

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
June 15, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall
557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees:

Board of Selectmen: William Elovirta, Chairperson; Jeanne Pryor, Vice Chairperson (via remote participation); Nicole Ledoux, Clerk

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

Others: Michael Hunt, Chad Heath

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. Bill announced due to personal illness, Jeanne will participate remotely, and therefore all votes will require a roll call.

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 Chairperson led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion and possible vote on Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen (Vice Chairperson and Clerk)

Bill advised that at the last meeting, the BOS elected the chairperson and still needs to appoint its vice chairperson and clerk. Bill nominated Jeanne to serve as the Vice Chairperson. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Bill nominated Nicole to serve as the Clerk. Jeanne seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Board to Review and possible vote on Town Administrator's Appointment

Recommendations:

- a. **Probationary Full-time Police Officer – Michael Hunt**
- b. **Probationary Part-time Police Officer – Chad Heath**

Ed spoke in support of his recommendations to appoint Michael Hunt Full-time Police Officer and Chad Heath Part-time Police Officer. He indicated that Michael Hunt has served as a part-time Police Officer for five years, and he was extremely impressed by Michael's interview due to his composure and concise answers he had provided. Ed stated that Michael Hunt is a person who takes initiative including that since under the employ of the Town, he has obtained his Fire Arms Instructor's License, and Taser Instructor's License, and he has purchased a home in Becket. Ed recommended that Mr. Hunt's appointment to work 40 hours per week becomes effective 7/1/2016, and that Mr. Hunt will remain on probationary status until successful completion of the

Police Academy in November. Ed will find out the graduation date. Bill stated that he had recommended hiring Michael to serve as a Part-time Police Officer for the Town, and he is proud to see him promoted. Bill moved to appoint Michael Hunt Probationary Full-time Police Officer effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2017 or pending graduation of the Police Academy. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Ed specified that because he had made such a favorable impression, the Police Chief contacted Chad Heath who had interviewed with both Ed and himself about three months ago to see if he would still be interested. Ed stated that he echoes Police Chief McDonough's recommendation to make this appointment. Jeanne moved to appoint Chad Heath Probationary Part-time Police Officer effective 7/1/2016 (Ed will advise on the expiration date), seconded by Nicole. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

The BOS thanked Mr. Hunt and Mr. Heath for appearing at tonight's meeting.

Board to Review the Energy Committee's request to sign a non-disclosure agreement between Syncarpha Solar, LLC, and the Town and its residences in order to explore the potential for a Solar Power Business relationship

The Becket Energy Committee had advised that it would like to discuss the Town's and its residents' solar needs with Syncarpha Solar, LLC to see if a business relationship would be advantageous. However, before discussions may commence, Syncarpha Solar, LLC requires that the Town sign an agreement to not share Syncarpha Solar, LLC's proprietary information with their competitors. Nicole made a motion to grant approval for the Town to sign a non-disclosure agreement between Syncarpha Solar, LLC and the Town and its residences in order to explore the potential for a Solar Power Business relationship. Bill seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Board to Review and consider voting to re-appoint Committee and Board Members

Bill moved to re-appoint Kristopher Massini and Neil Toomey to the Agricultural Commission effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2017. Jeanne seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Jeanne moved to re-appoint: Luz Bravo-Gleicher, Ann Krawet, Sally Soluri, Barbara Wacholder and Tracy Wilson to the Arts Lottery Commission for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/19 and Robert Goldman to the Arts Lottery Commission for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/17. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Jeanne moved to re-appoint Gale LaBelle Alternate Delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2017. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye.

Jeanne moved to appoint William Elovirta Berkshire Regional Transit authority Advisory Board Designee for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2017. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta – recued himself. Motion carried.

Jeanne moved to re-appoint Elizabeth Will to the Board of Assessors for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2019. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Jeanne moved to re-appoint Edward Gibson Chief Procurement Officer for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2017. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Jeanne moved to re-appoint Neil Toomey to the Community Preservation Committee for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 7/1/2019. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Jeanne moved to re-appoint Barbara Brand, Cindy Delpapa and Karen Karlberg to the Conservation Commission for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2019. Nicole voted yes, Jeanne voted yes, and Bill voted yes. Nicole seconded. Motion carried.

Jeanne moved to re-appoint Celine Godbout, Marie Grull, Joan Moylan, and William Robinson & appoint new members Paula Bergeron and Betty Shepard to the Council on Aging with a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2019. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Jeanne moved to re-appoint George Roberts Dog Hearings Officer for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2017. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Jeanne moved to re-appoint Alvin Blake and Robert Gross to the Energy Committee for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2019. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Nicole moved to re-appoint Steve Rosenthal Harbor Master for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2017. Jeanne seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Jeanne moved to re-appoint Rita Furlong to the Historical Commission for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2019. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Jeanne moved to re-appoint Jeremy Dunn WiredWest Delegate for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2018. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Jeanne moved to re-appoint Ed Gibson Municipal Light Plant Manager for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2017. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Jeanne moved to re-appoint Tina LeVasseur to the Parks & Recreation Committee for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2019. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Bill moved to re-appoint Edward Gibson Town Administrator for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2019. Jeanne seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Jeanne moved to re-appoint Christine Bleau Treasurer for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2019. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Jeanne moved to re-appoint Mercedes Gallagher Representative, and Karen Karlberg Alternate Representative to the Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2017. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Jeanne moved to re-appoint Karen Karlberg to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2019, and Alvin Blake Associate Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2017. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Board to consider voting on the Tax Collector’s Recommendation to appoint David Shorey Deputy Tax Collector and Nina Weiler Assistant Tax Collector

Jeanne moved to approve the Tax Collector’s Recommendation to re-appoint David Shorey Deputy Tax Collector and Nina Weiler Assistant Tax Collector for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2017. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Tax Collector’s Request for permission to include Scholarship and Education Donation insert in Real Estate Tax Bills

Jeanne moved to approve the Tax Collector’s Request for permission to include a Scholarship and Education Donation in the Real Estate Tax Bills and to pay for the invoice for the insert in the same manner as conducted in prior years. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

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

Ed advised that because Porchlight provided more specific information about Tuberculosis services coverage, the Board of Health Chairperson is comfortable with recommending that the Town sign the agreement. Jeanne moved that the Town continue services for Porchlight VNA/Home Care in FY2017. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Planning Board’s Request to review and comment on new material submitted by Heather Anello relating to her Application for Special Permit on Property located on 3235 Main Street.

After reviewing the additional plans Heather provided, the BOS will comment that it has no concerns regarding her application for Special Permit on Property located on 3235 Main Street.

Town Administrator’s Appointment Recommendations: BOS to consider Voting

- a. **Emergency Management Director – Tim Sullivan**
- b. **Assistant Building inspector – Gary Danko**

Jeanne moved to approve the Town Administrator's recommendations to appoint Gary Danko Assistant Building Inspector and Timothy Sullivan Emergency Management Director for a term effective 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2017. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Monthly Reports: Police Department, Animal Control Officer, and Ambulance Department, and Volunteer Fire Department

The BOS reviewed the monthly reports of the Police Department, Animal Control Officer, and Ambulance and Fire Departments. Per Jeanne's request, Ed will obtain a copy of the Animal Control Officer's Training Certificate for his personnel file.

Reserve and Departmental Transfer Requests

Although there were no Reserve and Departmental Transfer Requests for tonight's meeting, Ed provided an All Departments Expenditure Report dated 6/9/2016 to advise on accounts he is watching in anticipation of needing transfer requests.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

Based on a call she received from a resident, Nicole asked if the Animal Control Officer ("ACO") is required to bring dogs to the animal shelter (pound). Ed advised that due to liability concerns, town officials must bring dogs to the animal shelter and it is not within Town policy for the ACO and local law enforcement to keep animals elsewhere.

Town Administrator's Report

MBI Broadband: The current status of the Broadband signups for Becket is as of June 1st we are 89% of the way to our signup goal. 77 more locations to go to reach our goal of a required 40% take rate. Ed had a meeting with Bill Ennen, MBI's Last Mile Implementation Coordinator on June 3rd 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 for now MBI will be approving towns to move forward with their projects that are ready to proceed on a stand-alone basis. Our next step in the process is a meeting with Todd Corcoran on June 17th for an assessment of Becket's readiness to move forward with a broadband project at this point and to discuss what type of broadband system the town would like to build and implement. Jeremy Dunn, Dan Parnell, Jeanne Pryor and Robert Gross have been helping Ed gather the information for these meetings.

Bonny Rig Hill Road Culvert Replacement Project: This project is getting closer to the completion of this Chapter 85 engineering review from MassDOT. Mr. Bouchard has the Engineering vendor working on preparing the permits to file for approval for this project along with the bid package. We are still hopeful on starting construction of this project this fall.

Town Hall Roof Replacement Project: The bids have been advertised and the bid packages are available for this project. Bids will be accepted until July 20th and will be opened that night at the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Highway Department: The new Dump Truck #3 has been delivered and has been put into service Truck #2 has had some engine issues and has been repaired but the repairs were extensive and costly as well as unplanned.

Town Buildings and Facilities: David Shorey with the help of our Highway Department has installed gravel pads under the bleachers at the baseball field. In addition, Dave, with the

Highway Department's assistance, built the pad next to the Town Hall which will be the foundation of the new storage shed. After discovering that there were at least three dozen burnt out bulbs in the baseball scoreboard, Dave researched with the manufacturer what the correct bulb replacement would be and discovered that the manufacturer also offered an upgrade to the scoreboard which would provide a new face and lettering as well as a conversion to LED light bulbs and a new scoreboard controller for \$1,600. This may be a worthwhile option to investigate further since a good number of the incandescent bulbs need to be replaced (and LEDs consume less electricity) and the original lettering has started to peel off the scoreboard. The BOS commented that the little league has recently been making use of the ball field for night games, and they are delighted to see the field being used.

Meetings: Ed will meet with Todd Corcoran from MBI on June 17th to develop the Town's readiness assessment to move forward with a broadband project within the Town. Ed will also attend the Berkshire County Highway Association Meeting on 6/23.

Public Input

None

Any other Business to come before the Board

Jeanne advised that she is still working on drafting a letter to the Attorney General.

Jeanne asked if the Town Clerk has submitted the Bylaw changes to the Attorney General. Ed will check with the Town Clerk.

Jeanne stated that next time Joseph McCarthy of Ipswich Pharmaceutical (Medical Marijuana Cultivation) is on the BOS agenda, she would like to ask that the Chief of Police be present for his input and comments.

Ed advised that he took care of guest parking passes for volunteer divers for weed control at the Center Pond.

In mid-July Ed expects to receive software to operate and produce town identification for employees and volunteers.

Bev has been in touch with a family member of a potential candidate for the Boston Post Cane who may be able to attend a ceremony during an afternoon. The BOS provided possible dates (6/29 & 6/30) for Bev to offer.

Board of Selectmen intends to go into Executive Session under MGL c. 30A, section 21 (a) (2) for discussion & possible vote on the following matters on the basis that an open meeting may have a detrimental impact of the public body on the litigating and bargaining positions of the Town Administrator's employment Contract, and approval and possible release of Executive Session Minutes dated 5/18/2016.

Jeanne stated that she was by herself. Nicole moved to go into Executive Session under MGL c. 30A, section 21 (a) (2) for discussion & possible vote on the following matters on the basis that an open meeting may have a detrimental impact of the public body on the litigating and bargaining positions of the Town Administrator's employment Contract, and approval and possible release of Executive Session Minutes dated 5/18/2016. Jeanne seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux –

aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried. At 8:37 p.m., the Board went into Executive Session.

Return from Executive Session

At 9:17 p.m. the Board returned from Executive Session. Bill moved to approve the language changes to the Town Administrator’s contract as approved in the Executive Session Meeting of May 18, 2016, and the BOS will sign the contract at a working meeting next week. Jeanne seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn

Jeanne moved to adjourn. Nicole seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried. At 9:20 p.m. Bill adjourned the meeting.

Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary



William Elovirta, Chairperson

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- Town Administrator’s Report
- List of Appointments for 061516 meeting
- All Departments Expenditure Report dated 06/09/2016
- Police Department May 2016 Report
- Volunteer Fire Department April and May 2016 Reports
- Tax Collector Letter dated 05/25/16 recommendation for Deputy Tax Coll. Appointment
- Tax Collector Letter dated 05/25/16 recommendation for Asst. Tax Coll. Appointment
- Animal Control Officer May 2016 Report
- Unsigned Non-disclosure Agreement between Town of Becket and Syncarpha Solar, LLC
- Becket Scholarship Foundation Insert for Tax Bill
- Email – cost of Becket Scholarship Foundation Insert for Tax Bill
- Chief of Police Memo dated 06/06/16 Recommendation of Chad Heath
- Chief of Police Memo dated 06/06/16 Recommendation of Michael Hunt
- Porchlight VNA Agreement for FY17
- Planning Board Notification and copy of new materials submitted to PB by Heather Anello for Application for a Special Permit for property located at 3235 Main St. Becket