with donation to the Friends of Becket Ambulance) for the Ambulance and Police Departments' fast acting and well-trained response to an emergency on 4/30/2016.

The BOS signed the licenses for Six Depot, LTD dba No Six Depot and Berkshire Culinary GB, Inc. dba Haven at the Pillow that had been approved by the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission.

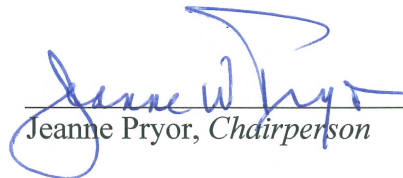
After review of the information including the route, and noting that Police Chief McDonough indicated his approval, the BOS signed a permission form for the One Call Away Charity Motorcycle Ride to access state highway through the Town on 7/24/2016. The BOS will forward to the Fire Chief for his review and possible approval.

Motion to adjourn

Bill moved to adjourn. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously. At 9:13 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
Town Administrator's List of Appointment Recommendations for FY17, Chief of Police memo of recommendations, & letter from the Highway Superintendent
Email and documents from CET in conjunction with Extension of Agreement letter between CET and the Town of Becket for the Collection of Hazardous Waste through the Multi-Town Collaboration
Dori Konig's 5/16/2016 letter of request re: Alarm Fines
Draft Town Beach Rules
Draft Beach Permitting Rules
Email from Mercedes Gallagher dated 6/1/2016 re: Center Pond Access
Rhodora Higgins 05/22/2016 letter lauding Ambulance & Police Depts.
Assistant Attorney General's letter dated 05/12/2016 re: bylaws and amendments adopted by various districts created by special Acts of Legislature
Police Department April 2016 Report
Building Inspector's March and April 2016 report