

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
August 16, 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: Scott Gagnon, Paul Merrill

1. Call to order

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:03 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)

Michael moved to approve the minutes for the 08/02/2017 meeting as presented. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 61B, the BOS will vote on exercising the Town's Right of First Refusal to purchase 4.68 acres located at 211 Beech Tree Lane, before it is sold to another party and removed from the state forestry program.

The BOS reviewed:

- Letter dated August 1, 2017 from Attorneys At Law Deely & Deely re: removal of 4.68 acres located at 211 Beech Tree Lane from Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 61B due to a possible sale. According to MGL Chapter 61B, the Board of Selectmen has the right of first refusal to purchase the property.
- Copy of Assessors Map 213 and Property card for 211 Beech Tree Lane

Ed reported that because most of the property contains wetlands and is not useful to the town, his and the Board of Assessor's recommendation is that the town not purchase 4.68 acres located at 211 Beech Tree Lane. Nicole moved that the town not purchase 4.68 acres located at 211 Beech Tree Lane, and that the Board of Selectmen exercises the town's right of first refusal. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Scott Gagnon to address the Selectmen requesting Tow Away Zone on Gould Road.

Scott Gagnon reported that he has seen an increase in parking on his street from those visiting the Quarry now that that the Quarry charges a \$10 fee to park in its lot. Mr. Gagnon described vandalism/littering as well as bouts of harassment he has encountered from those trespassing on his property to frequent the Quarry. He indicated that Becket Police Sergeant Matthew Virginia had told him he is not able to issue a parking ticket to vehicles parked in the cul de sac located on Gould Road because that section of the road is not posted as a no-parking zone.

Scott asked that in addition to posting no-parking signs on Gould Road's cul de sac, as further incentive to discourage parking violations, Scott encouraged the BOS to add tow away zones to all of Gould Road. Ed discussed the process for changing street rules and regulations, and bylaws relating parking fines. Town Counsel had advised that the Board of Selectmen needs to conduct a public hearing to consider modifying street rules and regulations (parking & tow away zones). Because parking fines are part of the town's bylaws, changing parking fines would require town meeting approval. Ed suggested that at a future meeting, the BOS may wish to discuss the town's bylaw concerning fines for parking violations (increase fines for no-parking zones and establish a separate fine for unauthorized parking in handicap spots). Bill moved to schedule a public hearing in October or November of 2017 to consider posting all of Gould Road as a no-parking tow-away zone and to add tow-away zones to the existing no-parking signs on Quarry Road. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6. BOS to Vote on Town Clerk's and Becket Democratic Committee's Recommendations for Election Worker Appointments

Bill reported on his discussion with the Town Clerk who suggested that the BOS decide whether or not to appoint non-Becket residents as Election Workers. Only three out of twenty-two persons recommended were non-Becket residents. Because appointing the remaining nineteen individuals would not create a shortage of election workers, it was the consensus of the BOS to appoint Becket residents only.

Ed read the names of Becket residents: Charles Francis (Democrat), Meredyth Babcock (Democrat), Eva Bonney (Democrat), Julia Kay-Grace (Democrat), Ann Krawet (Democrat), Barbara Winters (Democrat), Martin Winters (Democrat), Gale LaBelle (Republican), Steven LaBelle (Republican), Adrienne Metcalf (Unenrolled), Jerome Schwartzbach (Unenrolled), Charles Garman (Unenrolled), Priscilla McEwen (Unenrolled), Alvin Blake (Unenrolled), Ruth Rosenthal (Unenrolled), W. Katherine Hoak (Unenrolled), Candace Cahalan (Unenrolled), Adele Levine (Democrat), and Dean Lagrotteria (Democrat)

Bill moved to appoint those named above as Election Officers effective August 16, 2017 through August 15, 2018. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Broadband Update

Ed reported that the State of Massachusetts relayed that it signed and executed the town's Broadband MassWorks contract which will allow the town to launch the project.

8. Highway Superintendent's recommendation to increase Town Mechanic rate of pay for successfully completing 7th evaluation period.

Bill moved to accept the Highway Superintendent's recommendation to increase the Town Mechanic's hourly rate of pay to \$22.45 effective 8/13/17 because he has completed his 7th 90-day evaluation period. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Monthly or Quarterly Reports: Animal Control Officer, Fire, Others TBD

The BOS reviewed the Animal Control Officer's (June and July) and the Fire Department's (June and July) reports.

10. Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

Bill expressed concern about a dog (non-aggressive) familiar to the police personnel due to its proclivities to wander around town. Ed will investigate and discuss this matter with the Police Department and Animal Control Officer.

The BOS and Ed will attend a workshop entitled, "Municipal Actions on Marijuana Legalization" at the Lenox Town Hall on 08/31/2017.

11. Town Administrator's recommendation for Town Hall Roof project borrowing term.

Ed reported that at his request, Unibank provided three scenarios for structuring a loan to fund the Town Hall Roof Project (principal \$70,659.00). Ed discussed handouts outlining the three options:

- 1) Two year fixed-rate Permanent State House Loan Note, dated September 1, 2017
- 2) Three year fixed-rate Permanent State House Loan Note, dated September 1, 2017, and
- 3) Four year fixed-rate Permanent State House Loan Note dated September 1, 2017.

Michael moved to accept the Town Administrator's recommendation to select Option Two: Three year fixed-rate Permanent State House Loan Note for the borrowing of the Town Hall roof project. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Town Administrator's Report

- Town Buildings and Facility Projects: New scoreboard and spot light in the playground are operational, David Shorey is completing the Highway Dept. shed that will house the liquid chemical holding tank, and the replacement truck for the Buildings and Grounds Department of which funding was appropriated at the FY17 ATM has been ordered.
- CDBG: Ed will attend a Community Development Block Grant startup workshop on Sept. 7th.
- DEP Transfer station Debris: The Highway Dept. has been removing the metal debris located at the embankment. The project is slower and more tedious than anticipated. Completion of removal is forecast for next week and the town will seed the area to prevent erosion.
- Vocational High School Transportation: Lecrenski Bros. and Town of Washington are completing their transportation schedules for the upcoming school year. Lecrenski will drive twelve Becket students to Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, and the Town of Washington will transport one Becket student to McCann Technical High School.

13. Public Input

None

14. Any other business to come before the Board

The BOS reviewed the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation's notification (and proposed plans) dated 8/7/2017 specifying that the Bureau of Forestry expects to sell forest products from land within Becket (October Forest). It was noted that the town receives a stumpage fee under this state program.

15. Review Correspondence

- **07/20/2017, Dept. of Housing & Community Development – The state has awarded a FY17 Community Development Block Grant in the amount of up to \$772,800 to the Town of Becket.**

The above listed correspondence was noted.

16. Signing of Payable Warrants

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and signed payable warrants.

17. Board of Selectmen intends to go into Executive Session under MGL c. 30A, Section 21 (a) (3) for:

- **Discussion on Strategy with respect to litigation regarding Crosier vs. Town of Becket Land Sale if the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the Town.**

- **The Board of Selectmen will not reconvene in Open Session.**

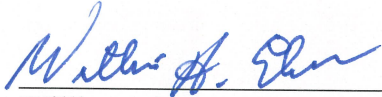
Bill moved that the BOS enter Executive Session Executive Session under MGL c. 30A, Section 21 (a) (3) for:

- Discussion on Strategy with respect to litigation regarding Crosier vs. Town of Becket Land Sale if the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the Town.

- The Board of Selectmen will not reconvene in Open Session.

Michael seconded. Roll call Vote: William (“Bill”) Elovirta - aye; Nicole Ledoux – aye, and Michael Lavery – aye. At 8:10 the BOS went into Executive Session. 8:10

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary



William Elovirta, Chairperson

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- 07/20/2017 letter from Dept. of Housing & Community Development: The state has awarded a FY17 Community Development Block Grant in the amount of up to \$772,800 to the Town of Becket.
- 08/01/2017 letter from Deely & Deely re: Removal of land from Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 61B
- Assessors Map 213, and Property Card for 211 Beech Tree Lane
- 08/07/2017 letter from Highway Superintendent re: Mechanic Pay Increase
- Re FW Election Worker Appointments.msg
- Re materials for the August 16th meeting.msg
- Town Clerk and Democratic Committee Recommendations for Election Officers
- Street Rules and Regulations re: Quarry and Gould Roads – approved 8/5/2016
- Town Hall Roof Borrowing Options (three) prepared by Unibank, and Debt Schedule for each of the three options
- Dept. of Conservation and Recreation’s notification (and proposed plans) dated 8/7/2017 re: impending sale of forest products from land within Becket (October Forest)
- Animal Control Officer’s June and July 2017 Reports
- Volunteer Fire Department’s June and July 2017 Reports
- Town Administrator’s Report