

Town of Becket
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
6:30 p.m., February 19, 2020
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees

Board of Selectmen: William Elovirta (BE), *Chairperson*; Michael Lavery (ML), *Vice Chairperson* and Chris Swindlehurst (CS), *Clerk*

Staff: William Caldwell (BC), *Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert (BG), *Administrative Assistant*; Christopher Bouchard, *Highway Superintendent*; Paul A. Mikaniewicz, *Fire Chief*

1. Call to order

BE called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

BE led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. BOS to meet with and check-in with the following Town Officials

- **Fire Chief Paul A. Mikaniewicz**
- **Highway Superintendent. The BOS will also discuss ideas relating to the Transfer Station**

Highway Superintendent

The BOS discussed Transfer Station related handouts (Transfer Station Income April 1, 2018 through February 14, 2020; Transfer Station tonnage report FY2017, FY2019, & current year to date; Transfer Station Fees survey for 11 communities, Vehicle Scale Proposal, WasteQuip Equipment Quote and compactor information) with Highway Superintendent/Transfer Station Manager Chris Bouchard.

Discussion ensued on the following topics: number of loads/tonnage, layout, electrical needs, compactors (advantages of renting vs. owning), expanded compactor usage to reduce hauling trips, Freon disposal (possibly joining with Otis to save on the cost) bulky waste fees, use of a scale, staffing, traffic flow, increased disposal costs, tire disposal, concerns to balance rising expenses with keeping the facility accessible to the community.

Chris indicated that he wishes for the town to remain on good terms with DEP and he thinks it is important to consider DEP before altering the Transfer Station grounds.

Chris advised that effective July 1, 2020, MRF will no longer accept shredded paper.

Chris will look into arranging for an engineering feasibility study (perhaps through an intern at BCC or Baystate Roads) for the Transfer Station.

At future meetings, the BOS will continue to explore and discuss user related fees, and possible changes to the Transfer Station.

Fire Chief

BC indicated to Fire Chief Paul Mikaniewicz that because he came aboard to serve as the town's new Fire Chief in July, the BOS wanted to check in with him. CS indicated that he thinks it is a good idea for the Selectmen to meet periodically with all Department heads (not necessarily at the same time). The BOS requested monthly reports. BE clarified that there is a monthly report format that had been used that includes a simple breakdown of the number of calls and inspections, and the BOS is not looking for turnover or financial reports from him. Paul introduced topics: reviewing the inspection fee structure, maintenance on equipment (hoses, pumps), OSHA regulations, radios, safety gear and its care, investing in equipment (tanks, packs, radios, hoses, proper connections for hoses & sprinkler systems), properly managing toxic waste (environmental, health) and his recommendation to provide an equipped municipal rescue vehicle for the Fire Chief's use for inspections and initial response to calls.

- The BOS advised that the town should pay for required physicals of new VFD members.
- BC will invoice the Town of Washington for Fire Protection Services.
- Paul stated that the VFD will contribute approximately \$8,000 to purchase a new jaws of life. BC advised that the remaining funding may be through the Fire Department's operating budget.
- BC will continue arrangements for the electrician to conduct repairs to the attic and move the water heater into the basement of Fire Station #1. BC advised that his preference to address the LED bulbs is through a Green Community Grant.

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

BC highlighted information contained in the MLP Manager's report. Due to the inclement weather, the site visit with Westfield was rescheduled for February 24th. Jeremy Dunn marked each survey responder who expressed strong interest to acquire Broadband on a google map. This information will be used in the Broadband Ad Hoc Group's conversation with Westfield.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

ML moved to approve the 2/5/2020 meeting minutes. CS seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

6. Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person, 20 minutes total for this agenda item).

None

7. BOS to consider sending a letter to the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies to demonstrate support of Senate Bill 205/House Bill 364 - An Act Relative to the Rural Policy Advisory Commission

BC indicated that one of the recommendations of the Governor's Rural Policy Advisory Commission is to open a rural policy office that will focus on the interests of towns with populations under 1,200. ML moved to send a letter to the Joint

Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies to demonstrate support of Senate Bill 205/House Bill 364 - An Act Relative to the Rural Policy Advisory Commission. CS seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

8. BOS to review Departmental Reports

- **Animal Control Officer – January 2020**
- **Others TBA**

The BOS reviewed the Animal Control Officer's January 2020 report and the Police Department's February 1, 2020 Report.

9. BOS to acknowledge Resignation Notification Received from Zoning Board of Appeals Member Joy Lennartz effective 2/12/2020

The BOS reviewed Joy Lennartz's letter of resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals effective 2/12/2020, and signed a letter of appreciation.

10. Discussion re: combining Town of Becket owned properties into one lot: 21 Maple Street (Assessor's Map 206, Lot 86) and the North Becket Town Park (Assessor's Map 205, Lot 85)

BE recommended combining the 21 Maple Street and North Becket Town Park Lot: A larger footprint may facilitate town permitting and approvals for use of the property including parking and building a Pavilion. CS moved to support taking action toward combining the above captioned lots. ML seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

11. Discussion of draft Town Administrator Performance Evaluation Form

The BOS received a packet containing Town Administrator Evaluation forms from other municipalities as well as the evaluation materials Becket used during the past few TA evaluations. BE indicated that he favors changing to Richmond's TA evaluation form. On March 4th, the BOS will select the Town Administrator Performance Evaluation Form for BC's upcoming evaluation.

12. Discussion to Change the name of Board of Selectmen to Select Board

In light of that eighty MA towns have switched from Board of Selectmen to Select Board, and that MMA voted to change to the gender neutral term of Select Board, CS moved to take action in order change from Board of Selectmen to Select Board. ML seconded. Vote: 3-0. BC will research the process to accomplish this.

13. BOS's Comments and Announcements

CS initiated discussion about Transfer Station ideas: installing a returnable machine for cans and bottles at the Transfer Station, and accepting credit cards to purchase bag stickers at the Transfer Station. The BOS will further explore credit card machines with Chris Bouchard, Manager of the Transfer Station.

ML followed up on his question regarding whether it is possible to have a non-binding referendum on a town-election ballot. BC indicated that it is possible.

The BOS scheduled a working meeting to occur at 10:00am on March 6th and the BOS will meet at 6:00pm on March 4th.

14. Town Administrator's Report

BC provided an update of several items that he is working on:

- Broadband Hut – construction is progressing.
- HVAC @ Town Hall
- MVP/HMP – moving forward
- CBRSD – assessment figures February 25th
- RFP for Assessing Service – getting input from assessors will advertise soon
 - Assessor's may provide their own ideas for a proposal
- Green Communities competitive grant – Fire Station 1 Envelope project
 - Contractor that did Otis and another will look. A contractor who provides insulation met with BC.
- easement for septic in village for Athenaeum/BAC/MH
- USDA Grant to pay 75% of hybrid standard cruiser– progressing
- Housing grant – working on reimbursements
- GC Annual Report Accepted
- Municipal Aggregation Approved
 - Berkshire County or Franklin (14 towns) – When the town's contract expires at the end of the year, the BOS agreed that it is sensible to join the Berkshire County contract
- CDBG rollover - ~\$14,000 to new app – The BOS agreed the rollover to the FY2020 CDBG grant is sensible for use in the contingency fund
 - CDBG – 4 Towns: Dalton, Becket, Sheffield, Stockbridge
 - ADA study
- Budget overview – BC discussed and fielded questions about a handout he provided.

15. Any other business to come before the Board

The BOS signed a letter BE composed to respond to John Bissell's (Greylock Federal Credit Union) letter (listed under correspondence) suggesting that it may facilitate their consideration of the town's request to locate a branch in Becket if the town conveyed its awareness of potential properties. The Selectmen's letter stated that Realtor Tucker Welch will contact Mr. Bissell to discuss 609 Main Street (location of the defunct Becket Country Store) which is on the market. CS suggested for the BOS to consider reviewing town-owned properties to see if offering an easement on one to Greylock Credit Union to operate may be feasible.

16. Correspondence:

- 2/6/2020, Sally Soluri – letter of support for the Becket Arts Center
- 2/7/2020, Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing scheduled on 3/11/2020 re: Spencer Romano's Special Permit Application (Map 406, Lot 30-34 – Tanglewood Circle) Tier 2 Indoor Cannabis Cultivation & Manufacturing Facility

- 1/30/2020, Housatonic Valley Association, letter to request \$250.00 funding for FY2021
- 1/29/2020, John Bissell, President/CEO of Greylock Federal Credit Union, letter stating that consideration will be given to the Selectmen's inquiry about the potential to establish a bank branch in Becket.
- 2/7/2020 CBRSD School Committee Chair – letter concerning Revised CBRSD Seven Town Advisory Meeting Scheduled on 2/25/2020 – will begin at 6:30pm

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

ML moved to adjourn. CS seconded. Motion carried 3-0. BE adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm

Date approved 3-4-2020

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary


William Elovirta, Chairperson

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- 2-19-2020 BOS letter to reply to Greylock Bank
- ACO Jan 2020 Report
- Town Administrator's Report and Budget Overview handout
- MLP Manager's Broadband Update
- e-mail wording to request Town Administrator Evaluation
- Town Administrator Evaluations: forms to consider, Staff survey re Town Administrator, Self-Evaluation Form, and Policy
- Greylock letter dated 1-29-2020 consider BOS request for branch in Becket
- HVA request for funding FY 2021
- Joy Lennartz resign ZBA 2-12-2020
- Letter re Office of Rural Policy
- Planning Board Public Hearing Notice scheduled 3-11-2020 – Applicant Romano
- Police Department Report Feb 1, 2020
- Assessors Property Map 206
- Sally Soluri letter of support for the Becket Arts Center
- Letter of appreciation to Joy Lennartz for serving on the ZBA.docx
 - BOS Revised CBRSD 7 Town Advisory Meeting time 2-25-2020 Transfer Station documents as listed above (Agenda Item 3)