

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
September 6, 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: None

1. Call to order

Bill called the meeting to order at 7 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 08/16/2017 meeting as presented. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. BOS to vote on request to enroll student into Smith Vocational School

Ed reported that a new resident who moved into town last week requested that the town allow her child to enroll into Smith Vocational School for the 2017/2018 year. Because the Central Berkshire Regional School District's deadline to sign up for town-paid vocational high school had occurred in April, a BOS vote to approve an exception would be required. Ed explained the extenuating circumstances relating to this student. He indicated that he received notice that one of its students the town accounted for in the town's vocational tuition budget was not accepted by Smith Vocation School. Granting permission to the new resident would not create an increase in the town's FY18 Vocational Tuition budget. Ed stated his recommendation that the BOS vote to allow this student to attend Smith Vocational School for the 2017/2018 year on the condition that this student is accepted into Smith Vocation School. Bill moved to approve the enrollment of the student into the Smith Vocational School, contingent upon being accepted. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. BOS to vote on Town Treasurer's recommendation for re-appointment of the Assistant Treasurer

The re-appointment of the Assistant Treasurer was inadvertently not included on the list presented to the BOS in June. At the recommendation of the Town Treasurer, Michael moved to re-appoint Kenneth Bilodeau Jr. as Assistant Treasurer effective 7/1/2017 through 06/30/2020. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6. BOS to vote on re-appointment of Tax Collector

The re-appointment of the Tax Collector was inadvertently not included on the list presented to the BOS in June. Bill moved to re-appoint Kenneth Bilodeau Jr. as Tax Collector

effective 7/1/2017 through 06/30/2020. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. BOS to vote on possible appointment to the Cultural Council

The BOS reviewed Roberta Goldman's appointment application and letter of interest to serve on the Cultural Council. Ed indicated that to comply with state laws, Roberta took a one year pause after she had served on the Cultural Council for six consecutive years. Nicole moved to appoint Roberta Goldman to the Cultural Council effective 09/06/2017 through 6/30/2020. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Bylaw Review Committee's request that the BOS post a notice for a new member to fill the vacancy created due to Mark Karlberg's resignation tendered 08/24/2017.

Mark Karlberg communicated to the Town Administrator via email on 08/24/2017 that he no longer wished to serve on the Bylaw Review Committee. In response to the vacancy created by Mr. Karlberg's resignation, and as requested by the Chairperson of the Bylaw Review Committee, the BOS will recruit a new member for the Bylaw Review Committee through the town website and local publications (Berkshire Eagle, Country Journal, Berkshire Record and Pittsfield Gazette). The BOS signed a letter of appreciation to Mr. Karlberg.

Ed read the list of other BOS appointed vacancies: Agricultural Commission Member, Board of Assessors Member, Community Preservation At Large Member, Conservation Commission - 2 Members (potentially 3 Members on November 1st when Richard Pryor's resignation takes effect), Constable, Historical Commission Member, Parks & Recreation Committee - 2 Members, Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Alternate Member, and Zoning Board of Appeals Associate Member

The BOS will immediately advertise for members for the Conservation Commission, and then a week later will advertise for other vacancies on other boards/committees.

The vacancy for the Constable position occurred due to the death of Michael Sawyer. The town's constables are elected. The BOS can appoint a constable to serve up until the next election. Bill stated that although not required, he thinks it is a good idea for constables to have a background in law enforcement. Per Bill's recommendation, Ed will inquire with the Chief of Police if any Police Officers who are Becket residents may be interested in serving as a constable.

Michael suggested staggering the election process so that both of the constables will not be on the election ballot in the same year. Ed indicated that he thinks this makes perfect sense and that because it involves a Town Charter change, it would require approval via town meeting vote and town election. Bill stated that the BOS may add this to the list of potential town meeting warrant articles.

9. Monthly or Quarterly Reports: Ambulance Dept., others tba

The BOS reviewed the Ambulance Department's August 2017 report. Ed specified that per his suggestion, the Ambulance Director will break down the number of mutual aid calls by town rather than lumping all mutual aid calls together.

10. Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

Michael: 1) He expressed concern that Borrego Solar may not establish its business in town. Ed indicated that he has been contacted by a vendor representing the proposed

Borrego Solar project on Tanglewood Circle who is interested in working out a P.I.L.O.T. agreement between the Town and Borrego. 2) He reported that he saw many Becket officials at the Berkshire Regional Planning Marijuana Legal presentation in Lenox which was well attended.

Nicole: 1) She followed-up on the BOS's discussion at a prior meeting to schedule a special town meeting. Ed confirmed that there will be bylaw and possibly financial related items for a special town meeting which may occur before the end of the year.

2) Nicole asked Beverly to register her for the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association Fall Conference on 10/14/2017 in Boylston.

Bill: 1) Bill will place on the BOS 10/4/2017 agenda discussion and possible vote re: marijuana moratorium. 2) The BOS will invite the Parks & Recreation and the Tax Collector's Office to attend a BOS meeting on 11/1/2017 to discuss possible modifications to beach passes for next summer. 3) Per Bill's inquiry about the status of the impending demolition of 21 Maple Street, Ed advised that he received the final asbestos report, and he will create a request for bids specification for demolition. Ed indicated that because 21 Maple Street is in the Historic District, the town must provide 60 days' notice to the Becket Historical Commission.

Per Highway Superintendent Christopher Bouchard's request, Bill Elovirta, Chairman of the BOS, signed paperwork to enable MEMA to request FEMA (federal grant) funds that were obligated to the Bonny Rigg Hill Culvert project.

11. Town Administrator's Report

Broadband: We received our approved and signed Broadband Service Agreement from Westfield Gas and Electric. The on-site kickoff meeting for the Pole Surveys is scheduled at Town Hall on Sept. 26th.

Energy Committee Information Session: The Becket Energy Committee Information Session will occur on Sept. 9th at the Town Hall.

Town Hall HVAC System: EDM has reached sixty percent design completion with the Town Hall HVAC system. Ed provided copies to the BOS of this 60% design point and specified they are welcome to review, ask questions and provide comments. This design reflects the Study that was conducted and the Selectmen's preferences of which they had voted. Next week EDM will be at the Town Hall to meet with and go over the design with Building and Grounds Custodian David Shorey and Town Administrator Ed Gibson.

Transfer Station Debris: The Highway Department completed their removal of the metal debris which had gone over the embankment at the Transfer station and has re-seeded the area where the debris was removed. Charlie Clines from the Dept. of Environmental Protection conducted a site visit and then made a point to see Ed at the Town Hall to praise the cleanup that had been accomplished, and the hard work of the Highway Department employees involved.

Solar Project: This was discussed under the Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements.

Vocational High School Transportation: Ed provided an update on the number of Becket/Washington students that will receive vocational transportation services to Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School and McCann Technical Highway School.

Meetings: Ed will attend the following meetings:

- Sept. 7th – Community Development Block Grant startup workshop, Worcester; & Finance Committee meeting, Town Hall
- Sept. 13th – Broadband Ad Hoc Meeting
- Sept. 19th - State ADA Training, West Springfield
- Sept. 22nd – Broadband Accounting Training, sponsored by the Town of Heath

12. Public Input

None

13. Any other business to come before the Board

Ed reported that Unibank received three bids for the Three year fixed-rate Permanent State House Loan Note, dated September 1, 2017:

- Easthampton Savings 2.45 percent – The town will borrow through this bid.
- UniBank 2.75 percent
- Eastern Bank 3.20 percent

Bill moved to sign the documents for the town to borrow through the State House note program over a three year period for a principal amount of \$70,658 for the repayment of the borrowing for the Town Hall roof and gutter system. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Review Correspondence:

- Letter dated 08/16/2017 from the Office of the Governor to notify the town of its award of a Last Mile Infrastructure grant award in the amount of \$2,150,000 to support the design, engineering and construction of a municipally-owned broadband network
- The BOS noted the above listed correspondence.

15. Board of Selectmen to adjourn the meeting

Nicole moved to adjourn. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously. At 8:02 p.m. Bill adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary


William Elovirta, Chairperson

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- 08/16/17 letter Governor's office re: grant award \$2,150,000 for broadband project
- 08/29/17 letter Treasurer re reappointment of Asst. Treasurer
- Board of Selectmen's Agenda 09/06/17
- Ambulance Dept. August 2017 Report.
- Chair of Bylaw Review Committee's request to advertise for new member of Bylaw Review Com.
- Roberta Goldman Appointment Application & letter of interest to serve on the Cultural Council
- Selectmen's meeting minutes 08/16/17
- 09/06/2017 EDM's Town Hall HVAC Preliminary Replacement Upgrade Mechanical Specifications plan
- Town Administrator's Report