

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
December 7, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall – Community Room
557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees:

Board of Selectmen: William Elovirta, *Chairperson*; Jeanne Pryor, *Vice Chairperson*;
Nicole Ledoux, *Clerk*

Staff: Ed Gibson -Town Administrator, Beverly Gilbert - Recording Secretary;
Kristopher McDonough -Becket Chief of Police,
Vincent Garofoli - Ambulance Dept., Nicole Miller – Police Department

Others: Beth VanNess, David Silakowski, Joseph McCarthy - President and CEO of Ipswich Pharmaceutical Associates (IPA), Adam Fine - Attorney for IPA; Barbara Brand, Douglas Brand, Bob Gross, Phil Silverman - IPA, Donna McTeigue, Kevin McTeigue - IPA, Barbara Wacholder, Andre Ledoux, Mike Lavery, Ginger Conner, Ron & Cathy DeFoe, Gale Labelle, Meredyth Babcock, Tommie Hutto Blake, Al Blake, Dan Parnell, Jeanne Morano, Julia Maynard, Ann Spadafora, Elizabeth Will, Steven Reiss, Barbara Craft-Reiss, Alison Dixon, Travis Miller, Mark Karlberg, Charles Walton, Amy Robandt, Philip Connor, David Pecor, Andrea Pecor, Kristopher Massini, Linda Bacon, Dave Bacon, Bob Healey, Patrick Prendergast, Ruth Rosenthal, Geri Walter, Robert Ronzio

Call to Order

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. He stated that the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and Guidelines for the Becket Board of Selectmen Meetings.

Beverly for the Board of Selectmen, and Bob Ronzio indicated that they were recording the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairperson led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board to review minutes of previous meeting(s)

There were no minutes for approval at tonight's meeting.

7:05 p.m. Board of Assessors Tax Classification Hearing

At 7:11 p.m. Bill opened the Board of Assessors Tax Classification Hearing to determine the allocation of property tax levy among the four classes of real estate and personal property for Fiscal Year 2017. The Board of Assessors (Liz Will and Geri Walters) were in attendance. Jeff Reynolds from Regional Resource Group presented and indicated that prior to mailing the 3rd

quarter tax billings, the BOS must hold a public hearing to determine the percentage of the Town's property tax levy to be borne by each major property class. He provided a handout which outlined the steps and listed calculations relating to setting the town's tax rates. He stated that "Municipalities with a large commercial/industrial tax base often see fit to shift the tax burden to help maintain lower residential taxes. Given Becket's small commercial and industrial base, it would take a large shift of the tax burden from the residential class to the commercial and industrial class to yield a modest residential tax reduction." Based on this, the Board of Assessors recommended that the BOS adopt a single tax rate to be applied to all classes of property in Becket. Bill moved for the BOS to vote in accordance with M.G.L., chapter 40, Section 56, as amended, the percentage of local tax levy which will be borne by each class of real and personal property, relative to setting the Fiscal Year 2017 tax rates and set the Residential Factor at 1.0, with a corresponding CIP shift of 1.0, pending approval of the town's annual tax recap (estimated rate of \$10.55) by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Jeanne moved to close the hearing. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously. At 7:21 p.m., Bill closed the hearing.

7:10 p.m. Open Public Hearing on Ipswich Pharmaceutical's request that the Board of Selectmen issue a letter of support or non-opposition in order for Ipswich Pharmaceutical Associates to consider applying to the Town to operate a Registered Marijuana Dispensary (Cultivation Only) on 2299 Main Street (Assessors' Map 208, Lot 13) per 105 CMR 725.100. At 7:22 p.m., Bill opened the Public Hearing on Ipswich Pharmaceutical's request that the Board of Selectmen issue a letter of support or non-opposition in order for Ipswich Pharmaceutical Associates to consider applying to the Town to operate a Registered Marijuana Dispensary (Cultivation Only) on 2299 Main Street (Assessors' Map 208, Lot 13) per 105 CMR 725.100

Bill read the Public Hearing Notice:

The Board of Selectmen will conduct a Public Hearing on Ipswich Pharmaceutical's request that the Board of Selectmen issue a letter of support or non-opposition in order for Ipswich Pharmaceutical Associates to consider applying to the Town to operate a Registered Marijuana Dispensary (**Cultivation Only**) on 2299 Main Street (Assessors' Map 208, Lot 13) per 105 CMR 725.100. The Becket Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on December 7, 2016 at 7:10 p.m. in Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223. Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated. If unable to attend please submit comments in writing to the Becket Board of Selectmen for receipt before the date of the scheduled hearing.

Bill provided the Agenda Order for the Public Hearing:

1. Call Hearing to order – announce preliminary guidelines
 - a. Before speaking you must be recognized by the Selectmen Chairman.
 - b. After being recognized state your name and address for the record.
 - c. Direct your remarks only to the Selectmen during the hearing.
 - d. Each speaker is limited to five (5) minutes.
 - e. An individual may only speak once until all others wishing to speak have had an opportunity to do so.
 - f. An individual may speak a second time only if providing new information or questions.

- g. Finally, please be courteous and civil.
2. Ipswich Pharmaceutical Associates to make presentation – limited to 15-20 minutes.
3. Board of Selectmen members will ask questions.
4. Public to ask questions.
5. Board to vote to support, not support, table or take any other action.

Ipswich Pharmaceutical Associates to make presentation

Joseph McCarthy, President and CEO of Ipswich Pharmaceutical Associates (IPA) indicated that IPA is licensed by the commonwealth of Massachusetts to process a three-tier medical marijuana facility in Ipswich (cultivate, process and dispense) and IPA plans to request to transfer the cultivation portion of that operation in Becket. Mr. McCarthy stated that he had met with the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen Chairperson to discuss a potential host agreement. He discussed a nine-page PowerPoint presentation document describing the proposed 2299 Main Street Marijuana Cultivation Facility including Grow Pod Containers, Greenhouse, Construction of Greenhouses, Seed-to-Sale Tracking System, Cultivation Facility Security, and Benefits to Becket. He stated that they are looking to be a good corporate citizen with the Town of Becket. The proposal is for cultivation only (growing the plants – pods and containers in greenhouses) and that the plants will be transported and processed and sold elsewhere and not in the Town of Becket. Processing the marijuana plants will occur in Ipswich. Mr. McCarthy stated that he placed a deposit to purchase 30 acres of land located at 2299 Main Street. He intends to use 10 acres for the cultivation facility. 20 acres will serve as a buffer zone and a family farm (horses, etc.)

Mr. McCarthy presented the BOS with a copy of a book for the Becket Athenaeum entitled Magellan's Wake authored by his father in law Peter Hodges who started his sailing adventures in Becket.

He indicated that IPA will contract with BioTrack, an inventory system software which assigns a bar code and tracks the growth and accounts for all of the parts of every plant.

Ipswich's Security Chief, Kevin McTeague presented:

Mr. McTeague worked as a NJ State Trooper for 27 years (retired 2013). Joseph McCarthy and he met in 1977 while serving in the Marine Corps. In his opinion, Mass. Department of Public Health has very strict regulations pertaining to medical marijuana facility security and these include the requirement of having 2 alarm systems (includes a backup system in the event of a power outage – a generator would be used). There will be failure alarms, proximity alarms, sensors at all doors and entrances/exits, and duress alarms. He indicated that he met with Police Chief McDonough several times to discuss IPA's intentions with respect to the security of the facility. He pledged his full cooperation with the Becket Police Chief and the Department of Public Health. He stated that the facility in Becket will be limited to cultivation. There will be video surveillance. All potential employees (they estimate hiring ten to fifteen) will have a CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) background check through the Dept. of Public Health and IPA would present candidates to Chief McDonough for his input/final say. Mr. McTeague described the elaborate video alarm systems which will include infrared cameras on doors, windows, any place marijuana is grown, outside of the building and may be viewed remotely (cloud based system) by the Becket Police Chief (through password access) 24 hours, seven days per week with a 90-day archive. All

employees will be carded by the Dept. of Public Health. They will be assigned access codes which would be deleted upon termination. IPA proposes to hire off-duty Becket police officers for security detail of the facility (no contact with the product).

Joe introduced Phil Silverman of Vincente Sederberg, a national firm based in Denver Colorado whose function is to ensure that IPA complies with all regulations pertaining to the marijuana business with special attention to limiting access and securing the product.

Mr. McCarthy indicated that in lieu of taxes he will pay full residential tax on 10 acres and contribute 2.5% of IPA's gross sales of products grown in Becket to the Town of Becket. He will appoint a community liaison.

Board of Selectmen members to ask questions:

Bill commented that Joe originally said the greenhouses will be 30 by 60 feet but during Joe's presentation he indicated they will be 40 by 96 feet. Bill asked Joe how many greenhouses IPA will have. Joe replied there will be 4 greenhouses side by side (1 will be in a flowering setup and 3 in a vegetative state). The footprint will be 16,000 square feet.

Jeanne indicated that her question was concerning the passage of Question 4 legalizing the recreational use of marijuana. The state must construct regulatory framework for commercial marijuana by 1/1/2018. If the state fails to meet that deadline, recreational marijuana may be unregulated and operators may be automatically licensed for recreational marijuana. She asked Joe if he will assure the BOS in the host agreement that IPA will not engage in the cultivation of recreational marijuana without the consent of the town. Joe replied that IPA will not cultivate recreational marijuana unless the town provides permission.

Nicole inquired about the pod and Joe McCarthy stated that the pod will be inside the barn. There will be safes for the product, electronics and computers. The barn will be used for safety equipment. Joe indicated that he will specify the details of the facilities in writing.

Bill asked IPA to confirm that after this hearing, if the BOS votes to provide a letter of non-opposition they will need to go through additional procedures. Joe confirmed that IPA will ask the Commonwealth of Mass. to transfer the cultivation portion of its license to the Town of Becket and after the transfer happens, IPA will apply for permitting with the Planning Board. Bill pointed out that the Planning Board has the final say about the appearance of the facility.

Public to ask questions:

Linda Bacon, 1986 Fred Snow Road, had concern about the level of outdoor security lighting. Kevin stated that minimal lighting would be used to enable the infrared camera to capture anyone trying to enter the premises. Joe stated that it will not resemble a sports arena, and down-style LED lower level lighting will be used. Lighting will be used within ten acres. It will not be necessary to light all thirty acres.

Barbara Wacholder, 137 Hiawatha, asked about the experience with cultivating marijuana. Joe is a licensed electrician since 1969, and he understanding lighting and heating. IPA has hired an experience cultivator from outside Massachusetts.

Ann Spadafora, 465 Fred Snow Road, stated that she largely favors a medical marijuana facility. As a realtor with 2nd home owner clients, she would want to see that the facility would have a barrier (tree plantings) between the greenhouses and the road and would not detract from the ambiance of the town. Joe stated that IPA will honor the regulations of Dept. of Public Health and work with the town on the barrier. This process will be addressed through the Planning Board.

Meredyth Babcock, 56 Benton Hill Road, initiated a brief discussion about the state application process which had been revamped and she asked who is IPA's cultivator as well as the background of the cultivator. She also inquired about the number of plants, water usage and business plan. Joe indicated that Michael Crayer is the name of the cultivator who obtained certification in Nevada and California. He advised that there is a large ratio of plants that die and he estimates that IPA may end up with approximately 100 surviving plants during the first application. Meredyth asked for the specific hydrology methodology. Joe replied that the hydrology methodology is privileged information. He indicated that he anticipates using 200 gallons of water per day (the equivalent of 20 homes).

Andre Ledoux, 175 Prince John Drive, stated that he thinks the town should receive compensation because there will be additional town services required to secure the facility. He inquired about the nature of the business and why Pharmaceutical was part of the name Ipswich Pharmaceutical Associates. Phil Silverman indicated that the word Pharmaceutical is part of the name because patients with medical conditions purchase IPA's marijuana.

Dan Parnell, 350 Tyne Road, indicated that he is the Chair of the Finance Committee, read his email dated 12/3/2016 to the Board of Selectmen:

At our 12/1/2016 meeting the Finance Committee discussed the concept of Ipswich "Pharmaceutical's proposal to locate a cultivation facility in Becket. From our understanding the company would be providing jobs for local people, would agree to pay their fair share of real estate and property taxes, and would also contribute 2.5% of their gross sales to the town. If the proposed facility does not take away from the natural ambience of the town the Finance Committee believes this operation has merit as a positive contribution to the town."

Gale Labelle, Board of Health Chairperson, indicated that she attended a hearing in 2011 in front of the Dept. of Public Health regarding medical marijuana. She saw hundreds of veterans at that hearing and people with multiple sclerosis, quadriplegics, cerebral palsy, and other debilitating conditions. The Dept. of Public Health asked the state to please approve the use of medical marijuana. She spoke in favor of the use of medical marijuana which now comes in many different forms to help alleviate the suffering and improve the quality of life for those with terrible medical afflictions.

Bill Elovirta indicated that the Planning Board sent the BOS a letter of support. He read the last paragraph: "Based on our findings, and with unanimously approval the Planning Board now strongly recommends that the Becket Board of Selectmen accept and ratify a Community Host agreement with Ipswich Pharmaceuticals."

Bill Elovirta noted that the Board of Selectmen received letters of support and comment from Bruce Garlow, Jeff and Chely Wilkinson, Michelle and Sean Raymer, and Amy Perlmutter.

Bill Elovirta stated that he received no calls stating opposition about this project and three people verbally approached him to express support.

Phil O'Connor, 33 Benton Hill Road, CEO of Becket Chimney Corners Camp which abuts the property, asked why was this location selected, and he suggested that IPA should conduct a CORI with sex offenders registry check on all employees. He supports medical marijuana and wants to be sure that the campers and staff will be safe. Joe and Kevin agreed and stated that IPA will commit to doing a CORI with sex offenders registry check on all of its employees at the Becket facility.

Ginger Conner, 2022 Main Street, stated that she is Bill Robinson's (the owner of 2299 Main Street) realtor. She asked about alarms and Joe advised that the alarms will be internal and will not be heard. Ginger then indicated that Bill Robinson has not agreed to sell his property does not have a contract or check. Joe stated that it is his understanding that there is an agreement and he wrote a \$1,000 deposit for the sale of the property. Ginger expressed her support for increasing the supply of medical marijuana.

Vincent Garofoli, 40 Dragon Way, inquired what about the projection of annual sales. Joe indicated 4 to 5 million.

Charles Walton, 2349 Main Street, discussed the location and frontage of the proposed 30 acres, and he inquired if the land included the house presently on 2299 Main Street. Joe indicated that the property he wishes to purchase does not have a house on it. He indicated that he does not plan to build a home on this property and would use the other 20 acres for non-marijuana agriculture.

Michael Lavery, 223 Silverleaf, asked if the Robinson's farm is on the market. Ginger replied that it is not.

Linda Bacon, 1986 Fred Snow Road, inquired about the Chapter 61 acreage requirements and if the host agreement would uphold and if there is swamp land involved. Joe responded that he would meet the Chapter 61 acreage requirements, the host agreement is legally binding, and they will comply with all regulations.

Ron DeFoe, 572 McNerney Road, inquired if IPA is non-profit, what drives it financially and what happens if it goes belly up. Phil indicated that they will have a bond and it is not a bad investment for a lender who seek higher risk investments for a good return on their money. Although there are start-up expenses, it is a viable business.

Meredyth Babcock, 56 Benton Hill, stated that she would like to see the business plan and she inquired about the nature of the jobs that will be created. She stated that she supports medical marijuana but fears that the town will develop a reputation that would attract illegal drug activity. She asked if the BOS had conducted research regarding the impact of having a marijuana business

in a community. Phil indicated that the activities of the Becket IPA employees will include growing, watering, monitoring, measuring, security and administration, and transporting. Due to the enormous demand for marijuana, the number of employees may increase although due to competition, it is difficult to predict. He indicated that the Governor of Colorado was originally against the program but has changed his mind because the marijuana program has worked very well there. Phil advised that there is a great deal of misinformation about the marijuana business. He indicated that he thinks crime affiliated with marijuana will decrease because most people want to purchase marijuana from a legal, reputable and safe source. He indicated that layers of security discourage criminals and may be a resource to communities. Brookline used security footage to solve a rash of burglaries in the neighborhood. He has not heard about an increase in crime in communities with RMDs.

Bill Elovirta asked if insurance companies cover marijuana. Phil indicated that at this time they do not. He also indicated that acceptance of this industry is evolving and banks used to not get involved but now many of them work with marijuana businesses.

Julia Maynard, 1525 Wade Inn Road, inquired if there would be a bakery on the property facility. Joe stated that there will not be a bakery on the property and that the facility is for cultivation only. She inquired about expansion. Joe indicated that it is difficult to predict. There are many unanswered questions about what will happen in the medical industry.

Bill Elovirta asked Bob Ronzio about expansion. Right now IPA is proposing to start with a 16,000 greenhouse footprint. Bob Ronzio indicated that the initial agreement is to have a footprint up to 40,000 square feet (one acre) without going to the Planning Board.

Alison Dixon, 98 Wade Inn Road, asked why IPA selected Becket for cultivation. Joe indicated that he has an affinity to the town because it is where his father in law learned to sail and the cost of real estate is much less expensive than in Ipswich. Alison inquired if Mr. McCarthy will move to Becket. Phil indicated that there will be plenty of supervision and oversight at the Becket facility by Joe McCarthy, the managers and security director.

David Silakowski, 3521 Jacobs Ladder Road, stated he believes that in the long run it will be positive for the town. Phil of IPA stated that while there may be initial reluctance, property values in other areas with RMDs have not decreased and some have increased.

Andre Ledoux, 175 Prince John Drive, asked the Town Administrator if the gift program would be earmarked to lower taxes. Ed indicated the use of the gift would be up to the BOS and could be written in the host agreement. Ed indicated that 2 ½ percent of two million dollars in gross sales would equal \$50,000 for the town. One idea Ed has is if the town were to receive an annual gift of \$100,000, it could pay off debt related to the Broadband initiative. Another possibility is that it could be used for public safety expenses. It could help to lower taxes. Bill stated that another way it could help lower taxes is if the money is placed into the stabilization fund to purchase capital equipment such as fire trucks or highway trucks.

Vinny Garafoli, 40 Dragon Way, asked if the host agreement could include a section on restoring the land to the original state if the business fails. Joe stated that there will be a bond for that purpose.

Meredyth Babcock, 56 Benton Hill Road, asked for visuals with numbers regarding products, land, and water usage. She suggested that the BOS contact other towns with RMDs to inquire about their issues/successes before they take additional steps. Joe stated that the Planning Board has bare-boned plans they may share.

At 8:55 p.m., Bill asked if anyone else wished to speak. No one did.

Board to vote to support, not support, table or take any other action:

Bill stated that last time (Yokum Pond Road, August 2016) he was opposed to issuing a letter of non-opposition because the majority of people who commented were against it. This time around there does not seem to be that much opposition. If we were to vote to give a letter of non-opposition, some of our questions could be addressed in a host agreement, and taking this course of action would not prevent IPA from going forward. Bill emphasized that he is not in favor of legalized marijuana (Jeanne stated that she agrees and stated that is why she brought up Question 4).

Jeanne said that last time (Yokum Pond Road, August 2016) she was not totally opposed to the last proposal but she understands that the abutters of that location were opposed. She stated that she envisions that this would benefit the town by bringing jobs through a business that does not interfere with the beautiful nature of our town. It is her hope that the Planning Board would make stringent requirements for fencing and other issues. She thinks the creation of jobs, tax revenue and income would be a good opportunity for the town.

Nicole stated that she feels there is a lot of uncertainty. She understands that marijuana has been legal for a while in Colorado, and although it appears to be successful there, she has heard other stories as well. Many people have approached her to say they strongly dislike the idea of growing marijuana in our town and she agrees and she will support them in her decision.

Jeanne moved that the BOS issue a letter of non-opposition in order for IPA to consider applying to the town to operate a Registered Marijuana Dispensary for cultivation only at 2299 Main Street. Bill seconded. Motion carried two to one with Nicole opposed.

Bill moved to close the public hearing. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Bill closed the public hearing at 9:03 p.m.

Board to consider License Renewals for the following: Dreamaway Lodge for an Annual All Alcoholic Restaurant license, a Common Victuallers license, and a Music & Entertainment license; Berkshire Berries for an Annual All Alcoholic Restaurant license, an Annual Wine & Malt Package Store license, and a Common Victuallers license; Mountain Grove Association for an Annual All Alcoholic Club license, a Common Victuallers license, an Entertainment Device license, and a Music & Entertainment license; Sherwood Shoppe for an Annual All Alcoholic Package Store license, and a Common Victuallers license; Becket

Country Store for an Annual Wine & Malt Package Store license, and a Common Victuallers license; Uncle Larry's Tavern for an Annual All Alcoholic Restaurant license, a Common Victuallers license, and a Music & Entertainment license; Becket General Store for an Annual All Alcoholic Package Store license, and a Common Victuallers license

Bev gave the BOS a list of licensees with a grid reflecting that all documents had been submitted and that the tax collector indicated they were current with their property taxes. Bill moved to approve the license renewals as listed in the above agenda item. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Resignation: Police Department Sergeant Marc Portieri

Bill indicated that the Police Chief forwarded a copy of Sergeant Marc Portieri's resignation from the Becket Police Department (last day of worked 11/24/2016) to accept the position of Police Chief with the Town of West Stockbridge.

Discussion for Ambulance Service Requirements to Operate at a New State Level of "Advanced".

Ed gave the BOS a packet with a grid that he created, a letter (comparing the different levels in detail) from Vincent Garofoli of the Ambulance Department, ambulance service operation renewal application procedures and a letter as to what we have to follow currently.

Currently the town of Becket is operating at the intermediate level and we have intermediate EMTs. The state has decided to use the national model. Therefore, as of April 2017, there will be no intermediate level of service. By January, 2017 the town must apply to have the basic or advanced level service and there will be no more intermediate EMTs. The town may hire basic or advanced EMTs, or paramedics.

Vinny explained that the national registry of EMTs has a three tier system: EMT basic, EMT advanced (considered the middle level) or EMT paramedics (top level). Vinny explained that the state's intermediate level is not the same as the national's middle level. Vinny described procedures and medications (including several opiate antidotes, respiratory distress and diabetic medication options and dosages, concentrations) that we will gain at the advanced levels. The only thing we will lose by switching from the state intermediate level to the national advanced level is endotracheal intubation. Instead, we will gain supraglottic airway (similar to endotracheal intubation but supraglottic airway will not prevent vomit from entering the airway).

Vinny indicated that we will gain more services than we will lose and we have most of the supplies, and products, and administrative procedures in place including proper storage, so that the ambulance department will be able to transition to the national advanced level.

Ed recommended that the BOS instruct the Ambulance Director to submit an application on behalf of the town for advanced level service. Ed stated that filling the town's shifts with EMTs at an advanced level will be challenging. Ed will investigate if the town is able to obtain waivers. Ed is concerned about services we would not be able to offer if the town reduces ambulance service operation to a basic level. The application must be filed by 1/31/2017 and would become effective on 4/1/2017. Bill moved for the ambulance department to apply for the advanced level service. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Hall ADA Alteration Construction Project Update

After the contractor returns within the next two weeks to finish the drainage work from the downspouts, the Town Hall Roof project will be completed.

The contractor ordered the ADA compliant handrails for the front of the building and will install them when they are manufactured and will reset the one loose granite stone at the front entrance.

Ed advised that commercial grade doors do not offer window panes inside the glass. The contractor and architect had researched different door manufacturers to find out options: 1) change to residential grade door (Ed and the architect do not recommend) 2) delete the grills altogether and stay with commercial grade doors (Ed does not think this will be in keeping with the architectural character of the building) 3) have grills glazed into the glass for an upcharge of \$1,260 (not confident of the insulation factor) or 4) stay with existing commercial door proposal and this will have a good energy rating. The BOS agreed to option 4.

Ed indicated that it will cost \$5,000 to install one automatic door in the front and one automatic door in the back of the Town Hall. The BOS agreed to pursue a change order for this which will not cause the project to go over budget.

Update of Selectmen approved pay rates – Stipends

Ed indicated that he had budgeted a monthly stipend for Elizabeth Will to continue serving on the Board of Assessors after she had retired. The rationalization for paying the stipend is based on the time expended on the required training and education affiliated with being on this board. Bill moved to award Elizabeth Will a monthly stipend of \$100 to serve on the Board of Assessors. Jeanne seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports: Police Department

The BOS reviewed the Police Department monthly report which included a commendation letter to Nicole Miller for all of her volunteer efforts to organize the Children's Holiday Party including the Cops and Rodders fund raising event. The Board of Selectmen will write a letter of appreciation to Nicole.

Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

Jeanne made a motion to support the MMA's letter dated 11/30/2016 to the Governor to request that they fix the issues relating to Question 4 before implementing the marijuana law. Bill seconded. A discussion ensued. It was agreed that Jeanne will pare down and draft a letter to Senator Downing and Representative Pignatelli highlighting concerns most important to the BOS regarding Question 4 including:

- Level of taxation should be higher to offset the burdens to the towns
- Usurping of local authority is problematic.
- January 1, 2018 timeline is unrealistic.
- There are public safety concerns with respect to the home-grown marijuana.

The letter will be discussed at the next working meeting scheduled at Thursday, at 1 p.m. on 12/15/2016.

Jeanne mentioned that the BOS will need to appoint a records access officer before the end of the year.

The Board of Selectmen scheduled a working meeting at 1 p.m. on Thursday, 12/15/2016.

Town Administrator's Report

Bonny Rigg Hill Road Culvert Replacement: The contractor and engineer had to modify the design to contain the water so they can pour the footings for the new culvert. They ran into ground water at a higher level than anticipated. This will require a change order as an amendment to the original contract and document.

Clerk of Committee's Vacancy: Ed discussed the recruitment to fill the Clerk of Committee's vacancy. The BOS agreed with Ed's recommendation to combine the Clerk of Committee's position (Planning, ZBA, and Health) with administrative duties in the Board of Health Office between sixteen and twenty hours a week. The individual in this position will work between thirty two and forty hours per week.

Special Legislation Borrowing Exclusion Vote: The Governor's Office modified the Special Legislation Borrowing Exclusion drafted by our Bond Counsel in order to use language which is more commonplace in the Legislature. Bond Counsel is okay with the edits.

FY2018 budget: The operating and capital budget request letters have been sent to all Town Departments and Committees. The budget requests are due to Ed on Jan. 6th.

Meetings; Ed will attend the Berkshire Administrators meeting in Great Barrington on 12/13/16 and the Energy Committee meeting on 12/15/2016.

Public Input

None

Any other business to come before the Board

Ed indicated that in accordance with the new policy, staff scheduled to work nights at the Ambulance Department must stay at the Ambulance garage and may no longer be on call from home. A person who is scheduled overnight and who also responds to a call, receives a 3 hour rate of pay in addition to the overnight stipend. The Ambulance Director had asked Ed if a second EMT is needed, is in town and hears the call, may that person respond and receive three hours of payment. In other words, "I have the overnight shift – whoever was scheduled with me has called out and there is not a replacement and there is an EMT available." Bill stated that he thinks one of the three full-time individuals should appear if there is a gap in the staffing. The other BOS members agreed.

Bill indicated that the Election Workers should wear their Town Identification tags while on duty.

Bill was approached by an individual who requested that the town fill the pot holes next to the Wells Road mailboxes. The BOS agreed that because the town is responsible for paving the road, it is reasonable for the town to repair the potholes in the spring.

Review Correspondence:

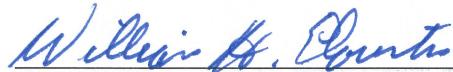
- Letter dated 11/09/2016, Office of the Governor notification of Sustainable Materials Recover Program Grant Award with Instruction letter dated 11/09/2016 from Dept. of Environmental Protection.
- Letter dated 11/15/2016, Eversource Energy re: Vegetation Management Program on transmission right of way. Kris Massini requested a copy of and discussed this letter with the BOS. Jeanne and Bill advised that Eversource's proposal is under Conservation Commission review.

Board of Selectmen to adjourn the meeting.

Jeanne moved to adjourn. Bill seconded. Motion carried. Bill adjourned the meeting at 10:17 p.m.

Reviewed Payroll/Expense Warrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary


William Elovirta, Chairperson

Documents discussed at this meeting:

Letters/emails of comment for IPA hearing (referenced above)
IPA PowerPoint Presentation Main Street Cultivation Facility, Becket, MA
Tax Classification Hearing Fiscal Year 2017 handout
Police Chief Report for October 2016 with letter of commendation for Nicole Miller
ABCC License Renewal documents
Transmittal letter from Police Chief – Sergeant Marc Portieri's resignation
Correspondence – above
Town Administrator's report
Ambulance Department Documents re: Requirements to Operate at a New State Level of "Advanced".
MMA letter to the Governor and legislative leaders calls for changes to recreational marijuana law dated 11/30/2016