

Town of Becket
Select Board Meeting Minutes
7:00pm, October 7, 2020
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees

Select Board: William Elovirta (BE), *Chairperson*; Michael Lavery (ML), *Vice Chairperson*;
Absent: Chris Swindlehurst (CS), *Clerk*

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

Others (remote participation): Chris and Dennis Regan, Nicole Scarboro from Eversource

Others (in person): Bob Gross (MLP Manager)

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 Hearing on Eversource's petition (6B030526Becket) to install three (3) solely owned poles with wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across Dimmock Road. The poles are required to bring electrical service to #1110 Dimmock Road.

At 7:05pm, BE announced the above captioned hearing and read the public hearing notice. MLP Manager Bob Gross discussed the Broadband Ad Hoc Group's comments with the Select Board, Chris and Dennis Regan (who own the premise at 1110 Dimmock Road) and Nicole Scarboro from Eversource:

1. All new poles should be Make Ready for fiber
2. There should be no license application fees for Make Ready costs.
3. The annual rental fees on the poles should be waived. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group suggested that the Select Board should insist on Items 1 and 2 and ask for Item 3. Nicole Scarboro indicated that the new poles will be Make Ready, and she is not authorized to approve items 2 and 3. No other comments were made during the hearing.

BE moved to approve Eversource's petition (6B030526Becket) to install three (3) solely owned poles with wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across Dimmock Road with the understanding that the poles will be able to take fiber for broadband (Make Ready), and the stipulation that there will be no license application fees for Make Ready costs. ML 2nd. Vote: 2-0.

Nicole Scarboro will arrange for an Eversource Official to contact BC to advise if Eversource will agree to waive the Make Ready license application fees. BG will notify the Regans about Eversource's response. If Eversource refuses to waive the Make Ready license application fees, the Select Board will discuss this matter on Oct. 21st.

BE questioned if the Town needs to schedule a hearing for Eversource's pole petition for Osceola Road which is a private road. Nicole clarified that municipalities do not conduct pole hearings for private roads.

Due to that there were no other comments, at 7:20pm, BE declared this hearing closed. Nicole Scarboro from Eversource, and Chris and Dennis Regan, left the meeting.

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

MLP Manager Bob Gross discussed the following topics:

- The Broadband Ad Hoc Group has a kick-off meeting with Westfield Gas & Electric and Sertex on Oct. 14th. During this meeting, a start date and the build sequence for the first FSAs will be determined. Construction is required to begin within 21 days of the official kick-off date.
- Starting next week, the Broadband Ad Hoc Group will change its weekly meetings to 1pm on Wednesday. Westfield Gas & Electric will attend every other week. Once construction begins, Westfield Gas & Electric and Sertex will attend weekly.
- Easement for premises (Jeff Piemont had initiated this idea.): The Broadband Ad Hoc Group is working with Town Counsel to create an easement to grant the Town permission to maintain the outdoor infrastructure. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group will recommend a no easement, no service policy.
- Underground areas: Family Court and Frederick Court Make Ready are complete. Parsons Way underground construction is scheduled for next week. Bob received paperwork from William Holmes and Becket West Roads: both want aerial and Westfield Gas & Electric will send final designs; Burke will install the poles.
- The Broadband Ad Hoc Group is developing a sign-up process with Westfield Gas & Electric. Westfield Gas & Electric will require electronic sign-ups at the Westfield Gas & Electric website. Bob suggested that the Town will arrange to allow those unable to do so at their homes, to sign up electronically at the Town Hall.

5. Approval of the September 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

ML moved to approve the September 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes. BE 2nd. Vote: 2-0.

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

Bob Gross relayed concerns about truck traffic (speeding/noise) from several members of the Indian Lake Community and several residing on Bonny Rigg Hill and Algeria Roads. He inquired about the process to recommend a change in the speed limit and prohibit the use of Jake (engine compression) brakes. BE and BC stated that the state must approve all speed limit changes, and municipalities have no legal standing (according to MassDOT policy) to restrict the use of Jake brakes which the Federal Motor Carrier Act recommends as a safety measure. BE explained that Jake brakes are used on heavy trucks to slow down the vehicle using engine compression and regardless of the speed, this is especially necessary when descending a downhill grade. Bob asked if the Police Dept. could monitor the speed of those travelling on Bonny Rigg Hill/Algerie Roads. Bob left the meeting at 7:40pm.

7. Discussion and possible Vote to Sign a Resolution Adopting the Town of Becket 2020 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

ML moved to sign a Resolution Adopting the Town of Becket 2020 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. BE 2nd. Vote: 2-0.

8. BOS to acknowledge John Garvey's resignation as Becket's Representative on the Jacob's Ladder Trail Scenic Byway Advisory Board effective Sept. 30, 2020.

The BOS acknowledged receipt of John Garvey's notification (received September 30, 2020) of his resignation as Becket's Representative on the Jacob's Ladder Trail Scenic Byway Advisory Board and signed a letter of appreciation for his efforts while serving in that capacity.

9. BOS to review Departmental Reports

- ◆ Volunteer Fire Dept. - July and August 2020
- ◆ Highway Dept. – Aug. 31 through Sept. 25, 2020
- ◆ Police Department: 1) Police Chief's memo dated Oct. 1, 2020;
2) Motor Vehicle Citation Jan. 1, 2020 through Sept. 30, 2020;
3) Offense Listing Jan. 1, 2020 through Sept. 30, 2020; and Berkshire County Sheriff's Office Call Analysis by call Reasons Jan. 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020
- ◆ Others TBA

The BOS reviewed the above captioned departmental reports and the Building Inspector's September 2020 report.

BE requested that BC contact the Police Chief to ask for the Animal Control Officer's report.

10. BOS's Comments and Announcements

ML reported that many cars have been broken into in Sherwood Forest as well as in other areas along Route 8. He suggested that the Town send an alert (perhaps the Police Dept.'s Facebook page) to the public with a recommendation to remove valuables and lock their cars.

11. Town Administrator's Report

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

- Ambulance Garage – poured, sealed, waiting on door
- Town Hall HVAC – attaching propane – water is in the line. BC anticipates that this project will completed by the end of this week.
- Police- received cruiser and grant funds
- Broadband Hut – build-out complete. Waiting on generator, inside materials
- Green Communities – annual report and project moving forward
- TH reopening:
 - BC stated that the Athenaeum is curious if we will allow folks into the Community Room to use Wi-Fi. BG relayed the Athenaeum's request to hold their monthly book club meetings in the Community Room. BE and ML indicated that for now, Town Hall meeting rooms are not available for Wi-Fi nor for outside groups' meetings. The

Select Board also indicated that at this time, the Council on Aging may not conduct its meetings/gatherings.

- DER grant award – working with engineer
- BC reported that a resident asked if the Highway Department will install American flags to replace ten Flags stolen along Yokum Pond and Wishing Way. Many of the flags were on Eversource's poles. It was agreed that if the individual provides BC with documentation showing that Eversource approves placing the flags on its poles, BC will have the individual contact the Highway Superintendent who may determine whether this request is feasible given the Highway Department's workload.
- Halloween – BC provided Pittsfield draft Halloween policy. He indicated that Egremont is cancelling Trick or Treat. BE and ML agreed that Becket will cancel 2020 Trick or Treat. BC will contact Chris Swindlehurst to inquire if the Fire Department has scheduled a community event.
- ADA coordinator designation form: The Select Board agreed that BC will serve as the Town's ADA (American Disabilities Act) Coordinator. BE signed the ADA Coordinator Designation Form.
- Ch. 90 reimbursement paperwork
- BC and the Chief of Police are working on the Emergency Management Planning Grant
- FEMA - Buildings Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant – to replace the generator at the Town Hall and Highway Garage.
- ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Grant – We applied through the CDBG. We have not heard and will apply separately for a self-assessment and transition plan
- Will send out capital requests in the coming weeks

12. Any other business to come before the Board

BC reported that the Town received a letter dated Sept. 30, 2020 from the Exec. Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs stating that Becket has been designated as a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Community for its completion of the Community Resilience Building planning Process and the town is eligible to apply for MVP Action Grants as administered by the EEA

BC will obtain another quote for a survey and to set pins for the Town Hall property located on Main Street. Due to funding, this will be tabled until the springtime.

ML inquired about Municipal Aggregation (for the Town's electricity). BC advised that aggregation is moving forward with the first meter reading scheduled to occur in January.

13. Correspondence:

- ♦ **2020.9.24 Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing scheduled on November 18th to review a Special Permit application submitted by New Cingular Wireless PCS to install an antenna array on a telecommunications tower located at 1017 George Carter Road**
- ♦ **Lukas Horn, Camp Greylock documents relating to the Town Beach Parking Lot - Area: 1) 2020.8.4 Partial Site Survey by Dennis C. Drumm, PLS), 2) 2020.8.2020 MASSGIS Map 3) 1996.7.18 Survey of Land by Dennis C. Drumm & Associates**

The Select Board reviewed the above captioned correspondence.

14. BOS to review and sign payable warrants.

The BOS reviewed and signed payable warrants.

15. BOS to adjourn the Meeting

ML moved to adjourn, BE 2nd: unanimous. BE adjourned the meeting at 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Gilbert, Administrative Assistant

Signed by:



William Elovirta, Chairperson

/ October 21, 2020

Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- ◆ 2020.9.16 Meeting Minutes
- ◆ 2020.10.7 Town Administrator's Report
- ◆ Pittsfield Halloween – Draft Proposal (Oct. 5, 2020)
- ◆ Departmental Reports (listed under Agenda Item 9)
- ◆ Building Inspector's September 2020 Report
- ◆ Correspondence (listed under Agenda Item 13)
- ◆ Eversource's petition (6B030526Becket) and order to install three (3) solely owned poles with wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across Dimmock Road
- ◆ Broadband Ad Hoc Group's e-mail comments related to Eversource's Pole Petition
- ◆ Resolution Adopting the Town of Becket 2020 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- ◆ Received 9-30-2020 John Garvey notification he is resigning as Becket's Representative on the Jacob's Ladder Trail Scenic Byway Advisory Board
- ◆ 2020.9.30 Exec. Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs letter – Becket has been designated as a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Community for its completion of the Community Resilience Building planning Process and the town is eligible to apply for MVP Action Grants as administered by the EEA
- ◆ ADA Coordinator Designation Form