

Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
June 20, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall
557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees:

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

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

Others: Karen Karlberg, Michele Kenney, Pamela Tatge, Bert Goodermote, Gail Kusek, Jeff Piemont, Jeremy Dunn, Chris Lynch, Al Blake & Tania Jakubiec

1. Call to order

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He specified that the BOS was recording the meeting. Gail Kusek indicated that she too was recording the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Bill led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Jacob's Pillow's Dance Festival, Inc.'s Director Pamela Tatge re: Message of appreciation to the Town

Pamela Tatge who became the Director of Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Inc. two years ago, introduced herself, expressed appreciation for the town's assistance to Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, provided information and shared about some of the happenings at JP:

- JP is 86 years old and is the longest running dance festival in the United States, and it is the only National Landmark dedicated to dance. In the dance field throughout the country and around the world, performing at Jacob's Pillow is regarded as an achievement.
- JP offers free performances Wednesday through Saturday, at 6:15 p.m.
- JP had over 1,000 people attend its opening (tonight).
- She thanked Becket for all of the help and support it provides to JP to make it possible for JP's patrons and artists to visit and experience the festival.
- JP's festival runs 10 weeks.
- JP is a school as well as a festival with renowned teachers and small class sizes (only have 25 students in each class). The school teaches everything from ballet to contemporary to musical theatre, and they are exposed to world-wide dance performances.
- JP has archives (dance collections of videos, programs, photographs) opened to the public 7 days a week during the festival
- JP has a community engagement program. Curriculum in motion (dance artists come to Becket Washington elementary school for two weeks) has been in place for 24 years for 35 students (3rd and 4th graders), Collaboration with the Becket Arts Center – classes where families (Children & Adults up to 200 people) dance together every Friday at the Festival, Annual Girl Scout Day and Fun-Patch since 2013

- Since 2015's success (initiated due to Becket's 250th Anniversary), there has been an annual Community Day – This year they started an annual mailing of postcards to invite all those with 01223 mailing address.
- Vision 22 (stands for the year 2022), JP will become a year-round center for research and development & dance. Artists will develop new works in the Perles Studio and the Doris Duke Theatre. JP now has winterized on-campus housing for over 50 people. JP will also host conferences between September and May
- This year JP has started social barn dances for the public during the winter.
- JP has been expanding its community engagement programs They will expand school programs
- JP is participating in Pittsfield's third Thursdays.
- JP and has started having a bus called the Pittsfield Pillow Express so that transportation is not a barrier for people to come to the festival.

Jeremy stated that he would like to talk to Jacob's Pillow about its Broadband needs. Al Blake, Chair of the Energy Committee, stated that he hopes JP will consider placing Solar Energy on its property. Karen Karlberg stated that JP has approximately 30 year-round employees, including herself and she appreciates the way JP treats its workers.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

Michael moved to approve the June 6, 2018 meeting minutes. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously

5. **Discussion with members of the Becket Energy Committee re: Energy Matters**

Al Blake and Bob Markel discussed three areas that the Energy Committee is reviewing:

- 1) Aggregation Program – discussed under next agenda item.
- 2) HVAC system for the Town Hall. Bob Markel and Al Blake agree that the previous RFP (propane based system) was not in the town's best interest (due to the cost) and it would be better for the environment to research and consider a combination of a ground sourced heat system that may be tied into either electricity or a solar array. The goal would be to offset the Town's electricity usage to the greatest extent possible. Al indicated that there is a state DOER grant that may cover over \$200,000 of the town's HVAC system.
- 3) Community Solar – the Town may request a bid for use of the property adjacent to the Town Hall.

It was agreed that Bob will apply for a grant to hire a consultant to review technology options and conduct an analysis on HVAC and solar arrays. The consultant will advise whether heat-pump technology will work at the Town Hall. Bob will apply for a \$12,500 DOER Muni Energy Technology Assistance grant for the consultant.

Bob Markel discussed two grant programs: 1) Center for Energy Conservation 2) Green Communities.

6. **Discussion and possible vote on entering an agreement with Colonial Power Group, Inc. for Management of the Town's Municipal Aggregation Program and energy related services**

Bob Markel posted this bid on COMMBUYS and advised that Colonial Power Group, Inc. was the only supplier who submitted a proposal for the Management of the Town's Municipal Aggregation Program and energy related served. Al recommended that the Board of Selectmen appoint an advisory committee to review and provide a recommendation for selection of an option that will be

offered for aggregation. Michael moved to enter into an agreement effective 6-20-18 with Colonial Power Group, Inc. for the Management of the Town's Municipal Aggregation Program and energy related services. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Broadband Update

Jeremy provided an update that included the following items:

- Status and timeline
- Upcoming meeting with Bill Ennen
- Additional funds from EOHED
- Matrix Proposal
- Police Details
- Mass Pike Overpass.

8. Update re: Executive Search Firm to recruit for the Town Administrator position

The BOS discussed the two Executive Search Firms:

- Mary Aicardi, Senior Associate, from The Edward J. Collins Jr. Center for Public Management
- Bernard Lynch, Community Paradigm Associates, LLC

Bernie Lynch's firm offers more competitive fees. Mr. Lynch indicated that he will not charge for travel and he provided a discount to the Town of Becket. The BOS indicated that it has confidence in Mr. Lynch's abilities. Nicole moved to enter into a contract with Community Paradigm Associates, LLC to recruit for a Town Administrator. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The BOS will invite the Town Administrator Search Committee members to continue serving on this committee: The name of the committee will change to the Town Administrator Screening Committee.

9. Town Administrator's Appointment Recommendations: BOS to consider Voting Approval

Bob Markel stated that he would like to recommend appointing Albert Goodermote as the Animal Control Officer. He provided a proposal between the Town of Becket and Otis: The Becket ACO would provide coverage for Otis when the Otis ACO is not available and vice versa. Bill moved to approve the Town Administrator's recommendation to appoint Albert Goodermote as the Animal Control Officer, and Tania Jukubiec as the Assistant Animal Control Officer effective 7-1-18 through 6-30-19. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Board to Review and consider voting to appoint Committee and Board Members

Bill moved to re-appoint Kris Massini and Neil Toomey to the Agricultural Commission effective 7/1/2018 through 6/30/2019. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved to re-appoint Yana DeLuca to the Cultural Council effective 7/1/2018 through 6/30/2021. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved to appoint Alvin Blake Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Alternate Member effective 7/1/2018 through 6/30/2019. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to re-appoint William Elovirta Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Designee effective 7/1/2018 through 6/30/2019. Nicole seconded. Motion carried with William Elovirta recusing himself.

Bill moved to re-appoint Geri Walter to the Board of Assessors effective 7/1/2018 through 6/30/2021. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill moved to appoint all the individuals to the terms and positions as read and listed below. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Mary Stucklen, Conservation Commission 7/1/18 to 6/30/21
- Katherine Hoak, Energy Committee 7/1/18 to 6/30/21
- Garth Klimchuk, Energy Committee 7/1/18 to 6/30/21
- Steve Rosenthal, Harbor Master 7/1/18 to 6/30/19
- Sandra Jarvis, Historical Commission 7/1/18 to 6/30/21
- Gail Kusek, Historical Commission 7/1/18 to 6/30/21
- Robert Gross, Municipal Light Plant Manager 7/1/18 to 6/30/19
- Robert Gross, WiredWest Alternate Delegate 7/1/18 to 6/30/20
- Jeremy Dunn, WiredWest Delegate 7/1/18 to 6/30/20
- John Garvey, Jacobs Ladder Trail Advisory Committee 7/1/18 to 6/30/19
- William Girard, Zoning Enforcement Officer 7/1/18 to 6/30/21
- Victoria Bleier, Zoning Board of Appeals 7/1/18 to 6/30/21
- Coleen Cox (Democrat), Registrar of Voters 7/1/18 to 6/30/21
- Katherine Warden, Zoning Board of Appeals Associate Member 7/1/18 to 6/30/19

Bill moved to extend the contract and appointment for Robert Markel so that he may continue serving as the Interim Town Administrator and Chief Procurement Officer through 10/31/2019. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 11. Board to consider voting on the Tax Collector's Recommendation to appoint David Shorey Deputy Tax Collector and Nina Weiler Assistant Tax Collector**
Bill moved to approve the Tax Collector's Recommendation to re-appoint David Shorey Deputy Tax Collector and Nina Weiler Assistant Tax Collector from 7/1/2018 through 6/30/2019. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 12. Route 20 Spring Update**
Bob Markel reported that he had received two proposals (Fuss & O'Neill \$14,600 and Berkshire Engineering \$12,275) for Water Engineering Services relating to the Route 20 Spring. Michael moved for the town to enter into an agreement with Berkshire Engineering to provide engineering services relating to the Route 20 Spring. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 13. Town of Washington Fire Protection Fees for FY19**
Bill moved to accept the Town of Washington's offer to pay \$12,500 to the Town of Becket for fiscal year 2019 Fire Protection Services and for the Selectmen of Becket and Washington to enter into discussion for a longer term agreement. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 14. BOS to review and approve FY19 Amended pay rates**
The amended pay rates will be presented at the next BOS's meeting.
- 15. Town of Otis Meeting Update: BOS to consider approving an Agreement to allow Becket and Otis Animal Control Officer to continue providing mutual support, and discussion of the Repeater on Johnson Road**

The BOS authorized Bob Markel to sign an agreement between the Town of Becket and Otis re: Assistant Animal Control Officer Services and upgrading and sharing the Animal Control Facility on 238 Washington Street, Becket.

The BOS did not discuss the Repeater on Johnson Road.

16. Inter-departmental Transfers of Funds

Bob provided recommendations for End of Year Financial Transfers (\$82,782.95) for BOS approval:

<u>From:</u>		<u>To:</u>	
Assessors Salaries	\$14,575.15	Snow & Ice	\$60,508.65
Treasurer Expenses	\$5,000.00	Selectmen Expenses	\$510.14
Audit Expenses	\$9,500.00	Tax Title Expenses	\$3,946.08
Reserve Fund	\$10,000.00	Municipal Buildings	\$564.05
Short-Term Deb Interest	\$1,500.00	Veterans Benefits	\$9,248.98
Municipal Bldg. Expense	\$7,500.00	N. Becket Cemetery	\$2,195.36
Highway Garage	\$2,400.00	Transfer Station Expenses	\$2,400.00
BOH Salaries	\$1,307.80	BOH Expenses	\$1,308.80
Highway Fuel	\$21,000.00	Memorial Day/Veterans Day	\$100.89
Highway Gen Maintenance	\$10,000.00	Ambulance Department	\$2,000.00

Bill moved to approve the Inter-departmental Transfer of Funds as recommended by the Interim Town Administrator. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

17. Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

Bill suggested that the Town should review and update Jacob's Pillow's PILOT agreement.

Michael stated that the Athenaeum is creating a newsletter. This may generate ideas for a Town newsletter.

18. Town Administrator's Report

Bob provided updates on the following:

- Surplus property auction: Auction is underway.
- Auctions of Town-owned property and tax Title property.
- Host Community Agreement with IPA.
- 21 Maple Street
- Eversource issued a check to the Town in the amount of \$18,460 to cover the cost of installing the 400+ feet of new guardrail on George Carter Road
- Discussion with Otis Selectmen re; Johnson Road Repeater
- Shared ACO Services
- Bob has not received a reply from Cong. Neal's Office re: Julia Grace's inquiry re: mailbox pad
- Upcoming Meeting

19. Public Input

None.

20. Any other business to come before the Board

Michael moved to send a letter of commendation to Jan Elovirta who received the Massachusetts State Police Lifesaving Award for his contribution during the November 25, 2017 rescue of a man lost in the October Mountain State Forest. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael moved to allow for vacation days and comp-time hours carry-over for Town employees as listed below. Nicole seconded. Motion carried.

Christine Bleau – 2 vacation days, Nina Weiler – 2 vacation days,
Christopher Bouchard – 5 vacation days & 136 hours Comp time,
Bert Goodermote – 3 vacation days, Donald Murray – ½ vacation day,
and Geri Walter – 2 vacation days.

Michael moved to approve the tax stuffer for the Becket Scholarship Fund (cost of stuffer \$180). Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bob Markel had received an inquiry from a Chester resident who has a non-residential structure in Becket. The BOS confirmed that only Becket residents are allowed to access the Becket Beach.

The Parks & Recreation Committee is seeking applicants for lifeguards and gate guards to work at the Town Beach.

21. BOS to review and sign payable warrants

The BOS reviewed and signed payable warrants.

22. BOS to adjourn the meeting

Michael moved to adjourn. Nicole seconded. At 9:47 p.m., Bill adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*

 Approved
4-17-19
William Elovirta, *Chairperson*

Documents discussed at the meeting:

- Town of Becket Aggregation Implementation Outline
- Becket Scholarship Stuffer
- Consultant agreement for Management of the Town's Municipal Aggregation Program and Energy-Related Services – Colonial Power Group, Inc.
- End of Year Financial Transfer listing
- Town Administrator Report
- Agreement between Otis and Becket re: Animal Control Services
- Berkshire Engineering, Inc. Proposal for Becket Route 20 Spring Engineering Services
- Fuss and O'Neill Proposal for Becket Route 20 Spring Engineering Services
- List of BOS appointments
- Community Paradigm Associates, LLC letter dated 6-15-18
- E-mail dated 6-19-18 from Mary E. Aicardi
- Massachusetts Clean Energy Center Information
- Letter to Jan Elovirta dated 6-20-18
- Extension of Employment agreement between the Town of Becket and Robert T. Markel
- Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival 2018 Brochure
- Listing of Vacation and Comp-time Carry Over requests