

**Town of Becket  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
July 3, 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*; Albert Goodermote, *Animal Control Officer*

**Others Present:** MLP Manager Robert Gross, Nicole Miller

- 1. Call to order**  
Bill called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and indicated that the BOS was recording the meeting.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**  
Bill led the pledge of allegiance.
- 3. Approval of Minutes**  
Chris moved to approve the meeting minutes for June 19, 2019. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4. Recognition of Albert “Bert” Goodermote for his service as Becket’s Animal Control Officer**  
The BOS presented Albert “Bert” Goodermote with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his service to the Town of Becket as Animal Control Officer from 2007 to 2019.
- 5. BOS to consider voting on the Town Administrator’s Recommendation to appoint Nicole Miller as the Animal Control Officer during FY20**  
Michael moved to approve the Town Administrator’s recommendation to appoint Nicole Miller as the Animal Control Officer during fiscal year 2020. Chris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6. Broadband Update**  
MLP Bob Gross provided an update on the Broadband Project:
  - Make-Ready has commenced, and Westfield Gas & Electric will provide the Broadband Ad Hoc Group with a percentage completion report every two weeks.
  - It is likely the Town will go out to bid for construction in September. For this to happen, there must be an estimated completion date of Make-Ready. Bids are only good for one year.

- BOS decisions are needed before going out to bid. On July 24<sup>th</sup>, the BOS will meet at 6pm and the agenda will list BOS Discussion with the Broadband Ad Hoc Group.
- The BOS will need to discuss cash handling (receiving and tracking). The Broadband Ad Hoc Group is researching cash handling options (Easthampton Savings Bank, Collection Agency, Town Employee).
- The Broadband Ad Hoc Group is in discussions with Westfield Gas & Electric who specified their intention to alter its OPM agreement by changing their service fee from 6 to 8 percent.

**7. Inter-departmental Transfers of Fund(s)**

Michael moved to approve the below listed Interdepartmental Transfers for FY19. Chris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

<u>Amount</u>	<u>account from</u>	<u>account to</u>
\$1,000.00	Insurance	Retirement
\$5,000.00	General Maintenance	Transfer Station
\$6,411.43	Insurance	Veterans Benefits
\$145.85	Town Clerk/Reg. Elections	Town Clerk Expenses
\$987.80	Election Registrations	Tax Title
\$249.58	Advertising	Selectmen's Expenses
\$1,000.00	Ambulance Expenses	Ambulance Payroll

**8. Update on recruitments: Ambulance Department Emergency Medical Technician, Fire Chief, and Seasonal Labor positions**

Next week the Ambulance Director and Bill C. will advertise for the Ambulance Department Emergency Medical Technician position. In the meantime, the Ambulance Department has a sufficient pool of per diem workers, and several individuals have specified their interest to apply with the Ambulance Director.

The Town Administrator has not received any applications for the Fire Chief position which was advertised internally at both fire houses and through an e-mail to members of the VFD.

The Town has not received any applications for the Seasonal Labor postings.

Bill Elovirta indicated that Bob Cooper intends to retire from the Highway Department at the end of July. Bill recommends acting promptly to fill this position when the Town receives Mr. Cooper's official notification.

**9. BOS to review and possibly approve Camp Lenox, Inc.'s Application for a Common Victualler's License for operation during 2019.**

Michael moved to approve Camp Lenox Inc.'s application for a Common Victualler's license (for service relating to its Seasonal liquor license in the Dining Hall area of the Camp Lenox property). Chris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**10. In response to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission's certification of approval, the BOS will issue a Seasonal Liquor license to Camp Lenox, Inc.**

Due to that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission had sent the Board of Selectmen a certification of approval, the BOS issued to Camp Lenox Inc. their Seasonal Liquor license.

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

Michael reported that Bill Caldwell, the Highway Superintendent, and he conducted a site visit for a radio tower and trail. The Highway Superintendent anticipates providing a proposal (after the summer) relating to cutting brush, and adding gravel to the existing path.

Michael indicated that the Town will arrange to set the Electrical Vehicle parking fee at \$1 per hour.

Chris suggested converting a no longer used cruiser into a municipal vehicle to be housed at the Fire House for the Fire Chief's inspections.

Chris suggested that the Town come up with a plan and budget to provide covering (Pole Barn) for Highway Department vehicles/equipment in order to protect them and help them last longer. Bill C. will ask the Highway Superintendent about plans he had several years ago for a Vehicle Port at the Highway Department. Because the Highway Department is close to wetlands, Bill E. will discuss this with the Conservation Agent, and Chris will discuss this with a member of the Conservation Commission.

Bill discussed an e-mail from a resident suggesting that the Town should create a dog park on town-owned land. Bill indicated that former Town Administrator Ed Gibson had discussed this idea several years ago. Ed Gibson had discussed requirements based on Springfield's experience with their dog parks:

- Chain-link fence.
- separate sections for large and small dogs.
- water
- deal with dog waste (bags, employees to clean up messes left behind)
- liability insurance (additional costs)

Bill stated that he does not think a dog park is necessary in Becket which has ample open space. He asked the BOS if they would like to invite the individual into discuss this matter. The BOS indicated that they would rather focus on other priorities. The BOS asked Beverly to send a reply to the individual indicating that the BOS does not have an interest in exploring this matter due to that they would prefer to focus on other priorities.

**12. Town Administrator's Report**

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

- FY2018 Audit – OPEB portion, getting information for actuaries
- Working with UMASS Boston on part 2 – forecasting

Budget presentation for ATM was part 1

- Begin working on FY2019 budget year-end items and encumbrances
- Vocational Transportation
  - Washington, Dufour – Bill will arrange for the Town of Washington to transport our students to McCann Technical School because it offers more competitive pricing (\$30,000) than DuFour (\$35,000). Transportation agreement to Smith awarded to Lecrenski (\$30,200)
- Meeting with solar vendor about TH/Town solar projects.
  - Ground mounted vs carport – The town will use ground mounted because carports spaces would be too small.
- Attended Berkshire Managers meeting
  - 1 Berkshire presentation
- Town of Becket Financial Policies
- Tax title auction moving forward
  - Looking to land of low value process, selecting auctioneer, setting date to auction properties.
- Land Donation Policy and Letter
- Other – Bill provided a draft Financial Policies Manual for the BOS to review and discuss at a future meeting. He sent this to the Finance Committee for review. He is working on a draft 5-year capital plan.

**13. Public Input**

None

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

None

**15. Correspondence**

- **6-20-19 Secretary of the Interior Notification that the Dept. of the Interior issued a \$299 Payment in Lieu of Taxes to Becket for Federal Lands in Becket administered by Agencies within its department.**

The BOS reviewed the above captioned letter.

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

The BOS reviewed and signed the payable warrants.

**17. Selectmen intend to go into Executive Session Under the Provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A, §21, Exemption 5 To investigate charges of criminal conduct or to consider the filing of criminal complaint. Board of Selectmen will not return to open meeting.**

Bill moved that the Board of Selectmen will go into Executive Session Under the Provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A, §21, Exemption 5 To investigate charges of criminal conduct or to consider the filing of criminal complaint and that that the Board of Selectmen will not return to open meeting. Michael seconded. Roll call vote: Bill Elovirta – aye, Michael Lavery – aye, and Chris Swindlehurst – aye. At 8 p.m. the BOS entered into Executive Session.

Date of Approval

7-24-19

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Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*



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William Elovirta, *Chairperson*

**Documents discussed at this meeting:**

- Requests for Transfers (listed above)
- Certificate of Appreciation – Albert Goodermote
- June 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- Common Victuallers License application for Camp Lenox, Inc.
- Correspondence – as listed above
- Town Administrator's Report
- Draft Town of Becket Financial Policies Manual – June 2019