

Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen Emergency Meeting Minutes
9:00am, March 16, 2020
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees

Board of Selectmen: William Elovirta (BE), *Chairperson*; Michael Lavery (ML), *Vice Chairperson* via remote participation, and Chris Swindlehurst (CS), *Clerk*

Staff: William Caldwell (BC), *Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert (BG), *Administrative Assistant*; George Robert, *Town Clerk*

1. Call to order

BE called the meeting to order at 9:00am and indicated that the BOS is recording the meeting. He specified that due to that Michael Lavery is participating remotely, roll call votes are required.

2. Discussion and possible votes on Emergency Policies and Protocols in response to COVID-19.

The BOS agreed to BC's more restrictive recommendation outlined in his update letter to the community dated today (to be posted on the town website and sent via mailchimp) that as a result of the Federal and State's declaration of a national/state emergency, and orders relating to the COVID-19, all town buildings will be closed to the public. Moreover, although the staff will work at the Town Hall, Town Hall business will be conducted via e-mail or telephones. The town will install a secure drop box for payments delivered to the Town Hall. In order for the town to become eligible for any potential state and federal aid to pay for expenses related to combating COVID-19 crisis (sanitizers, special soaps, medical supplies, etc.), BE moved to declare a State of Emergency for the Town of Becket effective 9am today until the time and date for which the state lifts its ban. CS seconded. Roll call: William Elovirta – yes; Michael Lavery – yes; and Chris Swindlehurst – yes. Motion carried 3-0.

Part of the Governor's measures includes banning gatherings of more than 25 people. The BOS stated that allowing Public Attendance at public meetings is at the discretion of the Committee or Board. Based on that attendance is generally low at its meetings, The Selectmen agreed that it will not ban attendance at the Board of Selectmen meetings. The BOS will add a message on its agenda indicating that participation may also occur through conference calling, and the public may submit comments in writing prior to the meeting. The Town has set up an e-mail address that may be used for submitting comments to boards/committees comment@townofbecket.org

3. Any Other Business

At 9:08am, Town Clerk George Roberts entered the meeting to field questions about the April 7th Caucus. He discussed crowd control procedures he will employ so that that the town will comply with the Governor's orders. If sanitizing agents remain on back-order, he may give away the voting pens so that germs are not spread through their re-use. He favors proceeding with the Caucus on April 7th because delays may impact the election schedule. Mr. Roberts also discussed that perhaps a future Town Meeting discussion may

include a vote as to whether, given the expense and that there are other methods for individuals to submit applications to appear on the ballot, it would make sense to discontinue Town Caucuses. Mr. Roberts left the meeting at 9:11am.

4. BOS to adjourn the Meeting

ML moved to adjourn. CS seconded. Roll call: William Elovirta – yes; Michael Lavery – yes; and Chris Swindlehurst – yes. Motion carried 3-0. At 9:12am, BE adjourned the meeting.

Date approved 3-18-2020

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary



William Elovirta, Chairperson

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- Town Administrator's Update to the Community dated 3-16-2020
- Sign to post on the doors of the Town Hall announcing that Town Hall is closed to the Public with a Telephone /e-mail directory of Town Hall Departments