

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
March 02, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall
557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees:

Board of Selectmen: Jeanne Pryor, Chairperson; William Elovirta, Vice Chairperson;

Staff: Ed Gibson, *Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert, *Recording Secretary*;

Others: Bob Gross, Becket Energy Committee; Colleen O'Connor; Alison Dixon, Conservation Commission Chairperson; Rebecca Perry; Rita Furlong, Historical Commission; Gale Labelle, Board of Health Chairperson

Call to Order

Jeanne called the meeting to order at 7 PM. She stated that the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and Guidelines for the Becket Board of Selectmen Meetings.

Jeanne asked if anyone was recording the meeting. Beverly for the Board of Selectmen indicated that she was recording the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairperson led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Because Jeanne was not present at the 2/17/16 meeting, and Angie was absent from tonight's meeting, the Board tabled voting on the 2/17/16 meeting minutes.

Discussion and possible vote on Conservation Commission Appointment Application

Alison Dixon, Chair of the Conservation Commission, introduced Rebecca Perry, who had submitted an appointment application to serve on the Conservation Commission. Ms. Perry reiterated her interest and ability to commit her time to attend meetings and trainings if appointed to the Conservation Commission. Bill moved to appoint Rebecca Perry to the Conservation Commission effective 3/2/2016 through 6/30/2017, seconded by Jeanne. Motion carried unanimously.

Solar/Electrical Net Metering Aggregation Propositions to consider for Annual Town Meeting

This had been discussed at the 2/17/16 BOS meeting. Ed discussed and described some of the steps involved with entering Community Energy Aggregation Program and stated that because there is greater potential to save money collectively than individually, and those not wishing to participate may opt out, he recommends placing an ATM Warrant Article to discuss and vote on initiating the process for Community Aggregation. If this article passes at town meeting, Bob Gross conveyed that the Energy Committee is happy to seek utility company proposals and work with Ed to evaluate them. The Energy Committee may also assist by publicizing the advantages of Community Aggregation to residents. Bill moved to place an article on the ATM Warrant to

discuss and possibly vote on the town initiating the process to enter a Community Energy Aggregation Program. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried.

Gale LaBelle, Chairman of the Board of Health re: Berkshire Partnership for Health/Tobacco Intervention, and Board of Health Vacancy update

Gale Labelle, Chairman of the Board of Health, advised that the Tri-Town Health Department has approached towns to recommend raising the minimum age for the purchase of tobacco to twenty-one as a way to combat tobacco dependency. The BOH thinks this is a worthwhile cause. In addition, the BOH would like to arrange to offer a smoking cessation program at the Town Hall. Ed advised that the Board of Health has the authority to raise the age for the purchase of tobacco products or the town may accomplish this through town meeting approval. Ed recommended that the BOH conduct a public hearing about this matter. Because the Annual Town Meeting is an opportunity to have a well-attended discussion, Gale was open to the BOS's suggestion to submit an ATM warrant article.

Other topics Gale discussed included Porchlight VNA programs (such as blood pressure and other health related educational clinics) offered at the Town Hall, per diem agent to assist with the inspection of homes and septic systems, and the status of the recruitment of a temporary BOH member (to date the town has received one appointment application).

The BOS tabled discussion and voting on the temporary BOH member until the next regularly scheduled meeting when Angie will be present.

Becket Room Day Access

Rita Furlong of the Historical Commission reported that the Historical Commission has been working hard to display donated artifacts to the Becket Room. She stated that in order to encourage the public to visit and view the collection, she would like to ask that the Becket Room be kept unlocked during Town Hall business hours. Bill inquired about housing the collection at the Mullen House. Rita advised that because the Mullen House is for renters, it would not be an option. Bill stated that he approves of keeping the Becket room open during business hours. Rather than keeping the Becket Room unlocked, Jeanne suggested placing a friendly sign for visitors to see the Town Secretary. Jeanne stated that it is her intention to be welcoming, to offer an extra layer of security for the artifacts, and to ensure that the meeting rooms are available (and in ready to use condition) when needed for town business. Ed reported that adults (not Town Hall employees) spending extensive amounts of time using Wi-Fi and conducting personal business in the meeting rooms had become problematic. The BOS tabled this matter for the next regularly scheduled meeting when Angie will be in attendance.

Parks and Recreation Committee request for support for CPA grant application

Rita Furlong of the Parks & Recreation Committee explained that due to wooden slivers, the playground structure at the Town Park on Main Street near the Town Hall has been deemed unsafe. The purpose of the grant application is to replace the playground structure. Jeanne made a motion that the BOS support the Parks & Recreation Committee's CPA grant application. Bill seconded. Motion carried.

Annual Town Report: Cover, photographs, and dedication page

The BOS will schedule a working meeting to discuss the Annual Report's cover photos/design, and in memoriam and retirement sections.

Monthly Reports: to be announced

The BOS reviewed the Ambulance and Animal Control Officer's monthly reports. Jeanne requested that Beverly ask the ACO to include the times (beginning and end) next to each of his calls.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

None

Ambulance Policy for Overnight Shift

The BOS and Ed discussed the Ambulance Policy for Overnight Shifts. Ed advised that the ambulance director is aware and does not object to changing the overnight policy. Ed's review of ambulance overnight timesheets proved that scheduling an on-call person from home is rarely done. The BOS and Ed agree that to facilitate a faster response time, it makes sense to require overnight on-call ambulance personnel to remain at the ambulance station. Bill moved that effective immediately, the overnight on-call ambulance personnel must stay at the ambulance station. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried. Jeanne asked that a written copy of this policy be placed in the policy book.

**FY17 Budget Summary 1) Operating & 2) Capital
Operating**

Ed discussed the FY17 budget summary with the below highlights:

- Salaries: EG will add COLA (right now the sheet reflects level funding). EG is surveying surrounding communities: so far the lowest COLA is for a 1 percent increase, the highest is for a 2½ increase.
- General Insurance and Workers Comp – On Friday Ed will meet with MIIA's insurance representative. Based on the Massachusetts Municipal Association meeting, Ed anticipates a substantial increase this year.
- Ed awaits figures for Health Insurance.
- Based on the recent 7-town CBRSD Advisory meeting, Ed anticipates less than one percent increase for FY17 for the school operating budget.
- This year there is no snow and ice deficit, so far.
- WiredWest membership. WiredWest Delegate Jeremy Dunn requested that the town keep \$1,000 in the budget.
- Right now all free cash is allocated.

Town Hall Roof Project Update

At the next working meeting the BOS will select the style of the gutter, and possibly the style and color of the shingle if Ed receives the shingle board samples in time. Ed advised that the architectural engineer stated that the current gutter is half the size it should be to manage the load of rain. The engineer also advised that between 1992 and 1997 there were issues with the shingles manufactured for the Town Hall Roof. The shingles did not meet ASTM standards. Although the town has been lucky because the roof did not leak water into the building, the shingles have vertical cracking.

Town Administrator's report

MBI Broadband: As of March 2nd, we are 88% of the way to our signup goal. We need eighty-three more locations to reach our goal of a required 40% take rate.

Town Mechanic – Nathan Morawiec has satisfactorily completed his 90 day probationary period (2/21/2016) and has his CDL and hoisting licenses. Based on this Ed asked the BOS to approve an hourly wage increase to \$19.50. This is the rate the BOS had agreed to once the 90 day probationary period was satisfactorily complete and he had the required license for the position. Bill moved to approve the wage increase for Nathan Morawiec to \$19.50 per hour. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried.

McNearn Road – Ed and Christopher Bouchard would like to submit the resurfacing of McNearn Road from Main Street Route 8 to Washington Mountain Road as a project to be considered for the Transportation Improvement Program in upcoming years. Mr. Bouchard has estimated the cost of this project at \$1.1 million. Ed stated that he and Chris would appreciate the BOS' support in filing for this project. Bill moved that the BOS support the town's Transportation Improvement Program application to fund the resurfacing of McNearn Road from Main Street Route 8 to Washington Mountain Road. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried.

Cemetery CPC application – Ed filed an application on behalf of the Cemetery Commissioners for Community Preservation Grant Funding to repair and restore grave markers in the three cemeteries. (West Becket Cemetery needs \$1,500, Center Cemetery needs \$19,200 and North Becket Cemetery needs \$11,200). Ed asked the BOS to consider supporting the Cemetery Commissioner's grant application. Jeanne made a motion to support the Cemetery's CPC application for cemetery repair/restoration work. Bill seconded. Motion carried

Conservation Commission will likely approach the BOS at the next meeting to ask the BOS to sponsor a Warrant Article to reduce the number of Conservation Commission members from seven appointed members to five appointed members. Discussion ensued.

Bridge on Johnson Road by Turnpike – Mass DOT dropped the weight limit to 22 tons.

Ed recommends finding a 3rd member to serve as a tie breaker to serve on the Board of Assessors.

Meetings: Ed will attend the Finance Committee meeting on 3/3/16, the Berkshire County Managers Association Meeting on 3/8/16 and the Berkshire Educational Task Force Meeting on 3/12/16.

Discussion and possible vote to adopt a Policy on Liquor License Liability minimum coverage and Common Vicuallers License Application/Renewal Form

Ed advised that because Jacob's Pillow will farm out their concession stands, they will not renew liquor and common victuallers licenses. Because it had been quite some time that a business has applied for a common victuallers license, it was discovered the town did not have an application. Bev and Ed are recommending the use of an application they found from another community and asked the BOS about the minimum liquor liability insurance for those holding alcoholic beverage licenses which is part of the application when alcoholic beverages is served at the establishment. After review and discussion, Bill moved to adopt a policy requiring that those holding an alcoholic beverage license (NOT a one-day license) must provide a copy of the certificate of liquor liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$100,000/persons/\$1,000,000 aggregate for personal injury. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried. During discussion it was confirmed that the one-day all alcoholic beverage license policy will continue to require a minimum liquor liability coverage of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate.

Bill moved to approve the application for common victualler license with the minimum amount of liquor liability amount listed as \$100,000/person/\$1,000,000 aggregate, seconded by Jeanne. Motion carried.

Public Input

Rita Furlong of the Historical Commission stated she would like to see the Boston Post Cane be reassigned.

Colleen O'Connor had three items:

- She asked that the Becket Community Preservation Commission modify its application and instructions to include a more comprehensive list of projects (such as upgrades to wells).
- Ms. O'Connor asked that the town enforce the no parking zone at the school.
- Colleen O'Connor withdrew her appointment application to serve on the Board of Health.

Any other business:

Bill asked Ed about the possibility of conducting performance evaluations for town employees in addition to the Annual Performance Review of the Town Administrator. Ed stated that for this to happen all department heads would need to obtain training for conducting performance evaluations. Beverly will distribute forms pertaining to the Town Administrator's performance evaluation.

At Jeanne's inquiry, Bill reported on Representative Pignatelli's Shared Services meeting. Possible areas to consider include Conservation Agents, Building Inspectors, and Health agents. Discussion also occurred regarding ambulance mutual aid.

Jeanne asked how the new Transfer Station cash policy is being received. Bill and Ed reported that so far it is working out well. Chris Bouchard recommends sending a post card in April or May to announce the new policy to seasonal residents. The sales of stickers at the stores has helped generate business (donuts/coffee). One Transfer Station employee had expressed concern that the no cash policy may lead to dumping. However, it will be pointed out to that employee that stickers may be purchased close by at the Becket General Store.

Jeanne asked about littering signs. Ed advised he did not find a pre-set sign and the town may need to custom order a sign.

Correspondence:

- Jacob's Pillow letter dated 021916 re: Seasonal Liquor License
- State Senator Ben Downing letter dated 021615 re: MBI response to WiredWest operating agreement

Board of Selectmen intends to go into Executive Session under MGL c. 30A, section 21 (a) (3) for:

- **Discussion on litigation strategy with respect to the litigation re: Cooper vs. Town of Becket Land Sale if the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the Town**
- **Approval of Executive Session Minutes: 01/20/2016 & 12/16/2015.**

After the Executive Session, the Board will not return to open session.

Jeanne moved for the BOS to go into Executive Session under MGL c. 30A, section 21 (a) (3) for:

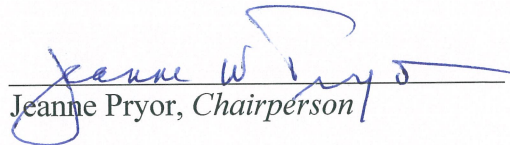
- Discussion on litigation strategy with respect to the litigation re: Cooper vs. Town of Becket Land Sale if the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the Town
- Approval of Executive Session Minutes: 01/20/2016 & 12/16/2015.

After the Executive Session, the Board will not return to open session.

Bill seconded. Roll call vote: Jeanne Pryor – yes, and Bill Elovirta – Yes. At 8:40p.m the BOS entered into Executive Session.

Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary


Jeanne Pryor, Chairperson

Documents discussed at this meeting:

Town Administrator's Report

Capital Plan Five Year Report

Financial Summary

Guide to Municipal Electric Aggregation in Massachusetts

Animal Control Officer Report

Ambulance Monthly Report

Common Victuallers Application form and Permit

Rebecca Perry - Appointment Application for Conservation Commission

Pay rate amendment to Treasurer for Nathan Morawiec