

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
November 16, 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: Andrea Wadsworth, Madelaine Elovirta, Michelle Burke Birrell, Ron Birrell,
Steven Reiss, Barbara Craft-Reiss, Kelly D'Astous, Keith Hill, Robb Grace &
Julia Kay-Grace

Call to Order

Bill called the meeting to order at 7 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.

Berkshire County Educational Task Force

Ed introduced Andrea Wadsworth who serves along with him and twenty four other members on the Berkshire Educational Task Force which has been meeting every third Saturday and is conducting studies of school systems located in Berkshire County in order to generate recommendations (advisory capacity only) to Berkshire County municipalities regarding sustaining quality education in the face of shrinking population, rising costs, and limited funding. Andrea gave a power point presentation (available on the Task Force's website) and provided an overview and update of the Berkshire Educational Task Force's activities. Since its inception the task force has raised funds to have outside education researchers and consultants review information the task force collected including school district capital inventory and fiscal factors. UMass Donahue Institute (hired by the Task Force) completed the first phase of a two-phase study. According to page iv of the UCMass Donohue Institute's report:

“Phase One is intended to review and confirm available evidence that decreased enrollment, rising costs, and declining or flat revenues pose challenges to the quality of education in Berkshire County. In addition, it is intended to generate insight into the potential benefits and risks of inter-district shared service and school district consolidation strategies, as well as ways that the costs of these strategies have been modeled. Phase Two would model costs associated with shared services and consolidation. The ultimate goal of this work is to develop implementable recommendations for Berkshire County municipalities. Methods for the study included interviewing two groups of administrators representing all Berkshire

County school districts; numerous communications with Task Force members and personnel from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; and review and analysis of relevant literature and datasets. A brief summary of findings for each of the study's research questions are presented next."

Andrea advised that the Governor's Office is sponsoring Phase Two of the Study. The website address for the task force is <http://www.berkshireeducation.org>. The website contains minutes, list of members, reports, and information about the task force's objectives and activities. Andrea stated that she encourages and invites everyone to attend the meetings, and to email ideas and concerns to the task force which is currently generating parameters for the Phase Two (Modeling) Study. Andrea fielded questions and comments. Barbara Craft-Reiss suggested that the idea of teaching while the students are on the bus (possibly including the use of technology) be explored. A discussion ensued about using the internet (virtual classes) to access curriculum (possibly AP classes) or to hold classes during snow days. Andrea suggested writing to the Governor to ask for help to solve the problem of limited broadband in our region which impacts education options. The BOS thanked Andrea for her presentation.

Discussion and possible vote on Street Acceptance Procedures

Bill indicated that because Town Counsel's comments on Street Acceptance Procedures were received today he prefers to table discussion until the next meeting. The BOS agreed this agenda item will be reviewed in more detail at a working meeting.

Jeanne noted that Town Counsel had advised that all abutters (not two thirds) of the street must sign a petition asking that the town accept a specific street as a town road. Ed stated that this is a practical matter relating to easements.

The BOS fielded questions from the attendees. It was clarified that the BOS is going to produce the procedure (certain steps in Mass. General Laws must be followed) to outline requirements that must be satisfied before the town may list a question on a town meeting warrant to ask if the town will accept a private street.

Update on 2017 Fire Rescue Mini-Pumper Bids

Bill Elovirta reported that because the town allocated \$225,000 for the 2017 Fire Rescue Mini-Pumper and the sole bid submitted was for \$257,097, the Fire Department Truck Committee, after reviewing the bid, recommended rejecting the bid and waiting until after the holidays to re-advertise bids and generate interest to yield additional manufacturer proposals. Jeanne moved to reject all bids (KME Fire Apparatus for \$257,097) for the 2017 Fire Rescue Mini-Pumper. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Hall ADA Alteration Construction Project Update

Ed provided an update on the Town Hall ADA Alteration Construction Project. Two pads have been installed. The Architect has approved the specifications for the ADA railings (which have been ordered) to be placed in the front of the building, and is reviewing options for a change order relating to the front doors (automatic door opener, and glass panes).

Selectmen to consider Highway Superintendent's recommendation to approve a Pay Increase for the Town Mechanic who has successfully completed his 4th 90-day Evaluation Period (effective 11/13/2016)

The BOS received a letter from the Highway Superintendent advising that the Town Mechanic qualifies for a raise in his pay on the basis that he had met all goals during his fourth 90-day evaluation period. Bill indicated that this is within the guidelines under which he had been hired. Bill moved to approve increasing the Town Mechanic's hourly rate of pay to \$20.92 effective 11/13/2016. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Review and possible comment on the Animal Control Officer's section of the Bylaw Review Committee's draft update to the Animal Control Bylaw.

The BOS will discuss the Bylaw Review Committee's draft (11/16/2016) update to the Animal Control Bylaw at a working meeting. Jeanne indicated that our bylaw predates changes to state statute and it must be brought up to date. The Bylaw Review Committee is seeking comment from the BOS.

BOS to sign paperwork to authorize the new Playscape for the Town Park

Maddy Elovirta of the Parks and Recreation Committee described the proposed new Playscape for the Town Park. She noted that the vendor's Territory Manager went out of his way to be helpful and he provided a discount to keep the town within its budget (\$75,000 CPA funding). At the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Committee, Jeanne moved to sign the contract with Playpower LT Farmington Inc. for the new Playscape for the Town Park. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The Selectmen conveyed their appreciation to Maddy for her presence at tonight's meeting and to all the Parks & Recreation Committee members for their involvement with this project.

Monthly Reports: TBA

There were no monthly reports at tonight's meeting.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

There were none at tonight's meeting

Town Administrator's Report

The YMCA is hosting a Becket Emergency Services Appreciation Dinner on December 14th.

Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert Replacement: Discussion ensued re: notifying the public about the upcoming closing of the lower portion of Bonny Rigg Hill Road (and detour route) for the replacement of the Walker Brook culvert road crossing mandated by the US Army Corps of Engineers (Effective Monday, November 21st through December 24th). Ed provided a copy of the notification of which the town will post on its website (and send an e-mail blast), publish a legal ad in the Berkshire Eagle, and submit the notice to the Country Journal as a Becket news item. The President of Indian Lakes Association will e-mail the notification to its homeowners. The BOS agreed with Ed's suggestion to mail notices to property owners located on Bonny Rigg Hill Road up to Algeria Road and the adjacent streets. Ed provided a copy of the map outlining the road closure and detour path. The Police, Fire and Ambulance Departments, and school bus companies have been notified. The Highway Superintendent will contact the Quarry (Williams Stone Company). Jeanne will notify some residents on Johnson Road.

Fire Station #1: Allegrone has completed the masonry repairs to the foundation, block and chimneys. Ed will schedule other improvements to the Fire House including, painting, replacing windows and several doors. Bill noted that the Highway Department repaired a portion of the blacktop to improve water drainage.

CAMA Assessor Software Replacement: Because Regional Resource Group provided a positive recommendation concerning the conversion of CAMA Assessor's Software program to Tyler iasWorld, Ed has submitted the town's intentions to convert our software program along with the CSC Consortium. The minimum number of forty community participation requirement has been reached so the conversion will occur.

MIIA Property & Casualty/Workers Comp. Due to the town's good rating, MIIA has offered a rate change of 0% for FY 2018 and no more than a 2.5% increase for FY2019 for our Property & Liability and Workers' Compensation insurance, if we commit by 11/22/2016. This offer does not apply to increases in overall building values, changes in the number of vehicles or expenditures, or increases in payroll or modification factors. The BOS agreed with Ed's recommendation to take advantage of this offer.

DEP Recycling Grant: Ed announced that the Town of Becket has received a DEP Sustainable materials Recovery Program grant in the amount of \$5,500 for a roll off container for the collection and recycling of bulky rigid plastic items (such as 5 gallon paint pails). Ed will arrange to provide a listing of items that belong in the bulky rigid plastic item category.

Police Department: Sergeant Marc Portieri has accepted the Police Chief position in West Stockbridge and will be leaving the Becket Police Department in December 2016. Chief McDonough would like permission to recruit internally to hire a full-time Police Officer (not a sergeant) to fill the vacancy and if there is any interest, he would recruit a part-time Officer to backfill that position.

Clerk of Committees: Heather Hunt submitted her resignation from the Clerk of Committees and Highway Administrative Clerk's position effective November 25th. Ed will recruit a part-time Clerk of Committees.

Highway Department Truck #3 Surplus – The on-line auction for the Truck #3 2005 International 4 X 4 Dump will close on November 17. Ed placed a \$21,000 Reserve on the vehicle so that it will not sell below that price.

Meetings: Ed and the BOS will attend the Seven Town Advisory Committee meeting for the CBRSD on 11/17/2016 at Wahconah High School.

Public Input

None

Any other business to come before the Board

Bill made a motion that Town Hall be closed on Friday, 11/25/2016 (day after Thanksgiving). Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The BOS scheduled a working meeting at 2 p.m. on 11/22/2016 to look at the draft Street Acceptance Procedures and Animal Control Officer Section of the Animal Control Bylaw.

Jeanne will email information to Bev to print and mail to a resident who was not able to attend the Energy Meeting.

Bill brought up the Becket Historical Commission's request for the BOS to establish a Demolition Notification Policy. Before scheduling on a BOS agenda, Ed recommended that he research and meet with the Building Inspector. Jeanne made a motion to place on a future meeting's agenda the discussion of the Historical Commission's request for the BOS to establish a Demolition Notification Policy. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeanne reminded the BOS that upcoming changes in the new Public Records Laws will go into effect on 1/1/2017 and the BOS will need to assign a Records Access Officer(s). A discussion ensued. The BOS will discuss this matter at a meeting in December 2016.

The Planning Board sent the BOS a copy of Planning Board's letter dated 11/10/2016 to Joseph McCarthy of Ipswich Pharmaceuticals Associates re: property located at 2299 Main Street Becket stating that the Planning Board unanimously recommends that the BOS accept a host agreement between the Town of Becket and IPA. The BOS will hold a Public Hearing on Ipswich Pharmaceutical's request that the Board of Selectmen issue a letter of support or non-opposition in order for Ipswich Pharmaceutical Associates to consider applying to the Town to operate a Registered Marijuana Dispensary (**Cultivation Only**) on 2299 Main Street (Assessors' Map 208, Lot 13) per 105 CMR 725.100

Bev provided an update on the annual liquor license renewals.

The BOS signed the appointment slip for James Levy who will serve as the Planning Board Associate member. The Planning Board also approved this appointment.

Due to geographic location, Jeanne will participate remotely in BOS meetings scheduled from December 26th through March 9th.

Review Correspondence:

- **Eversource email dated 10/13/2016 with attached letter re: Right of Way Vegetation Management**
- **Mass. Executive Office of Public Safety & Security letter dated 11/2/2016 advising Town's CSTF Grant Application was not selected for funding.**
- **Becket Historical Commission letter dated 11/1/2016 to request that the BOS establish a Demolition Notification Policy**

Board of Selectmen intends to go into Executive Session under MGL c. 30A: section 21 (a) (6) for discussion & possible vote 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, and Approval of Executive Session Minutes: 11/2/2016

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

Bill moved for the Board of Selectmen to go into Executive Session under MGL c. 30A:

section 21 (a) (6) for discussion & possible vote to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property at 21 Maple Street as the chair declares that an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body, and for the Approval of Executive Session Minutes for 11/2/2016. He further proposed that the Board will not return to Open Session. Jeanne seconded. Roll call vote: Jeanne – aye, Nicole – aye, and Bill aye. At 8:57 p.m., the Board went into Executive Session.

Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary



William Elovirta, *Chairperson*

Documents discussed at this meeting:

Town Administrator's Report

Lower Bonny Rigg Hill Road Closure Notification and Map

Berkshire County Educational Task Force power point presentation and Phase One Reports (shorter version 27 pages and longer version 77 pages document)

Draft Street Acceptance Procedures with Town Counsel's comments

Letter from Highway Superintendent to recommend pay increase for Town Mechanic

Draft Animal Control Officer's section of the Bylaw Review's draft update to the Animal Control Bylaw

Purchase Agreement between Town and Playpower LT Farmington Inc.

Correspondence (above)

Letter from Planning Board dated 11/10/2016 to Joseph McCarthy