

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Working Meeting
November 22, 2016
2:00 p.m.
Town Hall, Becket Room
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, Town Secretary

Call to Order

Bill called the meeting to order at 2 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. The Board of Selectmen was recording the meeting.

Approval of Selectmen's Meeting minutes from 11/2/2016 and 11/3/2016

Jeanne moved to approve the 11/2/2016 working (joint BOS/BOH meeting and the 11/2/2016 Regular meeting. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Jeanne moved to approve the 11/3/2016 regular meeting. Bill seconded. Motion carried with Nicole abstaining because she did not attend that meeting.

Discussion and possible vote on Street Acceptance Procedures

The Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator discussed Town Counsel's comments and suggested revisions to the draft Street Acceptance Procedures. Ed will forward the below questions and remarks to Town Counsel:

- Page 1, Paragraph 2: Should the word, "County" be included? When the County Government dissolved, all county roads should have been turned over to the town.
- Page 3, Paragraph 3: Jeanne moved to incorporate Town Counsel's language noted in his comment A2 to provide greater notice and clarity to applicant of potential engineering, legal and other related costs. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Page 3 Paragraph 3: Did Town Counsel intend to remove the word "street?"
- Page 3, Paragraph 6. Please include language to incorporate Town Counsel's suggestions noted in his comment A4 re: notifying abutters
- Please provide forms: 1) Grant of easements 2) subordination of mortgages and 3) waiver of appraisal.

- Page 5, Section 13d: Please advise on the best way to incorporate wording indicating, as stated in Town Counsel's comment A8, that although recording an accepted street layout in the Registry of Deeds is not a statutory requirement, if there has been an acquisition of land or easement in connection with the street layout, recording is required.
- Please review a petition form Jeanne had provided.
- Page 1, Comment A1: The Attorney requested clarification re: the intention of the last sentence in the second paragraph ("The Board of Selectmen shall not approve any road layout of a private road unless the same intersects or connects with a pre-existing town, county or state road in the Town of Becket.") The BOS will advise that the purpose is that Town Highway Department vehicles will not be required to traverse private roads because they may not be constructed in accordance with the standards as constructed on town and state roads.

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 Bylaw Review Committee had submitted a draft update of the Animal Control Officer's section of the Animal Control Bylaw with a request for BOS comment. Discussion included the warrant for unlicensed dogs. Ed will research the format for the warrant. It was noted that the Bylaw Review Committee will suggest changing the detainment period from 7 to 10 days (2nd paragraph of Section 11. Animal Control Officer). When the Bylaw Review Committee has completed its review, the following will be amongst the questions forwarded to Town Counsel:

Under Section 11. Animal Control Officer, 2nd paragraph: The Bylaw Review Committee is considering proposing a detainment period of 10 days (currently it is listed as 7 days). Under Mass. General Laws, are Municipalities allowed to increase the detainment period? Does the detainment timeframe include weekends and holidays?

The BOS indicated that it did not have comments to present to the Bylaw Review Committee.

Any other Business to come before the Board

Ed advised that the town received an e-mail from MIIA indicating that the town received loss control grants to purchase flammable storage cabinets (three total) for the two fire stations and the highway garage, and to acquire vehicle maintenance software.

Ed reported that the Surplus Highway Truck number 3 on-line auction did not meet the \$21,000 reserve. The high bid was for \$19,500. The Board then discussed offering assistance to the Town of Tolland which through fire lost its entire Highway Garage and the majority of its equipment. When Becket's Highway Superintendent reached out to the Town of Tolland, he learned that it would be especially helpful to this community if they could borrow the Surplus Truck number 3. Ed presented options relating the disposition of the Surplus Truck number 3: the BOS may elect to sell the truck for \$19,500 to the highest bidder, re-advertise the bid, offer to sell it to the Town of Tolland, or loan it to the Town of Tolland. Bill moved to help the Town of Tolland in its time of need by loaning the Becket Highway Department's Surplus Truck

number 3 for as long as needed with the stipulation that the Town of Tolland performs minor repairs and general maintenance. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The Town of Becket will reinstate the vehicle's insurance and registration.

Jeanne moved to reject the on-line auction high bid of \$19,500 that did not meet the reserve on the Highway Surplus Truck number 3. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill discussed the Fire Department's ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating which had improved slightly now that the Commonwealth has published its updated state building codes. The Fire Department is working on completing documentation to further improve its ISO rating. This will include documentation that the fire hydrants are working, as well as a copy of the town's emergency plan.

Bill initiated discussion about the possibility of requesting that the state construct a Mass. 90 Turnpike exit in the Becket area which would be less costly now that the state removed the toll plazas and switched to an electronic ticketless tolling system. Presently those in Becket must travel to Lee or Westfield to enter or exit Mass. 90. Bill made a motion that the BOS explore the possibility with legislators of obtaining a cars only turnpike exit in the Becket area. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The BOS will contact State Representative Smitty Pignatelli.

Selectmen to Adjourn Meeting

Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeanne seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The Board of Selectmen's Meeting was adjourned at 2:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Recording Secretary


William Elovirta, Chairperson

Documents Discussed:

Draft Street Acceptance Procedures

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