

**Town of Becket  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
February 8, 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*  
Kristopher McDonough, *Police Chief*

Others: Karen Karlberg, Mark Karlberg, Craig Jones

**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.

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)**

Bill moved to approve the meeting minutes for 1/18/2017. Nicole seconded. Roll call: Bill Elovirta – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Nicole Ledoux – aye. Motion carried 3-0.

**Police Chief McDonough:**

- **Recommendation to appoint Craig Jones as Probationary Part-time Reserve Police Officer effective 2/8/2017**

- **Review of MHQ Quote for new Police Cruiser**

- **Greater Boston Police Council membership**

Chief McDonough spoke in support of appointing Craig Jones as a Probationary Part-time Reserve Police Officer. Chief McDonough mentioned that when Bill Elovirta was the Becket Police Chief, he had signed a letter recommending Craig Jones for the Police Academy. Craig Jones' familiarity with the town (he grew up and lived in Becket for 25 years) would be an asset to the Police Department. Craig has worked as a Reserve Officer for the Town of Hinsdale Police Department since 2013. Ed indicated that he recommends this appointment. Nicole made a motion to approve the Town Administrator's recommendation to appoint Craig Jones as a

Probationary Part-time Reserve Police Officer effective 2/8/2017 (through 6/30/2017). Jeanne seconded. Roll call: Bill Elovirta – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Nicole Ledoux – aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Ed advised that in July 2016, the town entered into an agreement to purchase the new Police Cruiser from MHQ but because the cruiser erroneously came in black, the town advised it would wait until the blue colored cruiser was available. Ed advised that the Board of Selectmen had approved this purchase under the old procurement laws which had changed November 7, 2016. Ed indicated that the cruiser is almost ready to be picked-up. He specified that the terms for the purchase will remain the same and suggested that the Board of Selectmen authorize him to sign the paperwork. Bill moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the Town Administrator's recommendation for the purchase of the Police Cruiser in the amount of \$34,111 from MHQ of Marlborough, MA. Nicole seconded. Roll call: Bill Elovirta – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Nicole Ledoux – aye. Motion carried 3-0.

It was noted that the town purchased the cruiser through its Greater Boston Police Council membership.

#### **Discussion and possible vote on Street Acceptance Policy**

Jeanne noted that the draft document Town Counsel returned had a petition for roadway acceptance (which requires resident signatures) but no longer had a layout of the road form (which had required 2/3 of all property owner road abutter signatures). Ed will clarify the roadway acceptance form and the layout of the road form with Town Counsel. The Board agreed to table this agenda for a March meeting.

Karen and Mark Karlberg commented that the draft Street Acceptance Policy has requirements that would cause a hardship on those with limited financial resources. Karen has been searching for grants to repair their road. They expressed concern about the poor condition of their road and requested help from the BOS. Karen stated that there are wetlands that may be impacted by further deterioration to her road. Jeanne stated that she will look further into incorporating waivers into this document. Ed stated that he will research USDA programs that may offer assistance for road repair. The BOS thanked the Karlbergs for their comments.

#### **Retiring: Joseph Mechare from the Ambulance Dept. (last day of work 3/31/2017)**

Joseph Mechare had submitted a letter to notify the Board of Selectmen that he is retiring from the Ambulance Department and his last day of work will be on 3/31/2017. The BOS will send him a letter of appreciation.

#### **J.H. Maxymillian, Inc. Change Orders**

The Board of Selectmen signed two change orders relating to the Bonny Rigg Hill Culvert Project:

- 1) Increase in the thickness of the streambed materials from 12" to 24" which the Army Corps of Engineer required in their changes - \$7,350
- 2) Add sheet piling to hold back groundwater. Original estimate for this change order was for \$77,000. However, after changing the methodology because they did not have to go down with the sheet piling as deep, the amount of this change order became \$58,600. There was a

need to add sheet pile to this project due to the higher level of water than originally anticipated

The contractor had a few concerns: He would like to remove 3 trees in the far left bank which would help with greater protection by making it easier to place the Rip Rapp. Ed thinks the Conservation order said they can remove anything up to 12 inches and he will check. In order to prevent ruts from forming on top of the bridge area during mud season which would make it difficult to complete the job (paving scheduled in the spring), the contractor will add millings and additional gravel beyond what was called for in the specifications.

**Central Berkshire Regional School District notification (with Election Warrant, Return of Service) of School Committee's vote to conduct a ballot vote on 4/8/2017 to authorize debt to pay for the Wahconah Regional High School Building Feasibility Study**

Ed indicated that the BOS received the above captioned notification. The Town Clerk had asked Ed why this may not be part of the Annual Town Election. Ed advised that by state statute, all towns within the school district must hold this particular vote on the same day.

**Appointment Application: Ann Krawet for Parks & Recreation Committee**

The BOS acknowledged receipt of Ann Krawet's appointment application for the Parks & Recreation Committee. It was noted that Ann Krawet serves the town on the Bylaw Review Committee and Planning Board. Bill specified that it is his understanding that not only do Parks & Recreation Committee members attend meetings, but they donate their time on outdoor projects involving physical labor. Because of the time commitment expected for this appointment, the BOS agreed to table this appointment for a future meeting.

**BOS to vote on the estimated temporary increased (summertime) resident population as of 07/10/2017 to submit to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission**

Jeanne moved to set the town's seasonal population as of July 10, 2017 at 9,000 for the purposes of the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. Nicole seconded. Roll call: Bill Elovirta – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Nicole Ledoux – aye. Motion carried 3-0.

**Zoning Board of Appeals' notification and request for comments concerning Two State Young Men's Christian Association, Inc.'s Application for a Site Plan Approval for a new dining hall at Camp Becket**

The Board will communicate to the ZBA that it has no concerns about the Application for a Site Plan Approval for a new dining hall at Camp Becket.

**Discussion on Energy Committee's request to consider joining the 100% renewable energy campaign**

The BOS agreed that although a wonderful goal, in reality, although the town can most certainly take measures over time to reduce its carbon footprint, it is neither realistic nor affordable for the town to run on 100% renewable energy. For example, at this point, the town requires the use of fossil fuels for its public safety fleet and equipment.

**Monthly or Quarterly Reports: Ambulance and others tba**

The BOS reviewed the Ambulance Department's January 2017 report.

### **Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements**

Bill reported that Ed and he attended a Town of Washington Board of Selectmen's meeting to discuss the Town of Washington's contribution to the Town of Becket for Fire Department & Ambulance Services, and use of the Public Beach. The Washington Board of Selectmen indicated its willingness to develop a plan for paying additional compensation to the Town of Becket for its services. It was agreed that Ed will provide information about usage to a member of the Washington's Finance Committee. Ed and Bill will suggest a dollar amount. Bill had brought up that he recommends that an agreement will include an annual percentage increase, and a reevaluation every 5 years.

Jeanne followed up on her recommendation at the 12/21/2016 meeting to have the Energy Committee review SunWatt Energy LLC's proposal to lease or purchase Town-owned land to develop a 5 MW Solar Installation at the Jacob's well proposal, and she would like the Energy Committee to look into the interest of Nexamp to provide a community solar choice for Becket residents. Ed advised that the BEC has looked at Nexamp's proposal and that they are aware of SunWatt's proposal but before they become too involved, he would like to complete the analysis of the wetlands (the Conservation Commission Agent is working on this) as part of determining if it is prudent for the town to consider selling or leasing the property (and then if the BOS agrees that it is in the best interest of the town to use this property for the proposed solar activities, he may create an RFP). The Conservation Commission Agent had given Ed a map showing wetland locations of the Jacob's Well Property and Ed will conduct a site visit.

Jeanne suggested that in the springtime, the Selectmen schedule an outdoor walking meeting to confirm the town's boundary markers. Ed suggested bringing a GPS to record the marker locations. Jeanne will ask the Town Clerk if he has records of the town's boundary markers. She will also inquire with Nina Weiler.

Nicole reported that at the last Hampshire County Selectmen's Association meeting, she asked about the possibility of including Berkshire County Towns in its membership. She was told that only a few Berkshire County towns attend their meetings, and Nicole received the impression that they would want Berkshire County to create its own association. Bill indicated that he was surprised to learn at the MMA meeting from an Egremont Selectman that the Berkshire County Selectmen's Association is active (a meeting occurred in October or November 2016), and she promised that the Town of Becket will be notified the next time a meeting is scheduled.

### **Financial Changes relating to the Municipal Modernization Act**

Ed had highlighted and discussed several section of town counsel's update called, "Municipal Modernization Act – A Practical Guide." The Municipal Modernization Act includes numerous reforms to state laws related to municipal finance, human resources practices, administration, and procurement. Ed described and discussed several areas of the reform that the BOS may wish to consider recommending to the town: License denials (based on tax delinquency timeframe), Bills or Warrant for payment (designating one member of the board to authorize payments), snow and ice deficit (allows for the Chief Executive Officer to approve), Year-end transfers (removes some of the restrictions), revolving funds (would remove the need to establish these funds every single year).

### **BOS to consider approving the Snow and Ice Deficit for Fiscal Year 2017**

The Highway Superintendent sent Ed a notification dated 1/26/2017 advising that due to the number of winter events: drifting snow (5), snowstorms (24) and ice/freezing rain storms (19), the Highway Department has exceeded its winter road maintenance budget. Bill made a motion to approve a Snow and Ice Deficit for Fiscal Year 2017. Nicole seconded. Roll call: Bill Elovirta – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Nicole Ledoux – aye. Motion carried 3-0.

### **Fiscal Year 2018 Budget**

Ed provided an update on the FY18 budget. He is reviewing the departmental budgets submitted to him as well as revenue estimates and he continues working on estimates for capital expenditures. Ed discussed replacement of the ambulance which will now require an easy lift system that will add \$10,000 to the price.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

Ed reported on the Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert Replacement, CDBG Application Process, Becket Washington School, Becket Route 20 Spring, Broadband Update, Town Hall Projects Update, and Meetings.

Community Development Block Grant: Bill made a motion to designate Town Administrator Ed Gibson as the Environmental Certifying Officer for the FY 2017 Community Development Block Grant. Jeanne seconded. Roll call: Bill Elovirta – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Nicole Ledoux – aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Ed also reported that he had asked the Finance Committee to approve a reserve transfer of \$1,500 into the advertising account which is over budget due to an unforeseen increase in the number of public hearing notices and employee recruitment ads.

### **Public Input**

None

### **Any other business to come before the Board**

Jeanne asked Ed about the status of the Assessors' Office recruitment. Ed indicated that Liz Will has been working part-time in the Assessor's Office and Geri Walter has been working additional hours.

Bill indicated that a sub-group of the Fire Department has been meeting with the objective for the town to re-bid the Fire Rescue Pumper and it is anticipated that they will submit a bid package to the Chief Procurement Officer within the next month.

### **Review Correspondence: • 01/17/2017 - Central Berkshire Regional School District re: Seven Town Advisory Meeting scheduled on 2/16/2017 • Invitation to MMA's 2/24/2017 Spring Legislative Breakfast**

The Board reviewed the correspondence. Ed, Jeanne, and Nicole will attend MMA's Spring Legislative Breakfast.

**Selectmen to Adjourn Meeting.**

Jeanne moved to adjourn. Nicole seconded. Roll call: Bill Elovirta – aye, Jeanne Pryor – aye and Nicole Ledoux – aye. Motion carried 3-0. At 8:50 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

KP Law eUpdate

Change Orders for Bonny Rigg Hill Culvert Project

Letter from Highway Superintendent re: Snow and Ice Deficit

Ambulance Dept. January 2017 Report

Police Chief's letter to recommend the appointment of Craig Jones

Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission Population Estimate Statement

Ann Krawet Appointment Application re: Parks & Recreation Committee

Draft Street Acceptance Procedures

Police Chief – memo re: MHQ quote for review and approval

Information re: 100% Clean Local Energy

Zoning Board of Appeals' notification and request for comments concerning Two State

Young Men's Christian Association, Inc.'s Application

Correspondence as listed above