

**Town of Becket  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
June 5, 2019  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall  
557 Main Street, Becket**

**Attendees**

**Board of Selectmen:** William Elovirta, *Chairperson*; Michael Lavery, *Vice Chairperson* and Chris Swindlehurst, *Clerk*

**Staff:** William Caldwell, *Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*; George Robert, Town Clerk and Police Officer Michael Hunt

**Board of Assessors:** Geri Walter, Liz Will and Karen Avasle

**Parks & Recreation Committee:** Rita Furlong, Maddy Elovirta and Tina LeVasseur

**Broadband Ad Hoc Group:** MLP Manager Bob Gross and Dan Parnell

**Others:** Doug Walter, and Barbara Holt-Hussey

**1. Call to order**

Bill called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. He indicated that the BOS and Town Clerk are recording the meeting.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Bill led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. Discussion and possible vote on the Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen**

Bill welcomed the newly elected Chris Swindlehurst to the Board of Selectmen. Michael nominated Bill to remain Chairperson. Chris seconded. Motion carried with Bill recusing himself. Bill nominated Michael to remain Vice-Chair. Chris seconded. Motion carried with Michael recusing himself. Bill moved to nominate Chris as the Clerk. Michael seconded. Motion carried with Chris recusing himself.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Bill moved to correct the date listed at the top of the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes from May 1, 2019 to May 15, 2019. Michael seconded. Motion carried. Michael made a motion to approve the May 15, 2019 meeting minutes as amended, and to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's attendance at the Conservation Commission's May 28, 2019 meeting. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Town Beach Gate Discussion**

The BOS, Parks & Recreation Committee and Town Clerk discussed the Town's Beach policy. Suggestions included: changing the permit system from permits to an interchangeable mirror or visor tag that lists license plates affiliated with a household with more than two vehicles, and designating a grace period to allow entry to those without permits. Chris suggested instituting a

grace period, and that the Gate Attendants should be allowed to grant admittance to residents who indicate they intend on purchasing a beach permit during quieter times. The members of the Parks & Recreation Committee stated the Gate Attendant should act consistently: those entering should have a permit.

Bill Elovirta explained that the BOS adopted the Beach Policy to provide access to Becket and Washington residents who pay for the upkeep of the Town Beach which has limited parking and grass space. He stated that the Board of Selectmen is amenable to reviewing and improving its policies. Bill E. asked the Parks & Recreation Committee to consider revisiting the policy.

During discussion, the BOS and Parks & Recreation Committee agreed that the Gate Attendants and Lifeguards should contact the Police Department to deal with individuals who intentionally disobey the Gate Attendants by entering the Town Beach without permits. It was agreed that Bill Caldwell will meet with a resident and Town employee who interacted with each other during Memorial Day weekend at the Town Beach.

**6. Discussion and possible vote re: re-appointment of Madelaine Elovirta as the Inspector of Animals effective through April 30, 2020.**

Michael moved to nominate Madelaine Elovirta to continue serving as the Inspector of Animals through April 30, 2020. Chris seconded. Motion carried with Bill recusing himself from voting on this appointment of his wife.

**7. Rita Furlong's request to add that Becket is a Right to Farm Community on Entering Becket Road signs located at the bordering towns (Washington, Chester, Lee & Otis ).**

Michael moved to honor Rita Furlong's request for the Town to arrange to add that Becket is a *Right to Farm Community* on Entering Becket Road signs located at the bordering Towns of Washington, Chester, Lee and Otis on Routes 20 and 8. Chris seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously

**8. Board of Assessor Member Karen Avasle re: Regional Resource Group Assessing Services**

Board of Assessor Members Karen Avasle, Geri Walter and Liz Will provided an update to the Board of Selectmen regarding their recent communications with Jeff Reynolds of Regional Resource Group Assessing Services. Mr. Reynolds responded that Regional Resource Group wishes to address and meet the needs of the Town of Becket. The Board of Assessors will continue to keep the BOS apprised of their progress, and will copy the BOS on a follow up letter they anticipate sending to Jeff Reynolds to clarify their expectations.

**9. Broadband Update**

MLP Manager Bob Gross provided an update on the Broadband project. He awaits a signed agreement from Comcast for serving seven households.

David DiNicola, Chairperson of the Middlefield Board of Selectmen, had asked him if Becket will allow eight Bancroft Road dwellings to connect to the Becket Broadband system because Comcast will not provide service through Middlefield due to logistics and costs. Bob will investigate costs and the State's recommendations.

Bob Gross is preparing to borrow a note in the amount up to \$600,000 to cover costs that incurred between now and the end of this fiscal year, if needed.

Other items discussed: state funding, bond rating, preparing the Town Hall for Broadband (generator, locations both outside and indoors for equipment and temperature control), Becket Woods, the Internet Service Operator (WiredWest or Westfield Gas & Electric), and inquiring with Town Counsel re: setting up contracts with households on private roads to outline town subsidies vs. payment schedule/methodology for which the households they will be responsible, and Eversource will stage some of their equipment in several town locations..

The BOS approved a Tax Stuffer to announce Broadband Ad Hoc Group Informational Sessions scheduled on July 20<sup>th</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup>.

**10. Town Administrator's Appointment Recommendations: BOS to consider Voting Approval. List of recommended appointments effective 7/1/2019 through 6/30/2019 (should read 6/30/2020:**

<i><b>Name</b></i>	<i><b>Position</b></i>
<b>Raymond Ferrin</b>	<b>Ambulance Director</b>
<b>Gary Danko</b>	<b>Assistant Building Inspector</b>
<b>Mark Levernoch</b>	<b>Plumbing/Gas Inspector</b>
<b>Brian Middleton</b>	<b>Assistant Plumbing/Gas Inspector</b>
<b>Dana Spring</b>	<b>Wiring Inspector</b>
<b>Jim LaPier</b>	<b>Assistant Wiring Inspector</b>
<b>Doug Mann</b>	<b>Veterans' Agent</b>
<b>William Mulholland</b>	<b>Veterans' Grave Officer</b>
<b>Christopher Bouchard</b>	<b>Highway Superintendent/Pest Control/Tree Warden</b>
<b>Kristopher G. McDonough</b>	<b>Emergency Management Director</b>
<b>Kristopher G. McDonough</b>	<b>Police Chief</b>
<b>Matthew Virginia</b>	<b>Sgt. - Police Dept.</b>
<b>Nicole Miller</b>	<b>Part-time Reserve Police Officer</b>
<b>Michael Hunt</b>	<b>Full-time Police Officer</b>
<b>Craig Jones</b>	<b>Part-Time Reserve Police Officer</b>
<b>Chad Heath</b>	<b>Part-Time Reserve Police Officer</b>
<b>Charlene Auger</b>	<b>Part-Time Reserve Police Officer</b>
<b>Kurtis Eckman</b>	<b>Full-time Police Officer</b>
<b>Shaun Courtney</b>	<b>Probationary Part-Time Reserve Police Officer</b>
<b>Stephen Parkinson</b>	<b>Part-time Reserve Police Officer</b>
<b>Mary Stucklen</b>	<b>Conservation Agent</b>
<b>Margaret McClellan</b>	<b>Town Accountant</b>

Bill Elovirta inquired about the Town Accountant, and Bill C. indicated that the Town Accountant and he will have an agreement. George Robert asked if it would be preferable to appoint an individual who resides in Becket as the Emergency Management Director. The Town Administrator spoke in support of re-appointing Town of Lee resident Police Chief McDonough as the Town's Emergency Management Director on the basis that he has been attending MEMA trainings, and is well equipped to respond to emergencies. He indicated that it is commonplace to assign EMD post to the Chief of Police to have a full-time municipal employee available given the amount of work and training required. Bill C. also stated that Kris McDonough takes into account

weather predictions. Michael moved to accept the Town Administrator's recommended appointments (as listed above) for Fiscal Year 2020. Chris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**11. BOS to discuss and vote on Ambulance Department Emergency Medical Technician position description. BOS to discuss recruitment of this position.**

The BOS tabled discussion of this agenda item.

**12. Discussion re: Development of the Fire Chief's Job Description and Requirements**

The BOS tabled discussion of this agenda item.

**13. BOS to consider voting to approve Town Administrator William Caldwell as a signatory for Broadband related documents**

Michael moved to include Town Administrator William Caldwell as an alternate signatory for Broadband related documents. Chris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**14. Sherwood Forest Lake District Communication: Special District Meeting Warrant, Annual District Meeting Warrant, SFLD Projected Operating Budget for FY2019, Proxy, Demographic Survey**

Michael moved for the Board of Selectmen to take no action on the above captioned Sherwood Forest Lake District Communications. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**15. Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements**

Michael provided a proposal for a new hiking trail entitled Esau's Heel which would include a fenced in area containing radio tower and generator. Dan suggested checking if the proposed land is listed amongst the tax title properties.

Discussion ensued re: the Conservation Commission's ruling on the Parks & Recreation's Notice of Intent discussed at its 5-28-19 meeting (the BOS attended) that allows for moving the fence and leveling and seeding the property but limits parking at the 21 Maple Street Property. The BOS will approach the Conservation Agent to inquire if additional parking may likely be allowed if the Town combines the 21 Maple Street lot with the existing North Becket Park lot. The BOS indicated that that the idea behind approving the purchase of 21 Maple Street at a previous Annual Town Meeting was to use that property to add parking spaces for the School and the Park.

**16. Town Administrator's Report**

Bill C. discussed the following matters:

- Collins Center at UMASS Boston - posted on website
- Town buildings light upgrades
- ClearGov -up and running. Link on website
- Website -now live
- FY2018 Audit -OPEB portion. Using actuaries to complete.
- Begin working on FY2019 budget year-end items
- Various FY2020 Capital projects
- Becket Arts Center - Additional Tank required. Work will begin soon.
- Vocational Tuition and Transportation: Bill C. indicated that it is possible a Special Town Meeting may be required to increase funding to the Vocational Tuition and Vocational

- Transportation accounts. Bill C. continues to work on Vocational Transportation for McCann.
- EV Charging station project – Bill C. anticipates receiving plans for 4 Town Hall charging stations from Eversource. The BOS agreed that it is appropriate for Bill C. to sign the Electric Vehicle Make Ready Program Site License Agreement, and the Electric Vehicle Charger Site Host Agreement
  - ACO position – He arranged for the Chief of Police and himself to conduct interviews.

Bill C. will provide his recommendations for Inter-departmental Transfers on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Chris inquired about the status of the Town Mechanic recruitment. Bill C. indicated that an individual has been selected pending fitness and CORI checks. Chris stated that he has heard about delays with servicing other town departments' equipment and he thinks it is important that the replacement of the Town Mechanic position will remedy this problem.

Dan Parnell indicated that Cemetery Commissioner William Cavanaugh reduced his request to purchase a lawn mower to \$6,000 which would be funded through the reserve account. Bill C. will confirm that this machine will suffice.

**17. Public Input**

None.

**18. Any other business to come before the Board**

The BOS agreed that Michael may work with Bill C. on continuing the Selectmen's endeavor to draft Street Acceptance procedures. Discussion included the possibility of reviewing if the town has deeds for Town Roads and contacting Town Counsel for guidance if the town does not possess such.

The BOS clarified that the Town requires a TIPS (Training for Intervention ProcedureS) Certificate and the TAP Series, LLC Certificate of Achievement that will not be accepted.

**19. Correspondence**

- **Sherwood Greens Road Improvement & Maintenance District: Annual Meeting Warrant (6-1-19) and Form of Proxy Vote form**
- **Vince Jan Garofoli's letter dated 5-19-19 addressed to the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator and Becket Fire Department to convey that he resigns from the Becket Volunteer Fire Department effective 5-19-19 in order to accept the Stockbridge Fire Chief position**

The BOS reviewed the above listed correspondence.

**20. BOS to review and sign payable warrants**

The BOS reviewed and signed payable warrants.

**21. BOS to adjourn the Meeting**

Michael moved to adjourn. Chris seconded. Motion carried unanimously. At 9:20 p.m., Bill adjourned the meeting.

Date of Approval 6-19-2019

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*

  
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William Elovirta, *Chairperson*

**Documents discussed at this meeting:**

- Minutes for 5-15-19 and 5-28-19 meetings
- Town Administrator's report
- Correspondence as noted above
- Sherwood Forest Lake District Communication: Special District Meeting Warrant, Annual District Meeting Warrant, SFLD Projected Operating Budget for FY2019, Proxy, Demographic Survey
- Becket Broadband Tax Stuffer options (2)
- E-mail from Rita Furlong dated 5-28-19 re: Right to Farm Community
- Job Description for the Becket Parks & Recreation Gate Guards
- Becket Beach Policy revised 12-12-2017
- Copy of e-mail from Chris Swindlehurst dated 6-5-19 with photo of old beach permit
- Beach Permit Policy Notification – Tax Stuffer
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing for Broadband (add William Caldwell)
- Electric Vehicle Make Ready Program Site License Agreement
- Electric Vehicle Charger Site Host Agreement