

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
January 4, 2017
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall
557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees:

Board of Selectmen: William Elovirta, *Chairperson*; Jeanne Pryor, *Vice Chairperson* (Remote Participation), and Nicole Ledoux, *Clerk*

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

Others: Melissa Spagnuolo-Avalle & Frank Avalle, Jr.

Call to Order

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:01 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.

Bill announced that Jeanne Pryor will participate remotely due to geographic location, and all votes will require a roll-call.

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 minutes for the 12/07/2016 meeting. Nicole seconded. Roll call: Bill Elovirta – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Nicole Ledoux – aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Common Victualler's License Application – The Olde Village Market

Jeanne moved to issue a Common Victualler's License with an expiration date of 6/1/2017 to The Olde Village Market, located at 30 Washington Street. Nicole seconded. Roll call: Bill Elovirta – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Nicole Ledoux – aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion and possible vote on Street Acceptance Policy

The BOS will discuss this agenda item on 12/18/2017. Ed has been in contact with Town Counsel who will send his response to the BOS's comments by the end of this week.

BOS to consider approving the contract between the Town and the Dept. of Environmental Protection for the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program and to authorize the Town Administrator as the signatory for documents related to this program.

Nicole made a motion to approve the contract between the Town and the Dept. of Environmental Protection for the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program and to authorize the Town Administrator as the signatory for documents related to this program. Bill seconded. Roll call: Bill Elovirta – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Nicole Ledoux – aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Monthly or Quarterly Reports: TBA

The BOS reviewed the December 2016 reports submitted by the Animal Control Officer and the Ambulance Department.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

Per Jeanne's inquiry, Ed provided the status of the Animal Control Officer's Warrant. Ed is condensing information from the Town Clerk to create a listing of potentially delinquent owners that have not re-registered their dogs with the town to provide with the Warrant to the Animal Control Officer.

Jeanne asked if Colleen O'Connor, who moved out of town, submitted her resignation from the Planning Board to the Town Clerk. Because she has not submitted her resignation, Bev will reach out to her via email to request that she provide her notice to the Town Clerk.

Bill initiated a discussion about vacancies on committees/boards. The BOS will post openings on the town's website and Country Journal for the Conservation Commission, Town Parks & Recreation Committee, and Board of Assessors.

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

A discussion ensued about the stipend for the Board of Selectmen. Bill recommended that each year the BOS increase the BOS stipend by the same COLA as received by other town employees. He thinks this approach is preferable to waiting several years and then having a sizable increase. Jeanne expressed her disagreement to this approach. Bill made a motion that the BOS stipend increase by COLA annually. Nicole seconded. Roll call: Bill Elovirta – aye, Jeanne Pryor – no and Nicole Ledoux – aye. Motion carried 2-1.

Ed indicated that the Ambulance Department will recommend a 4th full-time employee to solve shift assignment issues.

Ed advised that the Conservation Commission will recommend an increase in the Conservation Commission's agent's hours to 19 ½ per week.

Town Administrator's Report

Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert Replacement: January 31st is the anticipated completion date.

Town Hall Construction Projects Update: Drainage site work for the roof will be completed in the spring when the weather is conducive for hot asphalt. The handrails for the front of the building arrived today but were returned because the anchoring point requires alteration.

Special Legislation Borrowing Exclusion Vote: Our special legislation request from the Governor's Office has been approved by both the House and Senate and now awaits the Governor's signature.

Town Beach Shed: Someone self-reported backing their vehicle into the shed at the Town Beach. Dave Shorey has assessed that the damage is minimal, secured the shed for the winter, and he will repair the shed in the spring.

Ed will request a reserve transfer in the amount of \$2,020 for the Police Dept. as part of funding transfer to hire a full-time Police Officer and a part-time reserve officer as a replacement. Ed will request the remainder of the funds at a later date or through a departmental budget transfer in May. Ed provided a copy of the letter from Chief McDonough along with his breakdown of the requested funds.

Meetings: Ed will attend a Finance Committee meeting on 1/5, and a Broadband Ad Hoc Group meeting, and a meeting with Tyler IAS (new assessing group) both to occur on 1/10.

Public Input

None

Any other business to come before the Board

The Highway Superintendent sent Ed a letter specifying that the Town's Equipment Operator has successfully completed his third 90 day evaluation period. Bill made a motion to increase the hourly rate of pay for Donald Murray, the Town's Equipment Operator, to \$12.12 per hour (25 cents per hour increase) effective 12/31/2016 in accordance with his hiring agreement. Nicole seconded. Roll call: Bill Elovirta – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Nicole Ledoux – aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Ed discussed financing options prepared by UniBank Fiscal Advisory Services, Inc. to purchase the Highway Dept. Loader. Bill made a motion to select a three-year fixed-rate permanent State House Loan Note to finance the Highway Dept. loader. Jeanne seconded. Roll call: Bill Elovirta – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Nicole Ledoux – aye. Motion carried 3-0

Review Correspondence:

- **12/21/2016, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation transmittal letter: \$4,000 grant for Becket Volunteer Firemen's Association's Portable Stage**
- **12/27/2016, Chandler Seagraves re: Thank you for efforts relating to History Book**
- **1/4/2017, email from Alvin Blake/Becket Energy Committee request for BOS to send a letter to Members of the Mass. Legislature re: Utility Pipeline – The BOS will review the correspondence and place on the 12/18/2016 agenda.**

Selectmen to Adjourn Meeting.

Nicole moved to adjourn. Bill seconded. Roll call: Bill Elovirta – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Nicole Ledoux – aye. Motion carried 3-0. At 7:46 p.m., Bill adjourned the meeting.

Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary


William Elovirta, Chairperson

Documents discussed at this meeting:

Debt schedule options spreadsheet 01/04/2017

Financing options (for loader) Prepared by UniBank 01/04/2017

Highway Superintendent letter dated 12/31/2016 re: Donald Murray - equipment operator pay rate
BOS minutes 120716.PDF

Berkshire Taconic Foundation letter date 12/21/2016 re: \$4,000 grant to Fire Association's
portable stage

12/27/2016, Chandler Seagraves letter dated 12/27/2016 re: Thank you for efforts
relating to History Book

Email dated 1/4/2017 from Alvin Blake/Becket Energy Committee request for BOS to send a
letter to Members of the Mass. Legislature re: Utility Pipeline

DEP Contract for Sustainable Materials Recovery Program

Common Victualler's application - The Olde Village Market

Ambulance Report for December 2016

Report of the ACO for December 2016

Town Administrator's Report 01042017

Memo from Chief of Police dated 1/4/2017 re: Transfer of funds into Police Expense Account