

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

Attendees:

Board of Selectmen: William ("Bill") Elovirta, *Chair*; Nicole Ledoux, *Vice-Chair*
Michael Lavery, *Clerk*

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

Others: Bob Gross, Dan Parnell, Julia Maynard, Jeanne Morano, Dean Lagrotteria,
Howard Lerner, Al Blake, Julia Kay-Grace

1. Call to order

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Bill led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Discuss and possible vote on Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen

Nicole moved to nominate Bill Elovirta as the Chair of the BOS. Michael seconded. There were no other nominations. Motion carried with Bill recusing himself. Bill made a motion to nominate Nicole Ledoux as the Vice Chairperson of the BOS. Michael seconded. There were no other nominations. Motion carried unanimously. Bill made a motion to nominate Michael Lavery as the Clerk of the BOS. Nicole seconded. There were no other nominations. Motion carried unanimously. Bill welcomed Michael Lavery to BOS.

4. Board to review minutes of previous meeting(s)

Nicole moved to approve the 5/17/2017 meeting minutes. Bill seconded. Motion carried with Michael abstaining because he was not a member of the BOS at that meeting.

5. BOS to vote to accept Funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Broadband Grant

Bill moved that the Board of Selectmen authorizes the acceptance of state funds from the "Last Mile Infrastructure Grant Program" on behalf of the Town of Becket. Michael Lavery seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Because it is a requirement of the grant program application, the Recording Secretary will submit a certified statement of the Board's vote to accept the funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Broadband Grant.

6. Broadband Update

Bob Gross from the Broadband Ad hoc Group provided a Broadband Update. The next steps:

- a. The town will send the certified statement of the Board's vote to accept the funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Broadband grant.
- b. The state will send the town a grant award letter.

- c. The town will enter into a contract with Westfield Gas and Electric.

The town may wait until the completion of the entire broadband fiber network before providing broadband service or the town may divide the town into neighborhoods (or distinct groups) that will receive service immediately after the completion of each neighborhood. The Broadband Committee recommends providing service as soon as each neighborhood is built rather than waiting for the entire town. The advantage of taking this approach is that the town would begin receive revenue sooner. Moreover, households with broadband would help to generate interest and would most likely influence an increase in signups. The disadvantage is that some may complain if their neighborhood is not amongst the first to be built. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group will analyze and provide recommendations to delineate neighborhoods and the sequence for which these neighborhoods may be built based on factors such as density, communities without DSL, number of miles, signups, and communities (neighborhood associations), and cuts in utility lines. The Broadband Ad Hoc group will provide their recommendations to the BOS, and they will discuss the logistics with Westfield Gas and Electric.

The pole survey and applications will cost approximately \$300,000. Ashfield and Plainfield are entering into agreements with Westfield Gas and Electric. Ed indicated that KP Law is Becket's Town Counsel. Plainfield too uses KP Law, and it is hoped that after Plainfield's agreement is developed, KP Law will have an agreement template that may be used for the Town of Becket.

Bob met with the Town of Otis which is very enthusiastic and laudatory about working with Westfield Gas and Electric. The Broadband Ad Hoc group has a meeting scheduled with Westfield Gas and Electric in July.

Michael inquired about the timeframe for borrowing the \$3.8 million dollars designated for the project. Ed indicated that the town will not borrow the entire amount at once. The town will use bond anticipation notes in smaller increments as needed.

Bill and Ed spoke in support of building and lighting-up neighborhood by neighborhood.

Nicole asked about sign-ups. Bob advised that there will be an active campaign to sign-up homes when the town moves forward.

7. Town Administrator's Appointment Recommendations: BOS to consider Voting Approval.

Ed read a list of his recommendations for reappointments to begin July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018:

- Kristopher G. McDonough, Police Chief
- Matthew Virginia, Sgt. - Police Dept.
- Michael Hunt, Full-time Police Officer
- Kenneth Pettibone, Probationary Full-Time Police Officer
- Nicole Miller, Part-time Reserve Police Officer
- Chad Heath, Part-time Reserve Police Officer
- Cameron Forest, Part-time Reserve Officer
- Craig Jones, Probationary Part-Time Reserve Police Officer
- Margaret McClellan, Town Accountant

Christopher Bouchard, Highway Superintendent/Pest Control/Tree Warden
Raymond Ferrin, Ambulance Director
Albert Goodermote, Animal Control Officer
Gary Danko, Assistant Building Inspector
Mark Levernoch, Plumbing/Gas Inspector
Brian Middleton, Assistant Plumbing/Gas Inspector
Dana Spring, Wiring Inspector
Jim LaPier, Assistant Wiring Inspector
Doug Mann, Veterans' Agent
William Mulholland, Veterans' Grave Officer

Michael Lavery made a motion for the BOS to approve the Town Administrator's appointment recommendations as read. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Richard Pryor's Notification of Resignation from the Conservation Commission effective 11/1/2017

Bill read Richard Pryor's letter advising that he is resigning from the Conservation Commission effective November 1, 2017. The BOS will send a letter of appreciation to Mr. Pryor.

9. BOS to arrange to send Compassionate Community Declaration to dignitaries, and post on the town website and in the town buildings.

The BOS will send the Compassionate Community Declaration (approved at the May 2017 Annual Town Meeting) to dignitaries and post it on the town website and in the town buildings.

10. Sherwood Forest Lake District Communication: 1) Special District Meeting Warrant, Annual District Meeting Warrant 3) SFLD Projected Operating Budget for FY2018 and 4) Proxy

Town Administrator indicated that each year the Sherwood Forest Lake District (SFLD) sends notification about its annual meetings to the town which owns property in SFLD. As in prior years, the BOS will not attend SFLD's 2017 annual meeting and they will not send the proxies to the SFLD.

11. BOS to consider voting to Extend the agreement between CET and the Town of Becket for the Collection of Hazardous Waste through the Multi-Town Collaborative

Bill made a motion to extend the agreement between CET and the Town of Becket for the Collection of Hazardous Waste through the Multi-Town Collaborative until June 30, 2018. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Monthly or Quarterly Reports: tba

There were no reports submitted.

13. Inter-departmental Transfers of Funds

The Town Administrator did not present any Inter-departmental Transfers of Funds.

14. Reserve Fund Transfers

Ed detailed reserve fund transfers he will recommend to the Finance Committee:

- \$2,500 into Advertising Expenses Account 01-118-5500
- \$7,000 into Board of Health Expenses Account 01-510-5500

Ed provided an All Departments Expenditure Report dated 6/1/2017 and discussed accounts which may need reserve fund transfers or inter-departmental transfers.

15. Approval for Energy Committee Information Session Tax Bill Insert

Ed indicated that the Energy Committee asked permission again this year to advertise the Energy Committee's Informational Session via a tax bill insert, and the Collector's Office requested permission to add an inset on behalf of the Becket Scholarship Foundation. Bill move to approve the tax bill inserts for the Energy Committee's Informational Session, and the Becket Scholarship Foundation. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

16. Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

Nicole heard that although rainy, the Memorial Day Parade went well.

Michael thanked all who have welcomed him as a new Selectman.

Bill provided information about Michael Sawyer's memorial service scheduled on June 10th.

Bill announced that now that the playscape (in the Town Park adjacent to the Town Hall) has been installed, the town will hydro-seed the playground. He noted that the Parks & Recreation Committee devoted a great deal of work for this project funded through a Community Preservation grant.

17. Town Administrator's Report

Ed discussed matters under other agenda items.

18. Public Input

Al Blake asked the BOS about the status of the Borrego Solar Project and if the town will negotiate a P.I.L.O.T. program in lieu of real estate taxes. Ed advised: this project has not yet come before the BOS, the ZBA approved the project at its public hearing, and the Planning Board will conduct a public hearing concerning the proposed 7-foot fence height. In addition, this project requires Conservation Commission review and approval. Ed indicated that the town's assessing vendor would assist with an analysis to help the town determine if it would want to consider a P.I.L.O.T. program.

Al Blake encouraged the BOS to attend Berkshire Regional Planning's Presentation on Large Scale Solar scheduled on June 29th. Nicole and Michael will attend (Bill will advise).

Al Blake inquired about the town's representative to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC). Ed advised that the town has a delegate, elected annually by the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen may appoint an alternate delegate. Currently Bob Ronzio is the BRPC Delegate and Gale Labelle is the BRPC Alternate.

19. Any other business to come before the Board

Beverly reported that during this morning's Board of Health's (BOH) meeting, the BOH agreed to recommend that the BOS extend The Olde Village Market's operating licenses until September 1, 2017. The BOH Agent has been in contact with The Olde Village Market's septic engineer designer who has submitted plans to DEP for approval.

Beverly reported that the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) approved Melissa Spagnuolo-Avalle's (D/B/A The Olde Village Market) application for an Annual Wine and Beer Package Goods License. The BOS signed the town's license.

Beverly reported that the ABCC approved the Becket General Store's application for an Annual Restaurant All Alcoholic Beverages license. Before the BOS will provide the pouring license, the Building Inspector must conduct an inspection to verify that the package store is no longer housed in the restaurant. Heather Anello had conveyed to Beverly and Bill that she will not operate the package store during renovations of the garage where the package store will be moved. Heather indicated that she may have a big sale on the package store inventory so that she will not need to store the liquor during renovations. Per Bill's inquiry, Ed will research if the laws of the Commonwealth restrict the ability of package stores to sell their liquor at a discount.

20. Review Correspondence – TBA

None

21. Board of Selectmen to adjourn the meeting.

Michael moved to adjourn. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously. At 8:10 p.m. Bill adjourned

Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary



William Elovirta, Chairperson

Documents discussed at this meeting:

BOS Meeting minutes 05/17/2017

Town Administrator's Appointment Recommendations

Police Chief's Appointment Recommendations

Compassionate Community Declaration

Sherwood Forest Lake District Communication: 1) Special District Meeting Warrant, Annual District Meeting Warrant 3) SFLD Projected Operating Budget for FY2018 and 4) Proxy Southern Berkshire Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program email dated 05/22/2017 with attachments: 1) Contract Extension 2) Copy of FY18 budget 3) Spreadsheet with each town's assessment and estimated hazardous Waste Spending for FY18

Reserve Fund Transfer Forms

Reserve Fund Transfer Spreadsheet for FY2017

All Department Expenditure Report dated 06/01/2017

Tax Bill inserts: Energy Committee Informational Session Flyer 2) Becket Scholarship Foundation

Berkshire Regional Planning's Presentation Info - Large Scale Solar scheduled on June 29th.