

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
October 17, 2018
7:00 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: Robert Markel, *Interim Town Administrator*
Beverly Gilbert, *Recording Secretary*

Others: Chris Lynch (Matrix Design), William Sabanosh,
Travis Walsh (Eversource Energy), Chuck Garman, Ronald Daigle,
Rosemarie Bongiovanni, Mike Hansen, David Labreque

1. Call to order

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. He indicated that the BOS was recording the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Bill led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes

Michael moved to approve the minutes for the October 3, 2018 regular session meeting and the October 4, 2018 working meeting. Bill seconded. Motion carried.

4. 7:05 p.m. Hearing regarding Pole Petition dated from NSTAR Electric Company dba Eversource and Verizon New England, Inc. re: County Road

At 7:05 p.m., Bill read the public hearing notice and then opened the public hearing. Travis Walsh, representative from Eversource, entertained questions and comments from the Board of Selectmen (this included the Highway Superintendent's recommendations) and residents.

At 7:45 p.m. the comment section of the public hearing concluded. Michael moved to approve NSTAR Electric Company dba Eversource and Verizon New England, Inc.'s petition to construct and maintain a line of twenty-one jointly owned poles and their respective wires, cables, and underground laterals, on County Road, described in the plan marked 6B820477 that accompanied the petition with the following stipulations:

1. Travis Walsh to meet with Becket Highway Superintendent to review and come to a mutual agreement on pole locations on County Rd. project.
2. The applicants shall install the pole(s) in a manner that will allow for attachment of fiber optic cable, for the purposes of a Town of Becket fiber optic, broadband network, without the requirement of any "Make Ready" work for such attachment.
3. Verizon to provide a schedule for transferring all Verizon wires from double poles in town and removal of double poles.

4. Eversource to provide Town of Becket with schedule to clean up all roadsides of debris remaining from tree trimming and removal that has taken place since spring of 2018. Bill seconded. Motion carried.

5. Broadband Update

Chuck Garman and David Lebreque provided an update to the BOS. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group is looking into a wireless solution as a possible option for Becket Woods to consider. In order for this to be allowed, the town would need to amend the Zoning Bylaws (potential amendment denoted in bold):

6.4.3 Exemptions. The following shall be exempt from this by-law:

1. Wireless communication facilities used for Town or State emergency services.
2. Amateur radio towers used in compliance with the terms of any amateur radio service licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and used solely for that purpose.
3. Wireless communication structures and devices used expressly for home television and radio reception **and internet**.

The Broadband Ad Hoc Group will keep the BOS apprised when the utilities provide more information relating to the make-ready costs.

6. BOS to approve an Extension of the Interim Town Administrator's Employment Agreement

Bill moved to approve an extension of the Interim Town Administrator's Employment agreement to June 30, 2019. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. BOS to consider signing a FY19 MIIA Grant Application to purchase surveillance cameras at the Ambulance Department and Police Station

The BOS reviewed a FY18 MIIA grant application for surveillance cameras at the Ambulance Department. The Police Department did not submit a request for this grant. The grant materials included a statement as to how the grants will enhance risk management efforts, commercial proposal from Lee Audio (cost \$2,654 for equipment, \$84 for alarm monitoring connection), and Becket Ambulance Draft CCTV Policy. Michael moved to approve the FY19 MIIA Grant Application for a security system at the Ambulance Department as submitted. Bill seconded. Motion carried.

8. Departmental Reports:

- Police Department (August and September 2018)
- Building Inspector (September 2018)
- Ambulance Department (September 2018)

The BOS reviewed the above mentioned departmental reports.

9. Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing Notice

▪ **November 13th at 7 p.m. to review the Rosemary Bleyer and Sally Baumer's application for a Variance under Section 4.2.6 of the Becket Zoning Bylaws for to construct an attached garage to the existing family home located at 18 South Lake Way (Map 211, Lot 144). The proposed garage will only provide a 15.9' setback to the western side property line.** The BOS acknowledged receipt of the above captioned notification.

10. Town Administrator Recruitment Update

The BOS did not have further developments to report at this time.

11. Route 20 Spring Update and 12. Discussion of Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles

The BOS and Bob discussed Berkshire Engineering's estimates (\$85,430) for a proposed water treatment system at the Route 20 Spring. The estimates did not include annual operations, electricity, moving the power line across the road, police detail, and obtaining easements. Bob will: ask Berkshire Engineering to provide estimates for annual operations; contact Town Counsel for estimates relating to acquiring easements; provide an update to DEP about the status of this matter and ask if DEP will allow the town more time to determine its course of action. Although the Selectmen are not required to ask the town to approve additional costs related to the Route 20 Spring at a Town Meeting, the BOS will schedule an informational session (possibly 7 p.m. on October 30th) to request public input to aid in this decision. From a legal standpoint, the informational session is not a formal public hearing and would not be regarded as a BOS meeting. Bob pointed out that because the source of the spring is not known (For example, what if it lies near a septic system that fails?), we do not know the hazards involved. The town would risk increased costs or shutting down the spring if the water tested positive for e-coli.

The Selectmen will determine the date of the STM at the next BOS meeting. The BOS may schedule the meeting for December 11th or during January. Bob indicated that the town will be eligible to apply for the next round of DOER Green Energy funding as long as the town's solar Photovoltaic Installation Bylaw is amended to comply with Green Energy principles before the February grant application deadline. Possible STM articles include:

- Raising the salary of the Town Administrator
- Route 20 Spring funding
- Broadband: 1) Funding (if costs are known) and 2) Amendment to Zoning Bylaws 6.4.3 Exemptions
- 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

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

Michael reported that the Sherwood Greens entrance onto Route 20, has become a dangerous spot due to speeding cars tearing down the hill along Route 20. Bob Markel will ask the Police Department to increase its patrol at that area.

Bill reported that the Town of Dalton, after reviewing the traffic study, has pulled its request to institute restrictions of trucks on Washington Mountain Road.

Bill followed up on the Becket Athenaeum's request for the town to pay for a Title 5. Bill stated that he does not favor the town picking up the tab for this. Bob Markel will contact Hills Engineering to inquire about costs, whether or not the Title 5 is in fact necessary, and if so, how comprehensive the Title 5 should be.

Bill asked Bob Markel about the status of Ipswich Pharmaceutical's Host Agreement with the town. The Planning Board has scheduled a Public Hearing to review the application of Joseph McCarthy's Ipswich Pharmaceutical's Associates, Inc.'s application for a special permit to operate as a registered marijuana dispensary at 2727 Jacob's ladder Road. Bob Markel advised that to date, Joseph McCarthy has not returned a signed agreement.

Bill indicated that now that we are entering budget season, the next BOS agenda will list a discussion re: Town of Washington FY20 contributions for Town of Becket services (including

Fire Protection). Bill will ask to discuss this matter with the Finance Committee at its November 14th meeting.

12. Town Administrator's Report

Bob Markel reported and discussed the following:

- FY 2020 budget (budget requests are due December 3, 2018)
- Kyle Houser presented the energy audit of Town Hall on October 4th (he'll also conduct an audit on the Highway Garage)
- Route 20 Spring (discussed earlier)
- the town received a META grant for \$12,500 to hire an energy consultant for advice on a new HVAC system at the Town Hall
- the New Telephone system is due to be installed on Veterans Day
- The final projects for Green Communities are out to bid
- Bob sent a reminder to Attorney Bard that we need a written opinion on the authority of the BOS to authorize septic system sharing
- Community Compact (Bob awaits a scope of work from the Collings Institute for improving the town's budget process)
- Meetings - The BOS will not meet on November 21 (day before Thanksgiving). The BOS may schedule another meeting if warranted
- Jacob's Pillow has not yet provided a decision about increasing its PILOT to the town.
- Becket Bulletin: Michael has agreed to submit the Selectmen's first article. Bob suggested that the BOS contribute an article at least every three months. The Council on Aging, and Broadband Ad Hoc Group have agreed to be regular contributors. The BOS will invite the Becket Athenaeum to participate.

13. Public Input

There was no public input.

14. Any other business to come before the Board

In response to Yana DeLuca's e-mail specifying that she did not wish to accept the BOS's reappointment, the BOS will send a letter of appreciation to her for all she had done for the town while she was a member of the Becket Cultural Council.

The Town Clerk sent the BOS a letter to decline the BOS's request for him to disseminate the Code of Conduct Policy when swearing in new town officials. The BOS agreed that the Administrative Assistant's notification to new appointees will include copies of the Code of Conduct Policies.

15. Correspondence

- **MassDOT letter dated 10-11-18 with Bridge Inspection reports: Surriner Road/Mtn Pasture Brook (dated 6-1-18) and Yokum Pond Rod/Yokum Brook (dated 6-15-18)**

The BOS reviewed the above captioned correspondence.

16. BOS to review and sign payable warrants

The BOS reviewed and signed payable warrants.

17. BOS to adjourn the meeting

Michael moved to adjourn. Bill seconded. Motion carried. At 8:52 p.m., Bill adjourned the meeting.

Date Approved: 10-26-18

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary



William Elovirta, Chairperson

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- MLP Manager's e-mail re: possible zoning bylaw change
- Dave Lebreague's e-mail re: possible zoning bylaw change
- Berkshire Engineering's estimated costs for a proposed water treatment system at the Route 20 Spring
- FY19 MIIA Grant Application to purchase surveillance cameras at the Ambulance Department
- Departmental Reports as listed
- ZBA's Notice of Public Hearing as described above
- Extension of Town Administrator's Employment Contract
- Town Administrator's Report
- Minutes 10-3-18 and 10-4-18 meetings
- Correspondence as listed above
- Town Administrator's Report
- Letter of Appreciation to Yana DeLuca
- Town Administrator's Revenue Report (FY16 through FY20)
- form letter to officials newly appointed by the TA and BOS
- NSTAR Electric Company dba Eversource and Verizon New England, Inc.'s petition to construct and maintain a line of twenty-one jointly owned poles and their respective wires, cables, and underground laterals, on County Road, described in the plan marked 6B820477
 - 1) Public Hearing notice for the above captioned
 - 2) Highway Superintendent's comments pertaining to the above captioned
 - 3) MLP Manager's e-mail to Eversource