

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen Meeting
July 24, 2019
6:00 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*;

Others Present: MLP Manager Robert Gross, David Lebreque, Dan Bruno, Jessica Giarolo, Michelle Smith, Anthony Ryl, Laura Kendrick, Stephen Klausmeyer, Marilyn Parnell Grockowski, Jason Lacourciere, and Al Blake

1. Call to order

Bill E. called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. He indicated that the BOS was recording the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Bill E. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes

Michael moved to approve the 7-3-19 and 7-12-19 meeting minutes. Chris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Bob Gross, MLP Manager/Broadband Ad Hoc Group member provided an update and led discussion on policies and decisions relating to the Broadband Project.

Bob Gross indicated that all is well financially: the state gave the town approximately \$700,000 and the town borrowed \$600,000. The town has paid almost all of its MakeReady costs. The cost for the transfer of the Middle Mile and Mass Broadband 123 wires are not known at this time

MakeReady work is going well. Yesterday Westfield Gas & Electric indicated that the town should be prepared to solicit bids for construction as early as 10-1-19. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group continues working with Westfield Gas & Electric to obtain pricing for aerial, and two different types of underground. This information will be used for the bidding process.

Bob discussed:

- MakeReady - Massachusetts Turnpike areas. 2 of the overpasses have existing conduits where fiber may be threaded. The two overpasses on Route 20 will require digging.
- MakeReady - 5 areas in town that may have underground rather than aerial
- The Board of Selectmen will need to create a Broadband policy that will include subsidies based on costs relating to the length of driveways and connections (underground or aerial).
- Broadband Operator - WiredWest vs. Westfield Gas & Electric – The Broadband Ad Hoc Group, is in negotiations with Westfield Gas & Electric and will provide a recommendation to the Selectmen. One of the influencing factors will be the seasonal rates due to the high percentage of the second home-owners.

- MLP vs. Enterprise
- The potential impact of different subsidy structures on take rates.
- Bob suggested that it may be in the town's best interest to consider going to the Town for more funding to offer better subsidy to everyone and this would be done on the condition that the additional debt will fall to the subscribers.
- The Broadband Ad Hoc Group will provide a recommendation for the town's ISP.

The Board of Selectmen conducted the following two votes (language provided by the Broadband Ad Hoc Group and reviewed by Town Counsel):

Vote 1 - Bill E. read the following:

For property owners who sign a contract for service during the 'sign-up phase', the Town plans to offer a discount to offset some or all of the cost of connecting their premises to the fiber optic network. If the initial estimate of the connection cost and cost allocation requires a property owner payment to the Town it must be paid in full before any work is commenced. The actual discount will be determined after the Town's total cost of all MakeReady and network essential work has been determined. If the Town determines that the connection cost will exceed the initial estimate, the additional cost amount will be treated as follows: if it is less than 10% over the original estimate the additional amount may be paid after the work is complete; if it is 10% or more over the initial estimate, the additional amount must be paid in full after notice from the Town before the work continues, unless a payment plan is offered by the Town and agreed to by the property owner. The payment plan option will be at the sole discretion of the Town, and may or may not be offered.

Chris moved to approve the above policy as read. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Vote 2 - Bill E. read the following:

The Town will offer a price discount to owners of private roads with underground utility service who agree to construction of the fiber optic network on or in their roads. The discount will be based on actual installation/construction costs paid by the Town and will take into account the length of the private road. An initial estimate of the property owner portion of the installation/construction cost, less the anticipated discount, must be paid in full before any work is commenced. If the Town determines that the installation/construction cost will exceed the initial estimate, the additional costs amount will be treated as follows: if it is less than 10% over the initial estimate the additional amount may be paid by the property owner after the work is complete; if it is 10% or more over the initial estimate, the additional amount must be paid in full after notice from the Town before the work continues.

Chris moved to approve the above policy as read. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Relating to the above votes, Bob Gross reported that the Becket Tax Collectors and Treasurer are willing to receive and deposit into an account moneys submitted for the Town Broadband Construction invoices. The MLP will account for that money.

5. 7:05 p.m. Public Hearing re: the application of MOUNTAIN GROVE ASSOCIATION, INC. for alteration of premises relating to its Annual All Alcoholic Beverages Club License. The address of the premises is 494 Otis Rd., MA 01223 (Assessors Map 204, Lot 186).

Bill E. read the Public Hearing notice relating to the above captioned. At 7:07 p.m., Bill opened the public hearing. Bill E. indicated that the Board of Selectmen received written comments from one individual and this will be discussed in the later portion of the hearing. Bill E. invited comments from those present. Applicant Dan Bruno, President of Mountain Grove, Inc. spoke in support of the alteration of premises in order to make better use of the facility to enhance the success of the establishment. He stated that Mountain Grove Association would like permission to have food and drink taken outside the building in an enclosed roped off area. Dan described and fielded questions

relating to the details listed on the plan he submitted. Chris inquired about ensuring minors will not drink alcoholic beverages. Dan Bruno indicated that there will be additional staffing available. Chris indicated that the letter writer had concerns that the fire pit activity in front of the building may distract the drivers along Route 8. Jason Lacourciere discussed his letter outlining his concerns. He indicated that although he does not oppose the application, he requests that the approval come with stipulations. Jason expressed his worry that the fire pit may distract drivers who may take their eyes off the road and this may prevent them from seeing pedestrians in the crosswalk in front of the Clubhouse. Chris suggested that one of the stipulations might be to install a fence to keep people from wandering into the road, to provide control over removing liquor from the delineating area, and to prevent a source of distraction for drivers. Michael agreed that the fire pit could distract the drivers. Steve Klausmeyer spoke in support of the application because it will bring in additional revenue to the Mountain Grove Community and this money may be used for road repairs and other beneficial projects. Michelle Smith indicated that she has played horseshoes for many years at Mountain Grove and she spoke in support of the application. Jessica Giarolo indicated that she has had ties to the community for over twenty five years and she hears horseshoes during the daytime and there has never been any "riff-raff."

Bill E. stated that his understanding is that the only individuals permitted to frequent Mountain Grove bar are members and guests of the members (Mountain Grove has a Club license). Dan Bruno indicated that in addition to the residents of Mountain Grove community, Mountain Grove offers \$325 annual membership that includes access to its beach, and a \$5 annual membership that is solely for use of the Clubhouse. Only homeowners have voting rights at their Association meetings.

Marilyn Parnell Grockowski indicated that she has not encountered any problems with the club and when there has been an occasional noise complaint, a board member has spoken to the bar tender who takes care of such matters. She indicated that Mountain Grove would be agreeable to moving the fire pit to avoid problems. Laura Kendrick stated that she thinks a stockade-style fence will detract from the outside dining experience because it would block the view of the lake. Further discussion ensued regarding the installation of fencing.

Bill moved to grant Mountain Grove Association Inc.'s application for Alteration of its premises as it relates to its liquor license with the following stipulations:

1. Outside entertainment must cease by 10 p.m.
2. Patrons must vacate the outdoors by midnight.
3. The outdoor areas as highlighted on the plan must have a permanent childproof fencing (minimum 3' height).
4. The fire pit must be moved from the front (where Otis Road is located) to the back portion of the property.

Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Chris made a motion to close the public hearing. Michael seconded. At 7:43 p.m., Bill E. closed the public hearing.

6. Review Quotes for New Backhoe

Bill C. indicated that the Highway Superintendent received two quotes for a backhoe from the Mass Higher Education Consortium and his recommendation is to select Schmidt Equipment which offers the most competitive price, and he has had good experience with the old John Deere machine.

- Milton Cat – 2019 Caterpillar 420F2IT: price \$138,691 for the machine with a \$14,500 trade allowance for the John Deere total cost \$124,191

- Schmidt Equipment 2017 Deere 310SLHL - \$139,900 with a trade allowance of \$20,000 for the John Deere Total cost \$119,900

Bill moved to accept the Highway Superintendent's recommendation to select Schmidt Equipment's quote for the new backhoe with a total cost of \$119,900. Chris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. BOS to discuss and possibly vote on the Chairperson of the CBRSD Committee's request for the BOS to write a letter to support upholding the vote to fund the Regional High School Building Project.

The BOS discussed the Chairperson of the CBRSD Committee's request for the BOS to send a letter to support upholding the vote to fund the Regional High School Building Project: In her request, she reported that, "Windsor is following Hinsdale in expressing their dissatisfaction with the way in which the School Building vote took place." The Selectmen asked Beverly to convey that they appreciate being kept apprised of the situation and because they believe that Becket's vote reflects the residents' wishes, they do not feel further action is warranted.

8. Board of Selectmen to review Town Clerk's letter dated 7-2-19: BOS to vote on Election Worker reappointments (those listed with *) and appointments from 8-15-19 through 8-14-20. Names are listed below:

Charles	Francis (Democrat)*
Meredyth	Babcock (Democrat)*
Beth	VanNess (Democrat)*
Julia	Kay-Grace (Democrat)*
Ann	Krawet (Democrat)*
Patricia	Clemons (Democrat)*
Gale	LaBelle (Republican)*
Steven	LaBelle (Republican)*
Adrienne	Metcalf (Unenrolled)*
Jerome	Schwartzbach (Unenrolled)*
Charles	Garman (Unenrolled)*
Priscilla	McEwen (Unenrolled)*
Alvin	Blake (Unenrolled)*
Ruth	Rosenthal (Unenrolled)*
Katherine	Hoak (Unenrolled)*
Adele	Levine (Democrat)*
Barbara	Craft-Reiss (Democrat)*
Steven	Reiss (Democrat)*
Thomas Henry	Rock (Republican)
Dennis	Mahoney (Republican)
Laura	House (Libertarian)
Paula	Bergeron (Democrat)
Susan	Purser (Democrat)
Vernice Diane	Cowell (Democrat)
Susan	Crossley (Democrat)
Lynn	Howard (Democrat)

Tarcisio	Ramos dos Santos (Democrat)
Flora	Whiffen (Unenrolled)
Timothy	Hickey (Unenrolled)
James Peter	Levy (Unenrolled)

The BOS reviewed the Town Clerk's letter relating to Election Worker appointments for the upcoming year. The Town Clerk provided names of persons he would recommend to serve as the Town's Elections Workers (reappointments and new appointments). Bill E. moved to appoint all individuals that the Town Clerk had recommended (names listed above) as Election Workers from 8-15-19 through 8-14-20. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9. BOS to Vote on approval of One-Day Liquor License Application:

Applicant: Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival Inc. (Ariana Massery)

Event: Swing Dance

Location: Perles Family Studio, 358 George Carter Road

Date & Times: 7-27-19, 7 p.m. till midnight

Chris moved to approve Jacob Pillow Dance Festival's One-Day liquor license application in conjunction with their Swing Dance event scheduled on 7-27-19, from 7 p.m. till midnight. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10. BOS to vote to approve Vocational Transportation Services Agreements between the Towns of Washington and Becket

Michael moved to approve the Vocational Transportation Services Agreements between the Towns of Washington and Becket for Smith Vocational H.S. and McCann Technical H.S. for the 2019-2020 school year. Chris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

11. BOS to vote on Town Administrator's recommendation for appointment of Energy Committee Alternate Member

Bill C. indicated that in response to the Energy Committee Chair's request, he recommends that the Board of Selectmen create an Alternate Energy Committee Member position with all of the responsibilities as the other members except that the Alternate member would only vote if a quorum if needed. Bill clarified that the purpose of this agenda item is to create the position. Al Blake, Chairperson of the Energy Committee, indicated that sometimes the Energy Committee does not meet quorum, and he spoke in support of creating this position. Michael moved to create an Alternate member to the Energy Committee. Chris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

12. BOS's Comments and Announcements

Chris's follow up items or inquiries:

- He asked Bill C. if the Highway Superintendent has a set of plans for a vehicle port at the Highway Department. Bill C. indicated that the Highway Superintendent did not have plans from the former Highway Superintendent but estimates the cost at approximately \$110,000 due to the proximity to the river.
- Bill C. reported that Miller Petroleum is providing specs to install a drain in the Ambulance Department garage floor.
- Bill C. will research placing a clear-roofed shipping container at the Transfer Station for a swap area
- Bill C. will survey other Towns re: their experience pertaining to credit card machines at their Transfer Stations to purchase bag stickers. Bill also investigate the cost of car scales. Chris would like to explore charging by the weight of loads rather than by the piece.

Michael requested a follow up relating the proposal for a radio tower and trail.

13. Town Administrator's Report

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

- FY2018 Audit – OPEB
- UMASS Boston– Forecasting
- Vocational Transportation
 - Washington agreement to McCann
 - Transportation agreement to Smith awarded to Lecrenski (\$30,200)
- Solar Vendor proposal – limited payback if do ground mounted vs carport
- Town of Becket Financial Policies will appear on a September agenda.-
- Tax title auction
 - Looking to land of low value process, selecting auctioneer (lessor fee), setting date to auction properties.
- Land Donation Policy and Letter
- Septic tank to be replaced at MH/BAC/BA
- N. Becket Cemetery tractor delivered
- Ambulance vehicle to come on-line soon
- TH Parking lot expansion is underway
- Charging station infrastructure installed, charging stations quote in hand – Eversource to pay for the Station, and Town will pay for the Cloud plan
- Appliances for TH Kitchen renovation delivered, cabinets by month's end
- Beach has held up well
- Highway position to be posted
- Fire Chief position – 0 applicants
- EMT position – posting closes Friday 7/26 –
- Treasurer, Collectors, Town Accountant, will attend a special training August 13 through 15. Finance Committee member Dan Parnell will attend the land of no values portions of the training.

14. Public Input

None

15. Any other business to come before the Board

The BOS discussed Bob Gross's requests for future agenda items and Bill C. will respond to Bob Gross:

1. Request for BOS to schedule a 2nd Homeowner's meeting: Rather than schedule a 2nd homeowners meeting, the BOS, if asked, would be happy to attend a home-owners district or association meeting.
2. Request for BOS to discuss establishing a Dog Park on Indian Lakes: property: If a dog park is located on land belonging to Indian Lakes, BOS permission is not required.

Al Blake mentioned that at today's MVP Grant meeting, he was impressed with the presentation of a Civil Engineering firm.

16. Correspondence

- 6-20-19 Thomas Bowler, Berkshire County Sheriff letter to Fire Chief re: Completion of painting the exterior of the Becket Fire Station through the Community Service Program
- 7-12-19 Windsor Select Board letter to CBRSD Superintendent to ask that the School Committee arrange to return to the District's prior regional agreement relating to voting,

and for the School Committee to challenge and remediate districtwide votes that approved funding for the School Building Project Feasibility Study and the Construction of the new High School

The BOS reviewed the above captioned correspondence.

17. BOS to review and sign payable warrants

The BOS reviewed and signed payable warrants.

18. BOS to adjourn the Meeting

Michael moved to adjourn. Chris seconded. Motion carried unanimously. At 8:32 pm, Bill E. adjourned the meeting.

Date of Approval

8-7-19

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*



William Elovirta, *Chairperson*

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- 7-24-19 Town Administrator Report
- BC Sheriff letter Re Paint Fire Station #1
- BEC Chair recommendation for alt member
- BOS Agenda 072419
- Draft BOS 7-12-19 Minutes
- Draft BOS 7-3-19 Minutes
- Jacobs Pillow one day wine and beer application for 7-27-19
- Mountain Grove application and checklist
- School Com Chair request letter of support re H.S. Building Project
- Town Clerk's letter re Election Workers 2019-2020
- Voc transp agreement McCann TOB & TOW
- Voc transp agreement Smith TOB & TOW
- Windsor re oppose school votes