

**Town of Becket  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
August 2, 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*  
Christopher Bouchard, *Highway Superintendent*

Others: Bob Gross

**1. Call to order**

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He noted that the BOS was recording tonight's meeting.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Bill led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. Board to review minutes of previous meeting(s)**

Nicole moved to approve the minutes for the 03/30/2017 working meeting (as amended), the 05/11/2017 working meeting and the 07/19/2017 meeting. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Highway Superintendent re: Chapter 90 Request for Bancroft Road**

Highway Superintendent Christopher Bouchard described the work and fielded questions on the Chapter 90 Request for Bancroft Road he recommended to the Selectmen. Bill moved to approve the MassDOT Chapter 90 Project request in the amount of \$345,450.00 for full depth reclamation with asphalt injection of Bancroft Road (6,300 feet from the intersections located at Wade Inn Road to Hopkins Lane). Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Bylaw Review Committee Membership Makeup: discussion**

Ed received a request from the Bylaw Review Committee to ask that the BOS address the membership of the Bylaw Review Committee and possibly other committees when committee members frequently miss attending, and how to replace a voting member who has not been attending meetings, and has not resigned. Through the recall process, the citizens of the Town of Becket may remove elected officials their positions before the end of their term. However, the town currently has no mechanism to remove Board of Selectmen Committee/Board appointees who may not be attending meetings or who have moved out of Town, are no longer eligible to serve on the Committee but have not formally resigned. Town Counsel had advised that if the Board of Selectmen wishes to entertain such a procedure for appointed Committee/Board members, it would probably need to be done through a Special Legislation Act which requires a Town Meeting vote and also the vote of voters on an election ballot. Bill



stated that he would like to survey the chairs of the other committees/boards to ascertain if attendance (members' frequently not attending meetings but not resigning) is a pervasive problem.

**6. BOS to Vote on Town Clerk's Recommendations for Election Worker Appointments**

Michael questioned the necessity of appointing non-residents. Bill will discuss the recommended list of appointments with the Town Clerk. Bill moved to table this matter until the August 16, 2017 meeting. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Broadband Update**

Yesterday Ed, Broadband Ad Hoc Committee members Jeanne Pryor, Jeremy Dunn, Bob Gross and John Les, attended the Administrative "kick-off" meeting at Westfield Gas and Electric, in Westfield. Six employees of Westfield Gas & Electric were present. Prior to the meeting, Ed and Bill had signed a contract (as discussed at the 07/19/2017 meeting) which Ed left with Westfield Gas & Electric for their signature. There will be a pole survey "kick-off" meeting on site in Becket tentatively at 10 a.m. on 9/26/2017. Bob Gross and Ed reported that yesterday's meeting was informative. The Broadband Ad Hoc Committee will meet and formulate recommendations to the Town Administrator. Bob and Ed discussed possible approaches to pole survey/readiness timing/submissions, policies to create concerning multiple poles on driveways, and the financial advantages for waiting until the internet for the town is entirely built before providing service vs. providing service as each neighborhood is built. Bob anticipates that the Broadband Ad Hoc Committee may help with pole applications to save the town money. The pole survey field work takes approximately 45 to 60 days. Bob Gross will talk to Highway Superintendent Christopher Bouchard (who was no longer at the meeting) to discuss the possibility of passing along the road mile measurements (to save the Highway Department work) when the pole surveys are completed. Mr. Bouchard had mentioned earlier in the meeting that because the state considers each town's road mileage as part of its criteria for assigning MassDOT funding, he would like to re-measure the streets.

**8. Monthly or Quarterly Reports: TBA**

None.

**9. Massachusetts State Lottery Commission notification of Becket General Store's Keno License Application**

The Massachusetts State Lottery Commission, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, sent a letter dated 07/26/2017 to notify the BOS about the Becket General Store's application for a Keno license and if the town objects to the issuance of the Keno license, it must claim its right to a Hearing within twenty-one days of receipt of the notice. The BOS specified that it had no objections to the Becket General Store's application for a Keno license.

**10. The Federated Church of Becket Community Calendar**

Michael moved to approve \$22.00 for the purchase of listing the Board of Selectmen meeting dates (22) on the Federated Church's 2018 Becket Community Calendar. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Motion carried unanimously.

**11. Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements**

Michael reported that he visited the Route 20 Spring and noticed that the town had posted an advisory there to notify the public that the water tested positive for coliform. Ed clarified that after the town has a plan for decommissioning the spring, and DEP has accepted the plan, it



will post a sign to inform the public that the Route 20 Spring will be permanently closed.

**12. Town Administrator's Report**

- The Becket Arts Center: Sondrini Enterprises has completed the repairs from the tree damage.
- Town Building and Facility Projects: David Shorey has completed replacing the Fire Escapes on both ends of the Town Hall Building. The new scoreboard for the baseball field next to the Town Hall has been installed by David Shorey with help from Christopher Bouchard and the Highway Department and is awaiting the electrician to connect the wiring. David is currently building a shed at the Highway Department to contain their liquid chemical holding tank. The BOS and Town Administrator acknowledged David Shorey for all he has done to improve and maintain the town facilities. They indicated that the town is fortunate to have him as an employee.
- DEP Route 20 Spring: Ed discussed an attached DEP depiction of one possible solution to render the Route 20 Spring inoperable and take it out of service as a public water supply. Ed reported on his trip to Lanesboro to view how their spring was rendered inoperable. Ed determined that their method was not pertinent to Becket's situation.
- CDBG: The state has officially notified us that the Town of Becket has been awarded the Community Development Block Grant which we applied for with the assistance of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will begin working with the town on the process and requirements for acceptance of the grant funds and the awarding of the funds for Becket Residents to use for the Housing Rehabilitation Grants.
- For a number of years the Massachusetts DEP has been trying to encourage the town to remove the debris at the Transfer Station which has gone over the edge and down the embankment. Starting next week, the Highway Department will begin removing the metal debris with the use of a skid steer.
- Meetings: On 8/3/2017 Ed will attend the Broadband Ad Hoc Committee meeting as well as the Finance Committee meeting. He will attend the monthly Berkshire Managers Association meeting in Lenox on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**13. Public Input**

None

**14. Any other business to come before the Board**

None

**15. Review Correspondence**

- TBA

None

**16. Board of Selectmen to adjourn the meeting.**

Michael Moved to adjourn. Nicole seconded. At 8:28 p.m., Bill adjourned the meeting.

**17. Signing of Payable Warrants**

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the payroll/expense warrants.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary

  
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William Elovirta, *Chairperson*

**Documents discussed at this meeting:**

- Meeting minutes for the 07/19/2017 meeting, 03/30/2017 working meeting and 05/11/2017 working meeting
- Chapter 90 Request for Bancroft Road
- Town Clerk's and Becket Democratic Party recommendations for Election Officers
- Massachusetts State Lottery Commission notification of Becket General Store's Keno License Application
- Letter from the Federated Church re: Becket Community Calendar
- Town Administrator's Report