

**Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
August 1, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall
557 Main Street, Becket**

Attendees:

Board of Selectmen: William ("Bill") Elovirta, *Chair*; Nicole Ledoux, *Vice-Chair* and Michael Lavery, *Clerk*

Staff: Robert Markel, *Interim Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert, *Recording Secretary*

Others: MLP Manager Bob Gross, Chris Lynch (Matrix Design Group)

1. Call to order

Bill called to order at 7:03pm. He indicated that the BOS was recording the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Bill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes

Nicole moved to approve the July 18, 2018 meeting minutes. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Open Meeting Law Postings – BOS to discuss designating the website as the town's official posting method

Bob Markel indicated that under the new regulations ruled by the Massachusetts Attorney General, the Town Clerk must post meetings unless an arrangement is made. In order to also allow the Town's Administrative Assistant, Assistant Tax Collector, and Chief Municipal Officer (Town Administrator/Interim Town Administrator) to post meeting notices, Michael moved to approve the Local Public Body Posting Policy effective 8-1-19. Nicole seconded. Motion carried unanimously. This policy confirms that the Board of Selectmen designates the Bulletin Board inside the Town Hall, and the podium outside the Town Hall entrance as the official posting locations.

5. Town of Becket Community Choice Power Supply Program Aggregation Plan (Public comment period ended 5 p.m., July 31, 2018)

Bob Markel indicated that there were no public comments. The next meeting agenda will include the following agenda item: BOS to consider voting to accept the Town of Becket Community Choice Power Supply Program Aggregation Plan. Bob Gross and Bob Markel indicated that the Chairperson of the Energy Committee had suggested that after the BOS approves the Community Choice Power Supply Program Aggregation Plan, the BOS may create a sub-committee to review the options (including ratio of green energy beyond the standard ratio) that will be offered under the Community Choice Power Supply Program in order to provide recommendations for the BOS to select.

6. BOS to review and possibly vote on Election Worker Appointments

Bill read the Town Clerk's recommended list of names for Election Worker Appointments. Michael moved to appoint the individuals as read (listed below) to serve as Election Workers effective 8/15/2018 through 8/14/2019 seconded by Nicole. Motion carried unanimously.

Charles Francis (Democrat), Meredyth Babcock (Democrat), Beth VanNess (Democrat), Eva Bonney (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), Candace Cahalan (Unenrolled), Dean Lagrotteria (Democrat), Adele Levine (Democrat), Barbara Craft-Reiss (Democrat), Steven Reiss (Democrat)

7. Broadband Update

Bob Gross discussed the following topics during his update:

- Broadband Ad Hoc Group's recommendation relating to the Matrix Proposal vs. Town-owned Network is on hold until they receive the make-ready costs. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group is provide PVC's information to Zachary Magid, Engineering Matrix Design Group Engineering Manager for evaluation.
- Bob will ask MBI for the second disbursements.
- The pole applications have been submitted
- Per Bob Gross recommendation, the BOS agreed to update the state's signature authorization form to add Bob Markel, in addition to Bob Gross and Margaret.
- Massachusetts Legislation has been passed that will allow neighboring towns to service customers bordering their towns. Becket will be positively impacted by this correction to the legislation. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group is trying to arrange for Otis and Chester to provide service to several bordering Becket premises due.
- Bob Gross requested a BOS working meeting with the Broadband Ad Hoc Group on August 28th or 29th

Bob Gross and Chris Lynch discussed the pole application process.

8. Town Administrator Recruitment Update

The BOS reviewed and agreed upon modifications to Community Paradigm Associates' draft Community Profile Statement which will be used to attract Town Administrator candidates.

9. Route 20 Spring Update

Bob Markel reported that he continues to follow up with Housatonic Basin and he continues to communicate with DEP. Today a representative of Housatonic Basin stated within two weeks, they will provide a cost estimate for a UV Water Purification system.

10. Discussion of potential Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles

The Town Administrator advised that he is not recommending scheduling a fall Special Town Meeting due to that he currently has no warrant articles submittals from any departments/boards/citizens.

11. Transfer Station Permit Policy

Bill Elovirta indicated that a Town of Lee resident who owns property lacking a dwelling in Becket was denied a Becket Transfer Station permit to bring his trash generated in Lee into Becket. Bill Elovirta discussed this matter with Chris Bouchard, the Transfer Station Manager,

who concurred with this policy. The BOS agreed that it is good idea to update the Becket's Transfer Station's written policy to include that Becket does not issue Transfer Station permits to Becket properties unless there is a dwelling on it.

12. The Federated Church of Becket Community Calendar

Nicole moved to advertise Selectmen meetings in the Federated Church of Becket Community 2019 Calendar for a cost of \$24.00. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Departmental Reports: tba

None.

14. Board of Selectmen's Comments and Announcements

Michael brought up the temporary construction traffic light for on Route 20 for state bridge work. Bill Elovirta suggested that he would not recommend asking the state to change its schedule to a less active travel season due to that the longest delay he has encountered has been three minutes.

Michael received two complaints about traffic and conditions on George Carter and Fred Snow Roads. Bill Elovirta will discuss this with the Police and Highway Departments.

15. Town Administrator's Reports

Bob Markel reported on items he is working on:

- Our Tax Title Custodian is almost ready to set a date. She has hired an auctioneer.
- 21 Maple Street Demolition: Contract signed and we are awaiting a date to start. Eversource will terminate electrical service. Duquette will remove the dead tree on the property and crush the septic system. Work expected to begin within two weeks. Bob has received a request to remove large stones in the foundation to be used as benches in the park. Rita Furlong of the Historical Commission wants to use one of the stones for a tablet to mark that the building was once a parsonage for the church
- The Brooker Hill Road building and the Black Arrow Way building have been demolished.
- The two blue buildings at 125 Main Street will be demolished on Friday. Charlie Kaniecki and Bill Girard worked together to resolve this matter.
- Training on sexual harassment by KP-Law. Atty. Deborah Ecker will conduct the training to Town of Becket employees on August 16.
- Town Counsel is reviewing the Code of Conduct.
- Town Administrator Search Brochure is being finalized; ad will be placed by week's end. Will be posted for a month; review of applications will begin post Labor Day.
- Energy Issues:
 - Consultant: DOER Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Grant was submitted.
 - Town Hall HVAC: META grant consultant will make a recommendation whether to install a propane system of an air sourced heat pump system.
 - Consultant for Municipal Aggregation has been hired: Selectmen asked to approve the plan at the next meeting.
 - A request was made with Eversource to update the Town Hall energy audit: Kyle Houser a subcontractor for Eversource will do the audit.
- Route 20 Spring-Housatonic Basin work is underway. Design will be completed in about two weeks.

- Valley Communications will visit Town Hall next week. New phone system, which is already funded, will be installed in August.
- The July 17 storm destroyed the beach at Center Pond. Parks & Recreation Committee Chair and Bob Markel had an emergency meeting with the Conservation Commission to approve sand replacement.
- Bob Markel received two complaints about the Town Quarry being closed today. We called Ken Smith of the Trustees of Reservations who thanked us for bringing this to his attention. He advised that the Quarry's neighbor who has an arrangement with the Trustees of Reservations (owners of the Quarry), did not unlock the parking lot chain.
- Jacob's Pillow property is being re-assessed to account for new buildings. New assessment will be completed this week. Bob Markel will meet with the Director to discuss an increase in their PILOT payment to the Town. Al Blake suggested that Bob Markel discuss possible use of their property for a solar array.
- Sent to Jane Fiston, the Green Communities Administrator, the vendor/work/cost information the town has for the use of the \$28,000 remaining in the grant.
- Legislation for short term rentals: Bob Markel distributed copy of bullet points information.

16. Public Input

None.

17. Any other business to come before the Board

Mary Stucklen submitted a letter of resignation from the Conservation Commission effective 7-16-18 in order to commence a thirty-day cooling off period to enable her to apply for the Conservation Agent opening. The BOS signed a letter of appreciation to Mary Stucklen.

The BOS signed a letter to the Town of Washington Board of Selectmen to communicate the BOS's desire to maintain improved communications between the two boards and to develop mutual involvement of fire protection services.

18. Correspondence: tba

None.

19. BOS to review and sign payable warrants

The BOS reviewed and signed payable warrants.

20. BOS to adjourn the meeting

Nicole moved to adjourn. Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously. At 8:35 p.m., Bill adjourned the meeting.

Date of Approval

11-20-2019

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*


William Elovirta, *Chairperson*

Documents discussed at the meeting:

- July 18, 2018 meeting minutes
- Meetings of a Local Public Body Posting Policy
- Town Clerk e-mail dated July 18, 2018 re: Election Workers
- Community Paradigm Town of Becket Town Administrator Position Profile
- The Becket Federated Church letter dated July 23, 2018 re: Meetings on the 2019 Community Birthday Calendar
- Town Administrator Repot
- Green Communities Vendor Proposals
- Mary Stucklen letter of resignation from the Conservation Commission effective July 16, 2018
- BOS letter of appreciation to Mary Stucklen for serving on the Conservation Commission
- July 30, 2018 Bob Markel's Brief AirBNB Summary
- BOS letter to the Town of Washington BOS re: interest in continued communication to develop a Fire Protection agreement