

**Town of Becket  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
April 17, 2019  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall  
557 Main Street, Becket**

**Attendees**

**Board of Selectmen:** William Elovirta, *Chairperson*; Michael Lavery, *Vice Chairperson*

**Staff:** William Caldwell, *Town Administrator*; Bev Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*;  
Kristopher McDonough, *Police Chief*

**Others:** Bob Gross, David Johnson, Shaun Courtney, A. J. Pietrantone and Emilee Yawn

**1. Call to order**

Bill called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. He specified 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 following meetings: June 20, 2018; March 22, 2019 and April 3, 2019. Bill seconded. Motion carried.

**4. BOS to consider voting to approve the Town Administrator's Recommendation to Appoint Shaun Courtney as Probationary Part-Time Reserve Police Officer effective 4/21/2019 through 6-30-19 with an hourly rate of pay of \$17.62.**

Chief McDonough described the recruitment and spoke in support of hiring Shaun Courtney to serve on Becket's Police force based upon his education, experience with the Monterey Police Department, and references. Mr. Courtney expressed his appreciation to have this opportunity to serve the Becket Community in its police department which has a very good reputation under Chief McDonough's leadership. Bill E. moved to approve the Town Administrator's Recommendation to appoint Shaun Courtney as Probationary Part-Time Reserve Police Officer effective 4/21/2019 through 6-30-19 with an hourly rate of pay of \$17.62. Michael seconded. Motion carried.

**5. Departmental Reports**

- **Police Chief's Report (Memo dated 4-1-19) with attached Call Analysis Report for January, February and March 2019, and Becket Police Department Citations 2019**  
The Selectmen reviewed the above captioned reports.

**6. Review and BOS possible vote on David A. Johnson's Appointment Application to serve on the Conservation Commission (appointment would be effective through 6-30-21**

Mr. Johnson introduced himself to the BOS and described his interest in serving on the Conservation Commission to uphold its ideals to protect the environment. Michael moved to appoint David A. Johnson to serve on the Conservation Commission effective 4-17-19 through 6-30-21. Bill seconded. Motion carried.

7. **Broadband Update**  
Tomorrow the MLP Manager will meet with the Town Administrator, Treasurer, and Town Accountant to discuss borrowing options for the Broadband project.
8. **Possible vote and signing of an agreement between Becket and Comcast to provide broadband service to several residents who reside on the Chester border**  
The Selectmen advised the MLP Manager that once Town Counsel has approved the wording of the agreement between Becket and Comcast, they will arrange to sign it.
9. **BOS to review and vote on Renewal of Sunday Entertainment and Six Day Entertainment License Applications for Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Inc. (location: 358 George Carter Road)**  
Jacob's Pillow Deputy Director A. J. Pietrantone and Office Manager Emilee Yawn fielded questions relating to Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival Inc.'s Entertainment licenses. This year entertainment will not include nudity. Bill moved to approve the renewal of Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival Inc.'s Sunday and Six-Day Entertainment licenses. Michael seconded. Motion carried.
10. **BOS to discuss and schedule the Memorial Day Parade**  
Michael moved to schedule the Memorial Day Parade for May 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Bill E. seconded. Motion carried. The format of the parade will remain the same as it was for last year.
11. **BOS to Sign the Annual Town Meeting Draft Warrant**  
Once Bill C. receives wording from Town Counsel on several of its articles, he will present the ATM Warrant for the BOS to sign.
12. **Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements**  
Bill E. brought up that the Animal Control Officer does not wish to be reappointed. Bill C. will recruit for this position. He will advertise in the Becket Bulletin, Town website, and Country Journal.

Michael initiated discussion regarding the Baby Town Meeting and Meet the Candidates Night. This has been set for Monday, 4-29. The Moderator had conveyed that he is available. Michael volunteered to open the meeting. Bill C. will provide an overview of the ATM Warrant Articles and will not be involved with the candidate portion of this event. Bill C. will send a MailChimp notification, and ask Dave Shorey, the Buildings and Grounds Technician, to set up the Community Room for this meeting.

13. **Town Administrator's Report**  
Bill C. indicated that the Conservation Agent advised that she will not be able to be the coordinator and point person for the MVP grant. The Selectmen stated that it is their understanding that the BOS agreed to apply for this grant contingent on the Conservation Commission finding a person to fill that role and if they are not able to do so, then the Town would need to wait to apply in the future.

Bill C. discussed the following topics:

- Budget FY2020 – has been approved. Several salaries were adjusted downward due to percentage corrections.
- Route 20 Spring – Paperwork was submitted to Mass DEP reporting that the Spring is inaccessible.

- He is working on the Budget presentation with the Collins Center at UMASS Boston.
- Town Building light upgrades
- Annual Town Meeting Warrant – Town Counsel is working on language for the easement of the septic and well for the Athenaeum, Mullen House and Art Center. Bill provided two options for the Article re: Changing the Town Clerk from an elected to an appointed position. The Town Clerk’s term ends on June 30, 2020. The BOS agreed to go through a Special Legislation Home Rule Petition.
- Berkshire County Selectmen’s Association meeting on 4-25-19. Bill Elovirta to attend.
- Bill C. invoiced the CBRSD for its portion of the School Election costs (\$1,313.21)
- The BOS gave their green light for the Ambulance Director to organize a Newlife Chiropractic seminar for Town employees
- Upcoming Workshops: OSHA training (Internal investigations re: harassment, discrimination and hostile work environment), ClearGov, Public Service Symposium at Suffolk University.
- Next week there will be a meeting re: Town Website with Michael, Beverly, Nina Weiler, Bill C. and the Vendor.
- Grants submitted:
  - META – Bowman submitted the Financial Report and invoice (\$11049)
  - Community Compact- Budget Presentation (\$20,000)
  - Community Compact ClearGov (\$8,000)

**14. Public Input**

Bob Gross advised that the Board of Health requires a Title 5 (not an informal checking) on the Mullen House’s septic system and this will mean that any problems found will be the TOB’s responsibility to correct. The Highway Superintendent will open up the ground on April 30<sup>th</sup>, the inspection will occur on May 1<sup>st</sup> with the ground returning back to normal on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Athenaeum will pay for pumping out the septic system.

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

The BOS received an inquiry about posting an obituary on the town website. The BOS indicated that the Town website is not designed for obituaries.

**16. Correspondence**

- **4-8-19 Office of the Attorney General letter addressed to the Town Clerk. On 3-25-19 the AG’s Office received the BOS’s response to Town Clerk’s Open Meeting Law Complaint filed on 3-6-19. Unless a request for further review is submitted to the AG’s Office by 5-13-19, the AG’s Office will regard the response as sufficient and will close the file.**
- **Albert Goodermote’s letter to the Board of Selectmen received on 4-11-19 stating that he does not wish to be reappointed on 7-1-19 as the Animal Control Officer.**
- **4-9-19 Town of Otis Notice of Planning Board Hearing Relative to proposed zoning by-laws re: Marijuana Establishment and Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers. Hearing scheduled 7 p.m. on 4-29-19 at the Otis Town Hall**

The BOS reviewed the above communications.

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

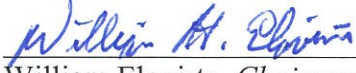
The BOS reviewed and signed payable warrants.

**18. BOS to adjourn the Meeting**

Michael moved to adjourn. Bill seconded. At 7:40 p.m., Bill adjourned the meeting.

Date Approved May 1, 2019

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*

  
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William Elovirta, *Chairperson*

**Documents discussed at this meeting:**

- Town Administrator's Report
- Meeting Minutes for June 20, 2018; March 22, 2019 and April 3, 2019
- Departmental reports as listed above
- Correspondence as listed above
- 4-11-19 letter from Police Chief to Town Administrator recommending hiring of Shawn Courtney
- Jacob Pillow Dance Festival Inc.'s Sunday Entertainment and Six Day Entertainment license renewal applications
- Memorial Day poster
- E-mail from Town Clerk dated 4-16-19 re: Marj Fuller's passing