

**Town of Becket  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
January 2, 2019  
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: Bob Markel, *Interim Town Administrator*;  
Beverly Gilbert, *Recording Secretary*

Others: Bob Gross, Peter Spotts (Country Journal), Laurel Burgwardt  
Dan Parnell, Chris Lynch (Matrix Design)

**1. Call to order**

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He indicated that the BOS was recording the meeting. Peter Spotts announced that he too was recording the meeting.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Bill led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Nicole moved to approve the December 19, 2018 meeting minutes. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.,,,.

**4. Broadband Update**

Bob Gross indicated that the Broadband Ad Hoc Group has developed frequently asked questions for the Broadband Ad Hoc Group's January informational sessions. Comcast has agreed to service 9 premises bordering Chester at a cost to Becket in the amount of \$15,000. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group assumes that the town will offer these subscribers the same subsidy as will be offered to the other town subscribers. Bob Gross will contact Town Counsel to seek his recommendations relating to the agreement between the town and Comcast. Chris Lynch stated that he plans to distribute Matrix flyers at the Informational Sessions. Bob Gross and the BOS signed a letter to Last Mile Liaison Bill Ennen stating that on 12-28-18 the BOS voted to continue with a Town Owned Network.

**5. BOS to review and possible vote to approve the Special Town Meeting Warrant**

The Selectmen reviewed and voted on the Selectmen's recommendations for the STM Warrant Articles:

- Michael moved to not recommend Article 1 re: Citizen Petition to fund the UV Water Purification and building for the Route 20 Spring. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Michael moved to not recommend Article 2 re: \$100,000 Funding for the Route 20 Spring. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Nicole moved to support Article 3 re: financial transfers from free cash into the Police Department Expenses, and into Technology. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Michael moved to support Article 4 re: 72 Depot Street Easement. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Michael moved to support Article 5 re: Amendment to the Zoning By-Law Replacing Section 6.6, Photovoltaic Installations, In its entirety. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The BOS signed the 01-22-2019 Special Town Meeting Warrant.

**6. Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Discussion**

Bob Markel will provide a draft budget to the Board of Selectmen late on during January. He awaits information from the Governor who will present at the MMA Conference.

**7. Dept. of Environmental Protection letter dated 11-21-18 regarding Small Town Environmental Partnership**

The BOS determined that it will not apply to partake in this year's Small Town Environmental Partnership.

**8. Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements**

Michael will attend the Massachusetts Municipal Association Conference.

Bob will contact the Auctioneer to follow up on the Town Treasurer's request to schedule the town's property auction.

Bill has observed numerous unregistered vehicles in town. Discussion ensued. Bill will contact the Zoning Enforcement Officer to request enforcement of the unregistered motor vehicle bylaw in town, and to send notifications to violators indicating that they must comply by June 30, 2019 to avoid being fined. The town will post announcements in the Country Journal, Berkshire Eagle, Town Website and the town's monthly newsletter.

**9. Town Administrator's Report**

Bob Markel provided an update on the following areas: Green Communities, Energy Audits (Ambulance, Fire, Highway & Town Hall), demolitions (Finance Committee approved transferring \$7,800 from the Reserve fund to demolish a derelict house and barn on Route 20), DOR certified a \$5,526 reduction in the FY2019 Town Assessment from the Central Berkshire Regional School District (town's share in unencumbered funds above 5% in the FY2018 CBRSD's operating budget.)

**10. Public Input**

There was no public input at tonight's meeting.

**11. Any other business to come before the Board**

Bill announced that William Caldwell from Athol has agreed to the terms listed in the town's employment contract and he will begin working as the Town Administrator for a term effective 01-28-19 through 01-27-2022. The BOS will send the Town Administrator Screening Committee a letter of appreciation. Michael moved to sign the Employment Agreement between William Caldwell and the Town of Becket with the addition of the Town Accountant listed on the signature page, and elimination of Town Counsel's signature due to that Town Counsel already reviewed the contract. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The BOS signed a FY2019 Selectmen Amended Authorized Payrate form to add Mary Stucklen who will serve as Co-Conservation Agent. Her hourly pay rate will be \$19.37 effective January 1, 2019.

**12. Correspondence**

- **12-19-18, Dept. of Housing & Community Development re: Community Development Block Grant Program Monitoring Town of Becket, FY 2017 Community Development Fund (CDF) Grant #00790 – DHCD reviewed responses, and cleared findings of non-compliance.**
- **12-21-2018, Department of Utilities (DPU), Notice of Filing and Public Hearing – Petition of the Town of Becket for approval by the DPU of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to MGL Chapter 164, Section 134. Public Hearing to receive comments on the proposed municipal aggregation plan (Docket D.P.U. 18-133) will occur on 2-6-2019 at 2 p.m. in the DPU Offices, One South Station, Boston**

The BOS reviewed the above mentioned correspondence.

**13. BOS to review and sign payable warrants**

The BOS reviewed and signed payable warrants.

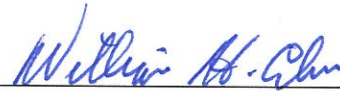
**14. BOS intends to go into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A: Section 21 (a) 2 to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, and to review and approve the December 28, 2018 Executive Session Minutes. BOS will not return to the Regular Session Meeting.**

Bill stated that it was no longer necessary to enter executive session to discuss a strategy with respect to contract negotiations. He moved for the BOS to go into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A to review and approve the December 28, 2018 Executive Session Minutes. BOS will not return to the Regular Session Meeting.

Roll call vote: Bill Elovirta – Yes, Nicole Ledoux – Yes, and Michael Lavery – Yes. . At 8:08 p.m. the BOS entered into Executive Session.

Date Approved: 1-16-2019

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary



William Elovirta, *Chairperson*

**Documents discussed at this meeting:**

- Town Administrator Report
- Amended Payrate Authorization form for Mary Stucklen
- 12-19-18 BOS meeting Minutes
- Correspondence as listed above
- Special Town Meeting Warrant 01-22-2019
- Letter dated 01-02-19 to Bill Ennen
- E-mail dated 01-02-19 from Dan Parnell re: Comcast
- Employment contract between William Caldwell and the Town of Becket
- Dept. of Environmental Protection letter dated 11-21-18 regarding Small Town Environmental Partnership