

Town of Becket
SELECT BOARD/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 7, 2021

6:00 p.m.

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*

Finance Committee: Dan Parnell, Mark Karlberg, Ann Spadafora, Chuck Garman, and Ron Defoe

Others via remote participation: Larisa Shpitalnik and from the Becket Arts Center: Adele Levine, Jenn Beatty, Mary Manning, and Drea Picor

These meeting minutes document solely the Board of Selectmen's votes.

- 1. The Board of Selectmen Chairperson will call the Board of Selectmen meeting to order. The Finance Committee Chairperson will call the Finance Committee Meeting to order.**

BE called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. He indicated that the SB was recording the meeting.

- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

BE led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 3. Administrator's input.**

BC provided a draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant discussed under Agenda Items 4 & 5.

- 4. FY22 Budget discussion and possible votes.**

ML moved to recommend Article 1 – Compensation (Select Board, Board of Health and Cemetery Commissioners), CS 2nd: unanimous.

BE directed discussion to the Becket Arts Center line item under Article 2 – FY 2022 Operating Budget. Jenn Beatty, Executive Director of the Becket Arts Center (BAC), and BAC Trustees Adele Levine, Mary Manning and Drea Picor advocated for an increase in BAC's line item from \$5,000 to \$10,000, the original amount BAC requested for presentation at the ATM. ML stated that he favors the town supporting the BAC, especially due to that COVID-19 impacted BAC's events during FY2021. Following Finance Committee's recommendation, ML moved to raise Becket Arts Center's line item (Article 2 – FY 2022 Operating Budget) to \$10,000. CS seconded. During discussion, the SB agreed to BE's amendment to the motion: Becket Arts Center is not to be a permanent town operating expense line item. Motion carried unanimously.

BC indicated that the School Committee has not yet approved the \$52,833 ESSER II funds to offset the local required contribution to the Central Berkshire Regional School District and it is possible the CBRSD Operating Assessment line item may increase by that amount.

CS moved for the SB to recommend Article 2 FY 2022 Operating Budget as amended (BAC increased to \$10,000) with \$7,039,413 Total General Fund Budget Including Warrant Articles, ML 2nd: unanimous.

5. The Select Board and Finance Committee will vote on their recommendations for the Town Meeting Warrant Articles.

It was agreed to place a hold on the following Articles: Capital Expenditures, Citizen Petition: Engine Brake Bylaw, and Local Option Excise Tax Exemption.

ML moved for the SB to recommend Articles 3 through 17 (Title of Articles listed below) with a \$35,000 Stabilization fund item for purchase of a Town Hall Generator added to Article 4 Capital Expenditures; CS 2nd: unanimous.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

Article 3 Debt Service, Article 4 Capital Expenditures, Article 5 Transfer to the Stabilization Fund, Article 6 Acceptance of Chapter 90 Funds, Article 7 Ambulance Budget, Article 8 Ambulance Stabilization, Article 9 Revolving Funds, Article 10 Local Option Special Injury Leave Indemnity Fund, Article 11 Payment of Prior Year Bill, Article 12 Rescind Authorized/Unissued Debt, Article 13 Parking Ticket Fine Change, Article 14 FY 2022 Community Preservation Authorization, Article 15 Community Preservation Funding for Walking Path, Article 16 Community Preservation Funding for Energy Upgrades, Article 17 Community Preservation Funding for Historic Preservation, and Article for the Annual Election.

The SB did not provide a recommendation for the Article regarding Citizen Petition: Engine Brake Bylaw.

ML moved for the SB to recommend the Article re: the Local Option Excise Tax Exemption, CS 2nd: Motion carried with BE opposed on the basis that if this option is accepted, the charge added when collecting a delinquent excise is increased by \$3.00.

6. The Finance Committee members will adjourn their meeting.

The Finance Committee adjourned at 7:03pm.

7. Broadband Update and Select Board to discuss and possibly vote on policies and decisions relating to the Broadband Project

BC advised that the project is progressing (construction is underway/testing is occurring).

8. Approval of the 3/17/21 Meeting Minutes

ML moved to approve the 3/17/21 meeting minutes: CS 2nd: unanimous.

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

There was no public input at tonight's meeting.

10. Discussion and possible votes on the sale of Transfer Station Bag Stickers

The Collectors requested votes from the Select Board concerning bag stickers:

1. Vote on limiting the number of bag stickers that may be sold to an individual prior to July 1st. Stores and the Transfer Station Attendants would need to adhere to the limit that the Select Board sets. In anticipation of the increase in price of each sticker to \$2.00, many are trying to buy the maximum number possible. The Collectors are concerned they may run out of bag stickers and they wish to treat everyone consistently. They recommend setting the limit at 50 bag stickers per person and that the vote would be effective immediately. CS moved that effective immediately through July 1st, 2021, the Town (Collector's Office and Transfer Station) may sell an individual up to fifty (maximum quantity) Transfer Station bag stickers, ML 2nd: unanimous.
2. Vote on number of stickers sold to stores/per bag sticker profit for stores (Currently stores earn 10 cents per bag sticker, and the Town sells a pack of 500 bag stickers for \$450). ML moved that Effective July 1st, 2021, the Town will sell stores Transfer Station bag stickers in increments of 250 at a cost of \$450.00 or 500 at a cost of \$900.00: Stores will earn twenty cents per bag sticker, CS 2nd: unanimous.

During discussion The Select Board agreed that the minimum number of Transfer Station bag stickers sold at the Transfer Station will remain at five (\$5 prior to July 1st, \$10 effective July 1st).

CS asked that the town set up a credit card machine at the Transfer Station.

11. Select Board to review and vote on Seasonal Licenses:

- ♦ Old Inn on the Green LLC, dba The Old Inn on the Green at the Pillow (Manager: Peter Randolph Platt), to operate at 358 George Carter Road (Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Inc.) – Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant, and Common Victuallers licenses.
- ♦ M.D.A., Inc., d/b/a Berkshire Berries (Manager: David Graves), to operate at 650 Jacobs Ladder Road – Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverages Package Store license
- ♦ Camp Lenox, Inc. d/b/a Camp Lenox (Manager: Morgan Moss) to operate at 2034 N. Main Road – Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverages General On-Premises and Common Victuallers Licenses

ML moved, based on the license checklist to approve the below listed, CS 2nd: unanimous.

- Renewal of M.D.A., Inc., d/b/a Berkshire Berries' (Manager: David Graves) Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverages Package Store license to operate at 650 Jacobs Ladder Road.
- Renewal of Camp Lenox, Inc. d/b/a Camp Lenox's (Manager: Morgan Moss) Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverages General On-Premises and Common Victuallers Licenses to operate at 2034 N. Main Road.
- Renewal of Old Inn on the Green LLC, dba The Old Inn on the Green at the Pillow's (Manager: Peter Randolph Platt) Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant and Common Victualler licenses for the to operate at 358 George Carter Road (Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Inc.) and a decrease in the 2021 liquor license fee to \$50 because Jacob's Pillow is not operating food services until the summer season 2022 due to the pandemic (it is possible there may be a special event).

12.BOS to vote on Reappointment of Registrar of Voters: Coleen Cox, effective through March 31, 2024

Per the Town Clerk's recommendation, ML moved to reappoint Coleen Cox to the Registrar of Voters effective through March 31, 2024: CS 2nd: unanimous.

13.Select Board to review and possibly vote on Appointment Applications:

- ♦ **Larisa Shpitalnik – Community Preservation Committee (effective 4/7/21 through 6/30/22)**

ML moved to appoint Larisa Shpitalnik to the Community Preservation Committee effective 4/7/21 through 6/30/22, CS 2nd: unanimous. Larisa indicated it is her hope to participate in helping the town with its efforts.

14.Select Board to acknowledgement Part-time Reserve Police Officer

Trae Baldarini's resignation from the Town of Becket effective 3/28/2021

The SB acknowledged Part-time Reserve Police Officer Trae Baldarini's resignation from the Town of Becket Police Department effective 3/28/2021. The SB signed a letter of appreciation to Mr. Baldarini.

15.Select Board to review Departmental Reports

- ♦ **Building Inspector – March 2021**
- ♦ **TBA**

The SB reviewed the March 2021 reports from the Building Inspector and the Highway Department.

16.Town Administrator's Report

Here is an update of several items that BC has been working on:

- Complete Streets – Tier 2 - prioritization plan.
- CDBG – Becket, Dalton, Sheffield, Stockbridge awarded
 - Repurpose funds due to acceptance of ADA grant
- ADA Grant – for town buildings

- RFP – Assessing services 4/26
- Lease with Camp Greylock
- American Recovery Act
 - 502K to Becket in direct and County funds
 - Will see what is required
- Grow Boys – Tanglewood Circle – Host Community Agreement
- Juneteenth – State holiday should we add as a paid holiday? The SB took no action.
- Town Hall hours/Council on Aging – In May, the SB will revisit Town Hall access to the public and the return of Council on Aging programming.
- BC advised that MassDOT approved the culvert on Werden Road project. It is anticipated that this project will occur next year due to the procurement process
- MassDOT advised that towns are required to arrange and pay for their own speed limit/traffic studies and then they may present them for MassDOT's consideration. The SB and BC do not plan to conduct a speed limit study on Algerie/Bonny Rigg Hill Road. CS suggested placing radar speed limit feedback signs.

17. Select Board's Comments and Announcements

Per CS's inquiry, BC indicated that the town awaits for Berkshire Regional Planning to conduct the road recommendation study.

Per ML's request, on 4/21/2021 the SB will discuss and possibly take action related to banning mosquito control spraying in Becket.

18. Any other business to come before the Board

The Select Board will send a letter of appreciation to Stacy Parsons for serving as the town's Interim Conservation Agent.

ML forwarded a request from Al Blake for the SB to sign a Resolution In Support of the Fair Share Amendment. During discussion, the SB members indicated that they did not have a comprehensive understanding of this matter. The consensus was that although the SB took no action, Mr. Blake may bring this up to the SB under Public Comment.

19. Correspondence:

- ◆ **2021.03.22 Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing for review of Special Permit application: Glen Zeh and Kathy Zeh to encroach on property lines set back at 0 Old Pond Road (Map 210, Lot 62)**
- ◆ **2021.03.17 Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing for review of Special Permit application: Mikhail Kirpichev, to place and reside in a**

camper on property during house construction at 940 Bonny Rigg Hill Rd. (Map 416, Lot 29.13)

- ◆ 2021.03.26 Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing to review a proposal submitted by the Becket Select Board to see if the Town will vote to amend Article 17, Section 6 of the Town of Becket Bylaws regarding the parking fine.
- ◆ 2021.04.01 Southern Berkshire Ambulance letter to share news about changes planned at Southern Berkshire Ambulance service

The SB reviewed the above captioned correspondence.

20. Evaluation of the Town Administrator

BE summarized the Town Administrator's Performance Evaluation. Last week he met with BC to discuss the evaluations and give feedback. BE provided the Staff's level of satisfaction results for 15 questions (thirteen participated including 9 full-time and 5 unknowns). Overall the staff are very satisfied with what BC is doing. BC received a favorable review from the Finance Committee and an overall 84.1% approval rating from the SB. BE stated that once again BC gave himself a lower rating than the SB. It was agreed that the SB will wait until July to schedule negotiations with Town Administrator Bill Caldwell for renewal of his employment contract

21. Select Board to review and sign payable warrants.

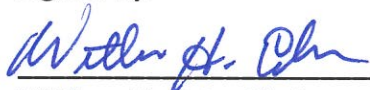
The SB reviewed and signed payable warrants.

22. Select Board to adjourn the Meeting

ML moved to adjourn: CS 2nd: unanimous. BE adjourned the meeting at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Administrative Assistant

Signed by:



William Elovirta, Chairperson

/ April 21, 2021

Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- ✚ Agenda Items 3, 4 & 5: Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant
- ✚ Agenda Item 8: 2021.03.17 Select Board Minutes
- ✚ Agenda Item 10: E-mail re: possible agenda item - Transfer Station Stickers
- ✚ Agenda Item 11: Checklist entitled Documents received for Seasonal liquor renewals for operation during 2021
- ✚ Agenda Item 12: E-mail from Coleen Cox re: Reappointment request for your recommendation for appointment for the Registrar of Voters
- ✚ Agenda Item 13: Appointment Application Larisa Shpitalnik - CPC

- ✚ Agenda Item 14: Resignation Notification- Part-time Reserve Police Officer Trae Balardini and SB's letter of appreciation
- ✚ Agenda Item 15: Building Inspector's March 2021 Report
- ✚ Agenda Item 15: Highway Dept.'s March 2021 Report
- ✚ Agenda Item 16: Town Administrator's Report
- ✚ Agenda Item 17 or 18: From Michael Lavery - Becket Select Board Meeting Resolution
- ✚ Agenda Item 18: SB's Thank you letter to Stacy Parsons for serving as the Interim Conservation Agent
- ✚ Agenda Item 19: Correspondence listed.