

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
July 6, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall
557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees:

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

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

Others: Colleen O'Connor

Call to Order

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. 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 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.

Board to review minutes of previous meeting(s)

Jeanne moved to approve the 5/4/2016 meeting minutes. Bill seconded. Motion carried with Nicole abstaining because she was not a member of the BOS at that time.

Jeanne moved to approve the 6/15/2016 meeting minutes with noted corrections (denoted in bold below). Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Page 1 **Bill Jeanne** asked if anyone was recording the meeting.

Page 2. 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.**

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

Bill moved to reappoint Jeffrey Wilkinson to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term ending 6/30/2019. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved to reappoint Mark Karlberg to the Bylaw Review Committee with a term ending 6/30/2019. Nicole seconded. Motion carried with Jeanne recusing herself since she is on the Board.

Bill moved to reappoint Mark White Representative to the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District with a term ending 6/30/2017 on the condition that he completes his Reappointment Application form. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Records Law

Jeanne had requested that this item be placed on the agenda because she wanted to bring to the BOS's attention the update to the Public Records Laws signed by the Governor on 6/3/2016 (new rules effective 1/1/2017). Since the Town Clerk is a likely candidate for the Records Access Officer, the BOS will invite Town Clerk George Roberts to attend the next working meeting (not scheduled at this time) which will include a discussion on Town Public Records Law Procedures.

Planning Board's Request to review and comment on Application for a Special Permit submitted by Michael and Susan Pease for Property located on 11 Big Bass Lane (Map 413, Lot 53.1)

To allow for research on frontage and shared driveways, the BOS may consider if it wishes to comment on this application at the 8/3/2016 meeting.

Monthly Reports: Highway Department and others tba

The BOS reviewed the June 2016 reports of the Highway Department, Animal Control Officer, and Building Inspector.

Board to consider and vote interim wage increase for Equipment Operator who has completed 90 day probationary period

Ed advised that Highway Department Mechanic Donald Murray successfully completed his probationary period and is eligible to receive a pay adjustment per his hiring agreement. Bill moved to approve an increase in Donald Murray's rate of pay to \$21.20 per hour in accordance with his hiring agreement effective June 26, 2016. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Board to consider and vote FY 2017 wage and salaries and stipends

Jeanne moved to accept the fiscal year 2017 wage schedule as approved at the 2016 Annual Town Meeting. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Reserve Transfers Informational Only

Ed provided the status on the Reserve Fund including the below listed recommendations for transfers he will present to the Finance Committee tomorrow night:

- North Becket Cemetery: 2,900
- Becket Center Cemetery: \$650
- Town Counsel Expenses: \$4,000
- Advertising: \$300.00
- Building Department Salaries: \$410

Board to consider and vote on Department Transfers for end of year

Ed discussed and fielded questions on his recommendations for end of year Department Transfers.

Jeanne moved to approve a transfer in the amount of \$300 from the Planning Board Expense account to the ZBA Expense account. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeanne moved to approve a transfer in the amount of \$700 from the Municipal Building Utilities account to the Street Lighting account. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeanne moved to approve a transfer in the amount of \$5,000 from the Voc. Transportation Expense account to the Town Counsel Expense account. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeanne moved to approve a transfer in the amount of \$5,000 from the Highway Fuel account to the Highway Machinery account. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeanne moved to approve a transfer in the amount of \$1,000 from the Highway Garage account to the Transfer Station Expense account. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeanne moved to approve a transfer in the amount of \$0.60 from the Interest on Short Term Debt account to the Dump Truck Tractor Note account. Nicole seconded. Motion carried.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

Nicole inquired about the impact of state budget cuts on the town. Ed advised that the types of budget cuts proposed so far would not have a direct influence on municipalities.

Bill will follow up with the Town Clerk to see if he provided the Animal Control Officer with a listing of unlicensed dogs, and the complaint re: an unleashed dog on Surriner Road.

Bill reported that in response to a request that the Town discontinue Mitchell Road to prevent vehicles from using it to drive to the Quarry; he had suggested that the residents of Mitchell Road petition the BOS to add a Town Meeting Warrant Article to ask the town to declare Mitchell Road discontinued. Town Meeting approval is the required avenue to discontinue roads.

Bill received a complaint about teenagers loitering in the middle of Quarry Road on the 4th of July. On July 20th the BOS will place discussion and possible vote to amend the Town Betterment Bylaws in order to place no-parking signs on both sides of Quarry Road from the Gould Road intersection to the section adjacent to the Labelle's home.

Jeanne will ask State Representative Smitty Pignatelli if towns may initiate amendments to the legislation of its road and lake districts.

Town Administrator's Report

MBI Broadband: The current status of the Broadband signups for Becket as of July 1st is we are 89 percent of the way to our signup goal with 77 more locations to go to reach our goal of a required 40 percent take rate. We have met with Bill Ennen and Todd Corcoran from MBI. We are in the middle of the process of completing our Readiness Assessment. While some information is readily available some other information has been difficult to obtain or decipher, such as the average length of driveways in Becket or coming to a reasonable assumption of the

average drop cost to a customer in Becket due to the length of driveways and Private ways. Jeremy Dunn and Dan Parnell are working diligently on this and Ed is helping them put together a financial model that we can use to predict the cost to the Town's broadband customers and prove sustainability to the Financial Model to MBI. Discussion ensued at which Jeanne advised that during the July 12th meeting she will suggest creating an update for the town's website.

Jeanne moved to approve the Town Administrator's recommendation to reappoint Brian Middleton Assistant Plumbing and Gas Inspector for a term ending 06/30/2017. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Hall ADA Improvement Project: The bids will be advertised and bid packages will be available starting July 19th. Bids will be accepted until August 17th and will be opened that night at the Selectmen's meeting.

Crystal Pond Homeowners Association: Within the next few days, Joel Bard will provide two deeds as part of the settlement to us for the BOS members to sign in front of the Town Clerk.

Hilltown Brouhaha: The Brouhaha (aka Becket Washington Fair) will occur this Saturday, 7/9 in N. Becket Village from 9 a.m. till 11 pm. The fair will have vendors, children's activities, bike raffle, Smokey the Bear, Bowey the Magic clown, book sale, fairy houses, food, music and dancing. In the evening, there will be live music featuring Annie Guthrie and Dale and the Duds.

Meetings: Ed will attend the Broadband Ad Hoc Meeting on 7/12, and he and Nina have a teleconferencing meeting on 7/20 for the town's website re-design.

Public Input

Colleen O'Connor commented on her concerns relating to septic and water systems located in North Becket Village and other thickly settled parts of the town

- She was asked why she removed the ultraviolet ray filter on her water system. Colleen responded that ultraviolet ray filters treat non-specific coliform and are not designed to purify water contaminated from human waste.
- The Town should, without uncertainty (no "ifs"), embark on a public water supply for the North Becket Village.
- The BOS should create a water commissioner.
- The Board of Health should have regulations requiring that prior to selling real property the owner shall have obtained a certificate from the Board of Health stating that home has potable water.

The Selectmen discussed whether the Board of Health should have regulations requiring that prior to selling real property the owner shall have obtained a certificate from the Board of Health stating that the home has potable water. Bill suggested inviting the Board of Health and the Health Agent to a BOS meeting to discuss private well guidelines and possible regulations to consider adopting. Jeanne will forward a copy of the Dept. of Environmental Private Well guidelines to the BOS members.

Ms. O'Connor stated that although she was originally elated after Article 30 passed at the ATM, she did not anticipate the difficulty she has been encountering in finding affordable/suitable housing nor did she realize that she will have to pay the balance remaining on her mortgage.

Any other business to come before the Board

Jeanne was asked by a town resident if the town would consider assessing homes in Sherwood Forest to pay the United States Post Office \$3,000 for a cement pad as a requirement to receive new mailboxes to be located on Wells Road. Discussion ensued in which Ed advised that taxation of betterments or budget increases must be approved at Town Meetings. Unfortunately Sherwood Forest Homeowners' Association which would have been an appropriate arena for collecting funding for the mailbox pads has dissolved. Bill suggested that the residents consider approaching our United States Senators or Congressmen for assistance with the United States Post Office.

Review Correspondence

06/22/2016 Dept. of the Interior notification of \$280 payable to the Town of Becket under Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act

The BOS noted the above captioned correspondence.

Board of Selectmen intends to go into Executive Session under MGL c. 30A, section 21 (a) (6) for discussion & possible vote 1) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property at 21 Maple Street if the chair declares that an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. 2) to approve and possibly release Executive Session Minutes dated 06/15/2016.

Bill moved to enter into Executive Session under MGL c. 30A, section 21 (a) (6) for discussion & possible vote 1) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property at 21 Maple Street if the chair declares that an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. 2) to approve and possibly release Executive Session Minutes dated 06/15/2016 and the Board will not reconvene into Open Session. Jeanne seconded. Roll Call vote: Nicole Ledoux – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Bill Elovirta - aye. Motion carried. At 8:57 p.m., the Board went into Executive Session.

Board to adjourn Executive Session. Board will not return to Open Session.

Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary


William Elovirta, Chairperson

Documents discussed at this meeting:

Reappointment Applications (J. Wilkinson, M. White & M. Karlberg)

Town Administrator's Report

MMA Article on Public Records Law

All Departments Expenditure Report FY16 dated 6/30/2016

Departmental Reports - Highway Dept. (dated 6/3/2016), Building Inspector (June 2016) and

Animal Control Officer (June 2016)
Reserve Transfer Forms
Interdepartmental Transfer Forms
06/22/2016 Dept. of the Interior notification of \$280 payable to the Town of Becket under
Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act
Planning Board's Request to review attached Application for a
Special Permit submitted by Michael and Susan Pease for Property located on 11 Big Bass
Lane (Map 413, Lot 53.1)
FY 2017 wage and salaries and stipends Schedule
Letter from Highway Superintendent dated 06/24/2016 re: Donald Murray