

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
October 3, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall
557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees:

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

Staff: Robert Markel, *Interim Town Administrator*
Beverly Gilbert, *Recording Secretary*

Others: Bob Gross, Chris Lynch (Matrix Design), Deb Toomey

1. Call to order

Bill called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. He specified that the BOS is recording the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Bill led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes

After discussion to clarify agenda item 15, Michael moved to accept, as amended below, the meeting minutes for the September 26, 2018 meeting. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief McDonough sent the Town Administrator an e-mail to advise that unless the Selectmen object, the new cruiser ~~(and future Police Dept. vehicles)~~ will be black with white lettering due to that blue cruisers are a special order and would not be available until at least December.

4. Broadband Update

Bob Gross indicated that the Broadband Ad Hoc Group wishes to disseminate information to the public relating to the status of the broadband project:

- He asked the BOS to review the Broadband Ad Hoc Group's Broadband Update for posting on the town website.
- The October edition of the town newsletter (called The Becket Bulletin) will contain a Broadband article. The Becket Bulletin will be posted on the town website. Bob Markel will send an e-mail through MailChimp with the broadband article. The article will list a link to the Becket Bulletin. Bob Gross offered to reach out to contacts of the homeowners associations to ask their members if they would like to subscribe to the town's public announcements (website) and MailChimp account. Michael will send Bob Gross the MailChimp URL.
- The Broadband Ad Hoc Group is working on its presentation for an informational meeting. Before using the presentation, they may share it and obtain feedback from the BOS at a meeting. Bill suggested that it will be helpful to wait until we know more about the cost of

the project before scheduling the meeting. Bob stated that once the town receives the first batch of make-ready invoices, we may extrapolate from that what the cost of the make-ready would be and that way we may have a very good evaluation of the town options (town-owned vs. Matrix-owned). Chris Lynch cautioned that it is not easy to extrapolate costs based on the initial make ready cost packets provided by the utility companies. Based on his experience (he cited Petersham), utilities often use the easiest (lowest costs) poles and save the most costly (most difficult) for the last invoices. Bob Gross suggested that he may discuss this with the utilities and Bill Ennen.

- The Broadband Ad Hoc Group may submit a tax stuffer.

The BOS agreed that Bob Gross will ask Town Counsel to confirm and advise on the following:
The Chairperson of the Finance Committee had told Bob Gross that his understanding is that if the town wishes to assume additional debt for a town-owned network, the additional debt does not need to be part of a debt exclusion: Approval at town meeting will be required, not approval through a town election. Because of the way that the debt exclusion was authorized few years ago, if we wish to accept Matrix's proposal, we would need a town meeting and town election.

There will be a Verizon/Eversource Pole hearing (County Road) at the Selectmen's October 17th meeting. Bob Gross, as a courtesy, will convey to Travis Walsh and Rob Davis of Eversource that the town requires that when the new and replacement poles are installed on County Road, they must be done in a manner that will allow a fiber optic cable to be attached without any Make-ready work being required by the Town of Becket.

Bill brought up that within the town, in several locations, there are two utility poles located side by side. In Becket, Eversource maintains permits for utility poles. Verizon is supposed to switch over its wires onto Eversource's poles and then remove the pole that is no longer in use. It creates more work for the Highway Department when there are extra poles. Bill suggested that the BOS pressure Verizon to work toward eliminating its old poles.

Bob Gross advised to Deb Toomey that the Broadband Ad Hoc Group is trying to determine a viable option to provide broadband to her home located on Mitchell Road. Connection involves crossing town lines. If Comcast is not a viable option, based on preliminary conversations, Bob thinks the Town of Chester will allow the town to connect fiber from their poles.

5. **BOS to discuss and vote on possible revisions to the Code of Conduct Policy**

Bob indicated that Town Counsel reviewed and recommended the Code of Conduct Policy revisions (see below) and memorandum. Michael moved to accept the Code of Conduct Policy as amended on page 2 and the memorandum, effective 10/3/2018. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Additionally, all individuals shall be prohibited from using tobacco products, drinking alcohol or being under the influence of **alcohol, marijuana and/or** illegal substances ~~is prohibited~~ on Town property or while conducting Town-related business off Town property.

Visitors who are found to be in violation of this **Policy Code** will be promptly removed from the building. Employees who are found to be in violation of this Code will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination from employment.

6. **BOS to review and vote on Rosanna Koelle's Appointment Application to serve on the Cultural Council (effective 10-03-18 through 06-30-21)**
Michael moved to appoint Rosanna Koelle to the Cultural Council effective 10-3-18 through 06-30-21. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously
7. **Planning Board Public Hearing Notices**
 - **October 16th at 5 p.m. to review proposed changes to Section 6.6, Solar Photovoltaic Installation Bylaw, The Table of Contents and the Table of Use Regulations of the Town of Becket Zoning Bylaws**
 - **November 14th at 7 p.m. to review the application for a Special Permit pursuant to Section 6.8 of the Becket Zoning Bylaws for Joseph McCarthy/Ipswich Pharmaceutical Associates, Inc. to operate as a Registered Marijuana for both medical and adult-use sales at 2727 Jacob's Ladder Road**Bill acknowledged receipt of the above public hearings notices.
8. **Town Administrator Recruitment Update**
The BOS approved a list of 24 interview finalist questions.
9. **Route 20 Spring Update**
Bob Markel will contact DEP to inquire if Housatonic Basin had submitted an engineering plan to them. To date, Housatonic Basin did not send the town an engineering plan and the estimated cost to remedy the Route 20 Spring.
10. **Discussion of potential Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles**
The BOS tabled this agenda item.
11. **Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements**
The BOS did not present comments at tonight's meeting.
12. **Town Administrator's Report**
Bob Markel reported on the following topics: Free Cash, Energy audit of the Town Hall, Request made to the Dalton Town Administrator to schedule the Becket BOS on the Dalton BOS meeting, Library septic system, Auction of Town Properties (the BOS requested a listing sorted high to low properties), new Wi-Fi (the BOS advised for Bob to ask the Finance Committee for a Transfer From the Reserve fund to cover the \$1,100 cost), DOR responded positively to the town's community compact application for assistance in upgrading financial management (i.e. operating and capital budgets), Fire House Heating, Energy Issues (DOER Technical Assistance Grant), Becket Bulletin monthly newsletter

The newsletter will appear on the town website. MailChimp is designed to only have one page. The town will send a Broadband article via MailChimp. At the end of the article, there will be a paragraph advising that there are other articles contained in the town newsletter (with a link to the newsletter). There will also be a link for those wishing to subscribe to town website public notices.

Michael suggested that the Broadband update contain information about the status of the \$49 WiredWest sign up deposit (It is collecting interest in an escrow account and will be applied to the town's future broadband subscription fee).

Bob Markel gave the BOS a copy of the community host agreement between the Town of Becket and Spencer House LLC dba Canna Corner, a Massachusetts LLC.

Bill discussed the status of the Johnson Road Cell Tower Repeater.

13. Public Input

Bob Gross discussed two concerns with the Athenaeum's proposed septic system.

1. Will the town enter into an agreement to tie into the septic system Mullen House and Becket Arts Center's septic system? Bob Markel advised that Town Counsel is researching this.
2. The BOH requires a title 5 test. Will the town pay for this test? The BOS advised that they are not inclined to recommend that the town pay for this test. Bill suggested asking the Hill Engineering which had conducted the feasibility study if they could provide advice on the cost or suggest and perhaps a full title 5 test is not necessary. Bob suggested inquiring with Charlie Kaniecki about this matter.

14. Any other business to come before the Board

There was no other business to come before the Board.

15. Correspondence

- **Letter from Interim Town Administrator dated 09-27-18 to notify the Principal of Archbishop Williams High School of Teddy and Sam Rossini's volunteer hours performed at the Town Beach during Spring and Fall.**
- **Letter from Lieutenant Governor Karyn E. Polito dated 09-28-18 re: the Town of Becket entering into a second Community Compact with the Baker-Polito ff**
- **Letter from the Department of Environmental Protection dated 09-27-18 re: the Recycle Smart Initiative**

Bob Markel advised that the information contained in the Lieutenant Governor's letter is erroneous. Ikkkkkt does not reflect the town's application. Bob thinks a mistake was made in the Community Compact's office and Bob called them today to have this corrected. The town is looking for a consultant to provide assistance to improve the operating budget and the capital budget (to bring more data into the budget documents to inform residents of the town and public officials to help them to make decisions) The goal is to receive a distinguished budget presentation award from the Government Finance Officers Association.

16. BOS to review and sign payable warrants

The BOS reviewed and signed payable warrants.

17. BOS to adjourn the meeting

Nicole moved to adjourn. Michael seconded. Bill adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Date Approved: 10-17-18

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary


William Elovirta, *Chairperson*

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- Code of Conduct Policy (revised 10-3-2018) and Memorandum
- Host Community Agreement between the Town of Becket and Spencer House LLC d/b/a/ Canna Corner, a Massachusetts LLC
- Town Administrator's Report
- Board of Selectmen Interview Questions for Town Administrator Candidates
- Draft Becket Bulletin October 2018 Issue
- Rosanna Koelle Appointment Application (Cultural Council)
- Planning Board Public Hearing Notices as noted above
- Correspondence as noted above