

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
7:00pm, May 6, 2020
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees

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

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

Others via remote participation: Gale Labelle, Board of Health Chairperson; & Tim Durand, Palmer Paving

Other Attendee: Bob Ronzio

1. Call to order

BE called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He indicated that the BOS was recording the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

BE led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. 7:05pm Bid Openings and possible BOS votes to accept the Town Administrator's recommendations re: awarding the bids:

- **FDR with Injected Asphalt Stabilization Fine grade and Compaction and Superpave Intermediate and Surface Course HMA Mixes**
- **Ambulance Garage Floor Drain project**

At 7:05pm, BE read the bid opening advertisements for the FDR with Injected Asphalt Stabilization Fine grade and Compaction and Superpave Intermediate and Surface Course HMA Mixes Project and Town Administrator / Chief Procurement Officer Bill Caldwell opened and announced the bids:

LB Corporation – Lee, MA	\$330,465.50
Warner Bros., LLC – Sunderland, MA	\$334,223.00
Palmer Paving Corporation – Palmer, MA	\$326,170.00
HMA Contracting Corporation - Mechanicville, NY	\$411,274.80
Northeast Paving Eurovia Atlantic Coast LLC – Northfield, MA	\$363,100.00

ML moved to award the bid to the low bidder, Palmer Paving Corporation in the amount of \$326,170.00 for the FDR with Injected Asphalt Stabilization Fine grade and Compaction and Superpave Intermediate and Surface Course HMA Mixes Project with the stipulation that BC determines that the documents meet the requirements. CS seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

BE read the bid opening advertisement for the Ambulance Garage Floor Drain project and Town Administrator / Chief Procurement Officer Bill Caldwell opened and announced the bids:

Clayton D. Davenport Trucking Inc., Greenfield, MA	\$122,475.00
Kurtz General Contractors, Westfield, MA	\$119,628.00

CS moved for the BOS to reject the bids for the Ambulance Garage Floor Drain project due to that they exceed the appropriation. ML seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

4. Broadband Update and BOS to discuss and possibly vote on policies and decisions relating to the Broadband Project

There was no update at tonight's meeting,

5. Board of Health Update

Board of Health Chairperson Gale Labelle brought up the following topics:

A. **Masks** – BC advised that in response to the Governor's Executive Order requiring masks for face coverings in public when social distancing is not possible, he has sent a communication to employees. At this time when the Town Hall is closed to the public, employees are encouraged, but not required to wear face coverings or masks and employees are encouraged to don masks when in communal areas (restroom, hallways, kitchen or when standing less than six feet away from others). Gale and Michael expressed concern about being in proximity to employees who do not wear face coverings.

B. Reimbursement to Camps for Board of Health Inspection Related Fees:

Gale inquired about issuing refunds for Board of Health inspectional services to Camps that do not receive BOH inspections if COVID-19 prevents Camps from operating this summer. The BOS and BC indicated that due to that the BOH inspectional and permitting fees were deposited into the Town account, refunds would require Town Meeting approval and the deadline has surpassed to add any articles to the ATM. The BOS suggested that the BOH consider offering to apply the 2020 BOH permitting fees to the 2021 Camp season if Camps do not operate this summer.

C. **Beaches** – Bob Ronzio advised that the Sherwood Forest Lake District is complying with the Governor's Executive Order and will post notices on their beaches. Gale will arrange for the BOH to communicate with other beach associations in Becket to provide guidance about postings.

D. **Demolitions:** Gale requested that the town will demolish condemned structures located at 58 Depot Street, 242 Wells Road, 43 Pleasant Street and 44 Pleasant Street. BC advised that the Building Inspector is responsible for prioritizing demolitions.

6. **Approval of Meeting Minutes (April 15, 2020)**
ML moved to approve the minutes for the April 15, 2020 meeting. CS seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
7. **Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person, 20 minutes total for this agenda item).**
Bob Ronzio, Chairperson of the Planning Board, advised that the Cannabis Control Commission recently, in response to allowing virtual web-based community outreach meetings to satisfy social distancing mandates, issued an administrative order that applicants must submit, along with their application to the Commission, a recording of the outreach meeting. Due to the additional requirement, the Planning Board's public hearing to review the Conboy's special permit application to operate an indoor marijuana cultivation, packaging and distribution facility at 2727 Jacob's Ladder Road will need to be continued to June.
8. **BOS discussion and potential vote on Transfer Station Fees and Possible changes**
The BOS tabled this agenda item until the May 20th meeting.
9. **Use of Town Hall Meeting Rooms/Outside Usage (For Homeowners Associations and Lake/Road District Annual Meetings)**
Discussion ensued regarding use of the Town Hall Meeting Rooms and Outside usage on Town property for June 2020 Homeowner Associations and Lake/Road District Annual Meetings. During discussion, the BOS determined that for now, in order to comply with the Governor's orders, the Town Hall meeting rooms are not available.

BC had advised that the Governor's COVID-19 Order #13 includes exception 4 (a) to allow legislative bodies to hold meetings. Moreover, in keeping with social distancing requirements, the Selectmen discussed use of in front of the Town Hall or the Pavilion. The Wi-Fi is good in front of the Town Hall but does not reach to the Pavilion.

To address the list of requests for use of the Town Hall Meeting Rooms, and outdoor areas, BE moved that legislative groups be allowed to use the Pavilion or in front of the Town Hall, and that due to that it will conflict with the logistics affiliated with the Annual Town Meeting, the Sherwood Greens Road District's request to meet on Town Hall property on June 6, 2020 is denied. CS seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
10. **BOS to vote on the Town Clerk's Recommendation to reappoint Michelle Smith (Democrat) to the Board of Registrars (3-year term to expire on March 31, 2023).**
ML moved to accept the Town Clerk's recommendation to reappoint Michelle Smith (Democrat) to the Board of Registrars effective 4-1-2020 through 3-31-2023. CS

seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

11. BOS to review Departmental Reports

- **Animal Control Officer**
- **Others TBA**

The BOS reviewed the Animal Control Officer's Report.

12. BOS's Comments and Announcements

CS reported that he and BC reviewed the costs relating to renting Transfer Station compactors, and they determined that this matter will be revisited since renting will cost more than the town would save in trucking fees. The budget will remain the same but the town will not move forward with renting compactors.

ML reported that a resident asked if the town would waive some of the Transfer Station Fees in order to mitigate some of the financial impacts of COVID-19.

ML moved to waive the fee per household for the first bag at the Transfer Station during each visit through June 30, 2020. CS seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

ML had received a letter from a resident with concerns about the behavior of occupants at an Air Bed and Breakfast on Alan A Dale Drive. The BOS advised that the resident may elect to contact the Police Department with matters regarding disturbing the peace.

BE brought up that the Tax Collectors inquired if the beach will be open and if they should sell beach stickers. It was agreed that the Collectors should wait until after the Selectmen's May 20th meeting. It is anticipated that the Governor will send a COVID-19 Notification on May 18th. On May 20, 2020, the BOS will discuss the Town Beach. BE stated that the Parks & Recreation Committee are approximately 90 per cent certain the Town's Summer Camp program will not operate this summer. The BOS advised that the boat ramps for car top boats will be allowed.

13. Town Administrator's Report

BC provided an update of several items that he has been working on:

- Broadband Hut
- RFP for Assessing Service

BE had received an e-mail from Board of Assessor Member Karen Avasle re: suggestions pertaining to the Assessing Department with attachments: 1) Town of Becket Assessors recommendations for a Revaluation company 2) List of Open Items. BC indicated that he thinks it is in the best interest of the town to design a long-term solution for operations of the Assessing Department and he suggested asking Regional Resource Group to renew the contract for one year, and this would provide an opportunity to monitor the Assessors' concerns. CS moved to authorize BC to pursue extending Regional Resource Group's Assessing Services Contract through June 30, 2021. ML seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

- Green Communities competitive grant - submitted
- ATM/ATE – June 6/June 13

- Athenaeum septic – will review in a couple weeks with White Wolf
- Yokum Pond Rd
- Ambulance Garage
- Town Hall HVAC
- MVP
- TH Reopening Plan
- Memorial Day – small ceremony/service on Memorial Day and Taps
 - Something online from previous year
- Beach/Parks
- Permits
- Highway
 - Applications until May 8, Posted in CJ, BE/online, MMA
 - The BOS discussed setting up the Highway Superintendent's Screening Committee: ML moved to appoint BE as the Selectmen's representative to the Highway Superintendent Screening Committee. CS seconded. Motion carried 3-0. BE recusing himself. BE moved to appoint the Finance Committee's Designee to the Highway Superintendent Screening Committee. ML seconded. Motion carried 3-0. BE moved to appoint Albert Goodermote as the Becket Highway Department's representative to the Highway Superintendent Screening Committee. CS seconded. Motion carried 3-0. BC indicated that two citizens offered to serve on the committee: 1) Kathe Warden who is the Chester's Town Administrator, she recently hired a Highway Superintendent, and served as Chairperson of the Becket's Town Administrator Search Committee. 2) George Fuller who was on the Becket Highway Department, and had once served as the Acting Superintendent of the Highway Superintendent. ML moved to appoint Katherine Warden as the Citizen's Representative to the Highway Superintendent's Screening Committee. BE seconded. Motion carried 3-0. BE moved to appoint the Town Administrator's Experienced Highway Superintendent designee to serve on the Highway Superintendent Screening Committee. ML seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

14. Any other business to come before the Board

BE reported that he investigated a request from Heather Anello to receive Town approval to add a street light in her parking area. He will convey to Ms. Anello that his contact at Eversource advised that as long as she is paying for the costs, and the pole does not have any ties to the town (such as an MLP pole), she, not the town, would enter into a contract with Eversource.

15. Correspondence:

- **Received 4-30-2020 Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. re: CSX Transportation, Inc.'s 2020 Yearly Operational Plan for Railroad Right-of-Way Vegetation Management and maps are available upon request from stephen.herzog@woodplc.com**
- **4-2-2020 MassDOT re: keystone Arch Bridge Rehabilitation Project – MassDOT completed a review of projects approved by the Project Review Committee prior to 2014. Due to that this project is not part of the 2020-**

2024 Capital Investment Plan criteria, it has been deactivated. If there is continued interest, the project would need to be submitted to the PRC via the Mass. Project Intake Tool.

- 4-23-2020 MassDOT re: Bridge Inspection Report:
 - B-03-049 Yokum Pond Rd/Yokum Brook dated 12/19/2019
- 4-29-2020 MassDOT re: Bridge Inspection Reports:
 - B-03-039 Maple Street/Yokum Brook dated 1/23/2020
 - B-03-041 Lovers Lane/Shakermill Brook dated 1/23/2020
 - B-03-064 Prentice Pl/Yokum Brook dated 1/15/2020

The BOS reviewed the above captioned correspondence.

16. BOS to review and sign payable warrants.

The BOS reviewed and signed payable warrants.

17. BOS to adjourn the Meeting

CS moved to adjourn. ML seconded. Motion carried 3-0. At 8:31pm, BE adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Gilbert, Administrative Assistant

Signed by:


William Elovirta, Chairperson

1 5-20-2020

Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- ◆ Town Administrator's Report
- ◆ Board of Selectmen April 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes
- ◆ Correspondence as listed in agenda item 15
- ◆ Legal Notices and Procurement Documents mentioned in agenda item 3
- ◆ Animal Control Officer's Report – March 2020 Activity
- ◆ Town Clerk's e-mail dated April 27, 2020 in support of reappointing Michelle Smith to the Registrar of Voters
- ◆ Listing of Requests for Use of the Town Hall Meeting Room and Outdoor Space
- ◆ Michael Lavery e-mail dated May 4, 2020 re: illegal air B&B rentals
- ◆ Board of Assessor Member Karen Avalue re: suggestions pertaining to the Assessing Department with attachments: 1) Town of Becket Assessors recommendations for a Revaluation company 2) List of Open Items