

**Town of Becket  
Board of Selectmen Working Meeting  
October 4, 2018  
6:00 p.m.  
Town Hall  
557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees:

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

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

Town Administrator

Screening Committee: Bob Gross, Katherine Warden, Jeff Wilkinson, Al Blake -

Other: Shane O’Keefe

Community Paradigm

Associates, LLC: Sharon Flaherty (Senior Associate) & Bernard Lynch (Founder & Principal)

**1. Call to order**

Bill called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. He indicated that the Board of Selectmen was recording the meeting. Michael Lavery indicated that he was recording the meeting.

Bill indicated that due that her grandmother is gravely ill, Nicole was not able to attend tonight’s meeting.

Bill thanked the Town Administrator Screening Committee members for their on-going efforts in conjunction with the recruitment. Kathe Warden, Chairperson of the TASC, indicated that all members of the TASC are 100% confident with the candidate they have chosen as a finalist. Al remarked that Community Paradigm Associates saved the committee a great deal of time and it was beneficial to have their expertise. Bernie commented that the TASC did a great job. Through their efforts, the TASC demonstrated that they were very passionate about the recruitment. Bernie echoed Kathe’s sentiment that a very strong candidate will be interviewed tonight. Bernie advised that what makes recruitment challenging is that currently there is a great deal of competition to hire Town Administrators in Massachusetts.

**2. Board of Selectmen (“BOS”) to interview the following candidates for the Town Administrator position**

- **6:15 p.m. Shane O’Keefe**
- **7:15 p.m. Ira Brezinsky – Ira Brezinsky cancelled his interview. He accepted other employment.**

6:15 p.m. Shane O’Keefe Interview: The Board of Selectmen asked Shane O’Keefe 24 interview questions and Mr. O’Keefe asked several questions at the conclusion of the interview. Mr. O’Keefe has served as a Chief Municipal Manager in several towns in Vermont and New Hampshire. He has worked in public service throughout the past thirty years. He described his experience and philosophies relating to budgeting and capital management, managing personnel, economic development, grants, organization,

procurement, technology, town meeting preparation, and dealing with the public/boards and committees. When asked if hired, when he may start working for the Town of Becket, Mr. O'Keefe explained that he remains interested in Becket and before making a commitment, there are other potential employment opportunities he is considering. It had been the TASC's understanding that Mr. O'Keefe had planned to move to our area. At tonight's meeting, Mr. O'Keefe indicated that if he were to work for Becket, he would remain in our region during his work days, and spend weekends at his NH residence. He specified that this too is something that he must reflect upon. The BOS thanked Mr. O'Keefe for taking the time to meet with them.

**3. Possible discussion and vote on the BOS's selection of a finalist and announcement of the BOS's intention to pursue negotiations for a contract with that individual to serve as Becket's new Town Administrator**

Bill and Michael determined that based on Shane O'Keefe's interview, he is well qualified to serve as the Town Administrator. Bill stated that he would like to offer the Town Administrator position to Shane O'Keefe (the BOS would specify its intention to pursue negotiations for a contract) on the condition that Mr. O'Keefe reply within two weeks. Michael asked the TASC to present another finalist. Kathe indicated that the consensus of the TASC was that no other names of candidates will be furnished to the BOS. She explained that the TASC honored the charge set before them by the BOS. The BOS will ask Nicole to listen to tonight's meeting recording. It was agreed that the BOS will table voting on the BOS's selection of a finalist and announcement of the BOS's intention to pursue negotiations for a contract with that individual to serve as Becket's new Town Administrator.

**4. BOS intends to go into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A: Section 21 (a) 2 to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel**


No Executive Session occurred.

**5. Any other business to come before the BOS**

No other business was presented.

**6. BOS to adjourn the meeting**

Michael moved to adjourn. Bill seconded. Motion carried. At 8:15 p.m., Bill adjourned the meeting.

  
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William Elovirta, *Chairperson*  
Board of Selectmen

  
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Date approved