

**Town of Becket  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
6:00pm, July 15, 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*; Kristopher McDonough (KM), Police Chief

**Others:** Bob Gross, MLP Manager

**1. Call to order**

BE called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

BE led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Bob Gross gave an update on Broadband. In response to a couple letters to the editor of the Berkshire Eagle, Bob presented a letter to the editor of the Berkshire Eagle that the BOS may send to clarify some of the points. All pole licenses have been approved. Drive-through has started. Pike is conducting ride-out with Westfield Gas & Electric (WGE). Information will be shared with the Broadband Ad Hoc Group and WGE. Some underground areas are ready to move forward with Make Ready. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group is working to update the website (becketbroadband.org) with FSA and addresses. Build sequence has not yet been determined. The town will need to prep for the next borrowing of funds to pay for construction and drops.

**4. Approval of the July 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

ML moved to approve the July 1, 2020 meeting minutes, CS 2<sup>nd</sup>: unanimous.

**5. Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person, 20 minutes total for this agenda item).**

Bob Gross passed along an Indian Lake resident's complaint regarding the difficulty working with the Conservation Commission. ML also mentioned the difficulty Sherwood Greens has had with the Conservation Commission. In both cases their respective engineering companies advised that they would not go before the Conservation Commission again.

**6. BOS to review Departmental Reports**

None

**7. BOS's Comments and Announcements**

BE – Quarry: An attendant had been threatened. Crowd control is an issue. Regular police and EMS is an issue. The BOS will invite a Representative of the Becket Land Trust to the next meeting. KM spoke of regular patrols, tickets, and issues.

BE – The Becket Chimney Corners YMCA & Outdoor Center did not give donations to the Police, Fire, Ambulance and Highway associations for fiscal year 2020. Discussion ensued about PILOT. Their land is tax-free as a non-profit.

ML – Stated his preference to keep the starting time of the regularly scheduled BOS meetings consistent. Discussion ensued about the starting time.

CS – A resident called to compliment on Yokum Pond Rd.

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

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

- Yokum Pond Rd – changing culverts. End of month to begin construction.
- Ambulance Garage – quote received from Witch Enterprise, getting price for concrete
- Town Hall HVAC
- TH Reopening Plan – proposed: BE moved to continue closing the Town Hall to the public and the BOS will discuss this matter at its 9/2 meeting after it receives more guidance from the state. CS 2<sup>nd</sup>: unanimous.
- Working on 2019 audit
- Closing out 2020 budget
- Broadband hut and project moving forward  
Installation of vault, flooring, electrical, and generator

#### **9. Any other business to come before the Board**

BC: The new Highway Superintendent will start on 7/20/20.

#### **10. Correspondence**

None

#### **11. BOS to review and sign payable warrants.**

The BOS reviewed and signed the payable warrants.

#### **12. BOS to adjourn the Meeting**

ML moved to adjourn. CS 2<sup>nd</sup>: unanimous. BE adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm

*Respectfully submitted,*

*William Caldwell, Town Administrator*

Signed by:



William Elovirta, Chairperson

/ 8/5/2020

Date Approved

#### **Documents discussed at this meeting:**

- ◆ Town Administrator's Report
- ◆ 7-1-2020 Meeting Minutes
- ◆ Broadband Ad Hoc Group's suggested letter to the editor