

**Town of Becket  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
January 16, 2019  
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: Bob Markel, *Interim Town Administrator*;  
Beverly Gilbert, *Recording Secretary*

Others: Dan Parnell, Maria Wallington

**1. Call to order**

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. He indicated that the BOS is 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 December 28, 2018 working meeting, and for the January 2, 2019 regular session meeting. Bill seconded. Motion carried.

**4. Broadband Update**

Dan Parnell reported that there has been a great turnout at the Broadband Ad Hoc Group Informational sessions.

**5. BOS to discuss draft letter for town-wide unregistered motor vehicles issue**

Bill reported that he had asked the Chief of Police to provide a listing of properties in violation of the unregistered motor vehicle bylaw. The BOS tabled more specific review of the Zoning Enforcement Officer's draft letter until the February 6, 2019 meeting. The BOS seeks to send a generic letter that will alert those in violation that they must be in compliance by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Bob and the BOS agreed that the letters should have a less severe tone. The BOS members will provide their suggestions for the upcoming meeting.

**6. BOS to review and consider voting on Conservation Commission's request for BOS approval of an insert for the July 2019 Tax Bills**

Michael moved to approve the Conservation Commission's Tax Insert with the stipulations that the Tax Collector deems that the 8 ½" x 11" size is not too large, and that the document is re-formatted to open as a pamphlet that reads left to right. Bill seconded. Motion carried.

**7. BOS to review and consider voting to approve the following One-day Wine & Beer license applications:**

- **Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival/Ariana Massery**  
**Events: Dance Party; Dates: March 10, 2019, 7:30 p.m. till 11:30 p.m.; Location: Perles Family Studio, 358 George Carter Road**

- **Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival/Ariana Massery**  
**Event: Dance Party; Date: February 23, 2019, 7:30 p.m. till 11:30 p.m.; Location: Perles Family Studio, 358 George Carter Road**

Michael moved to approve Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Inc.'s application for One-day Wine & Beer licenses for Dance Party events scheduled 7:30 p.m. till 11:30 p.m. on March 30 (this is the correct date) and February 23, 2019. Bill seconded. Motion carried.

The BOS agreed with Bob's suggestion that this will be a good opportunity for him to contact the director of Jacob's Pillow to follow up on the town's request to increase JP's PILOT. During discussion, Bob suggested that new Town Administrator may approach Marion Fathers who purchased the Kushi Institute property for a PILOT.

#### **8. Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Discussion**

Bob reported that he has started to meet with Department heads to review their budgets. He awaits the school assessment. On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Bob anticipates providing a draft operating budget to the BOS. Due to that state revenues have fallen off, Bob is recommending a conservative approach for spending. The Green Communities Grant final inspection walk-through will occur on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Dan advised that on February 6<sup>th</sup>, the Finance Committee will discuss and may vote to submit a recommendation to the BOS relating to a modification to the town's reserve funds policy.

#### **9. Departmental Reports:**

- Police Department (October 2018 & November 2018)
- Volunteer Fire Department (November 2018)

The BOS reviewed the above mentioned Departmental Reports.

#### **10. Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements**

None.

#### **11. Town Administrator's Report**

Bob's updates included the following topics:

- New Town Administrator: Bob met with Bill Caldwell on January 10 for some orientation. Bob arranged for the Community Compact grant for \$20,000 for budget development and this will begin when Bill takes the helm. Today the town was awarded \$8,000 to install Clear Gov for a year.
- Green Communities: Final projects are complete. The paperwork will be submitted to the Boston office this week. Jim Barry will conduct the final inspection in town on January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Town Hall Cleaning: ServiceMaster is the only bidder. Bob advised that he asked Dave Shorey to call other companies one more time. The town will seek other bidders.
- Kennel: Improvements are underway. Due to water damage, the cost will exceed \$1,000 which will be shared by the Town of Otis.
- Solar Voltaic Array RFP: Bob placed this on COMMBUYS. The deadline to submit proposals is on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Demolitions: Finance Committee has vote \$7,800 from the Reserve to fund demolition of the vacant house at 1379 Route 20.

- Karen Karlberg resigned from the Zoning Board of Appeals effective 01-14-19. Michael moved to accept Karen Karlberg's resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals effective 01-14-19. Bill seconded. Motion carried. The BOS signed a letter of appreciation to Ms. Karlberg for her service to the town.

## 12. Public Input

Per Dan Parnell's suggestion, Bob will discuss with the Building & Grounds Technician the possibility of having a plumber take measures to allow the public to access Town Hall water from an outside faucet. He stated that if the Town Hall provides an emergency source of water, those attending the STM may not be inclined to argue that that town should continue operating the Route 20 Spring on the basis that it serves as an emergency water supply.

## 13. Any other business to come before the Board

Bill had talked to Bob Markel regarding amending 01-22-19 STM Article 3 re: Financial Transfers:

Add transfer to pay \$1,036 homeowners dues to Indian Lakes for town-owned property. Bob will talk to Bob Gross of Indian Lakes to see if Indian Lakes would be amenable to assuming ownership of the town's property in Indian Lakes.

Add transfer from the Town Administrator Salaries to Selectmen's expenses to pay Community Paradigm Associates, LLC \$9,200 for their services in conjunction with recruiting and hiring the Town Administrator. This transfer would come from Town

Bob will obtain an insurance premium quote for liability coverage in conjunction with the town operating the Route 20 Spring. This information may be included during STM discussion concerning the Route 20 Spring Warrant Articles.

The BOS selected a cover photograph submitted by Police Officer Michael Hunt for the 2018 Annual Town Report. It was agreed that Bill will ask the Parks & Recreation Committee for a photograph of the new exercise equipment in the North Becket Village.

Michael moved to approve and sign the representation letter addressed to Melanson Heath re: the Fiscal Year 2017 Audit. Bill seconded. Motion carried.

## 14. Correspondence

- **01-08-19 e-mail, Jim Huebner, Town of Washington re: Ambulance Service & other issues**
- **01-08-19 letter from State Senator Hinds re: Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit, and enclosed information brochure**
- **Public Hearings Notice (received Jan. 2019) from the Dept. of Agricultural re: Vegetation Management Plan. Hearings are scheduled on 02-04-19 in the Northampton City Hall**

The BOS reviewed the above listed correspondence.

01-08-19 e-mail, Jim Huebner, Town of Washington re: Ambulance Service & other issues

After discussion of Jim Huebner's e-mail, the BOS agreed that Bill will contact Mr. Huebner to convey that the town supports the Town of Washington's efforts to add refurbishing Middlefield Road, the continuation of High Street in Becket onto the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Improvement Project list. Bill indicated that he had discussed this matter with the Highway Superintendent and this would be

appropriate since the town had completed previous improvements phases on High Street. The Registry of Deeds says the Borgnis Landfill is owned by one or both of the Towns of Washington and Becket. Jeremy Pollard is filing an affidavit stating that the Town of Washington rejected the “gift” at a Town Meeting. Dan will contact Jim Huebner to inquire when this Town of Washington Town Meeting vote occurred. Perhaps the Town of Becket refused this “gift” during the same timeframe.

01-08-19 letter from State Senator Hinds re: Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit, and enclosed information brochure

The BOS commented that the Board of Assessors organize the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit program, and this program may be mentioned in the Becket Bulletin.

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

The BOS reviewed and signed payable warrants.

**16. BOS to adjourn the Meeting**

Michael moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill seconded. Motion carried. At 8:11 p.m., Bill adjourned the meeting.

Date Approved: 2-6-19

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary



William Elovirta, *Chairperson*

**Documents discussed at this meeting:**

- Town Administrator Report
- Invitation to bid Ground Mounted Photovoltaic Array dated 01-16-19
- Copy of ServiceMaster of the Berkshires Cleaning Services proposal
- BOS 12-18-18 Working Meeting Minutes and 01-02-19 Regular Session Meeting Minutes
- Correspondence as listed above
- Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival’s applications are described above
- Conservation Commission pamphlet entitled Homeowner Activities and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act
- BOS Representation letter dated 01-16-19 to Melanson Heath re: FY17 Audit
- Draft letter of town-wide unregistered motor vehicles issue, and draft letter with Bill Elovirta’s comments
- Departmental Reports as listed above
- Photographs of the town’s Police Department K-9
- 01-14-19 Letter of resignation from Karen Karlberg
- 01-16-19 Letter of appreciation to Karen Karlberg