Select Board Meeting Minutes
7:00pm, November 18, 2020
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees
Select Board (SB): William Elovirta (BE), *Chairperson*; Chris Swindlehurst (CS), *Clerk*
Remote Participation: Michael Lavery (ML), *Vice Chairperson*

Staff: William Caldwell (BC), *Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert (BG), Administrative Assistant

Others (remote participation): Parks & Recreation Committee Members Rita Furlong and Eila May Bell

Others (in person): Bob Gross, MLP Manager; Parks & Recreation Committee Members Madelaine Elovirta and Tina LeVasseur

1. Call to order
BE called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He indicated that the SB was recording the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance
BE led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Select Board to discuss and possibly vote on appointments:
- **Sarah C. Hoecker – Bylaw Review Committee effective 11/18/2020 through 6/30/2023**
- **Madelaine Elovirta – Bylaw Review Committee effective 11/18/2020 through 6/30/2023**
- **Maria Wallington – Bylaw Review Committee effective 11/18/2020 through 6/30/2023**

The SB reviewed appointment applications from Sarah C. Hoecker, Madelaine Elovirta and Maria Wallington. BE moved to appoint Sarah C. Hoecker to the Bylaw Review Committee effective 11/18/2020 through 6/30/2021. CS 2nd: unanimous. ML moved to appoint Madelaine Elovirta to the Bylaw Review Committee effective 11/18/2020 through 6/30/2022. CS 2nd. Motion carried with BE recusing himself since Madelaine Elovirta is his wife. BE moved to appoint Maria Wallington to the Bylaw Review Committee effective 11/18/2020 through 6/30/2023. CS 2nd: unanimous.

4. Broadband Update and BOS to discuss and possibly vote on policies and decisions relating to the Broadband Project
MLP Manager Bob Gross discussed the following topics:
- Westfield Gas & Electric and Sertex confirmed the material will be delivered at the end of this week. Staging will occur at the North Becket Fire House. The hard start will occur on Nov. 30th.
- The SB will arrange a Kick-off celebration: BC will invite and find out Senator Hinds and Rep. Pignatelli's availability. The press will be notified.

- The Broadband Ad Hoc Group will place lawn signs around town to promote sign-up.
- TriWire (contracted for drops) is amenable to contacting and providing a consult to those who have signed up. This will be particular useful for those requiring conduits.
- Ken Lew, Town of Washington's MLP, will share a spreadsheet format he developed. It is helpful for tracking subsidies and real time estimates. The owner of the premise is responsible for paying the difference between the entire drop cost and the town's drop subsidy. The town will issue an estimate invoice that must be paid in advance of the drop installation. After the work is completed the town will generate a true-up invoice/credit.
- Although Westfield Gas & Electric has a FIFO system with respect to signups, the town retains the right to prioritize the order of construction.
- FSA 2 is the first area slated for construction.
- Jeff Piemont is collecting policies from other towns to help create Becket's binder of policies.

Bob Gross discussed and provided a Service Suspension document relating to the WiredWest terms and Conditions:

> Once per calendar year customers may suspend service up to 120 consecutive days. Suspended customers will be charged a $99 fee if their service has been suspended for more than 120 consecutive days and if their service is not reinstated within one year of the suspension date, their account may be deactivated: to be reinstated the premise will be treated as a new account and charged with whatever fee is normally charged for new accounts.
>
> The Broadband Ad Hoc Group suggested adding:
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> 1. When a customer suspends service, the monthly MLP fee (currently $9 per month) will continue to be charged.
> 2. The fee will be charged from the month that the service is suspended until the account is reactivated, which must occur within a year
> 3. After a year's suspension, the account will be deactivated.
> 4. WiredWest will be advised of the policy. Becket customers will be made aware of the policy.

CS moved to approve the service suspension policy as put forth by Bob Gross. ML 2nd: unanimous.

5. **Discussion re: Parks and Recreation Committee's letter dated 11/10/2020**
   Discussion ensued regarding the Parks & Recreation Committee's letter dated November 10th, 2020. CS moved that the Town Administrator will obtain a quote to survey the Town Beach and its driveway areas (the surveyor will also review the county and State right of ways). ML 2nd: unanimous.

6. **Approval of the November 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes**
   CS moved to approve the November 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes. ML 2nd: unanimous.

7. **Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person, 20 minutes total for this agenda item).**
   There were no public input items.

8. **BOS to review Departmental Reports**
   - **Animal Control Officer January 2020 through October 2020**

   The SB reviewed the above captioned reports.

9. **Town Administrator's Report**
   - Ambulance Garage – complete
   - Town Hall heat – complete
   - Town Hall parking lot – complete
   - USDA Cruiser Grant - complete
   - Truck 1 Highway – January delivery
   - Broadband Hut – build-out complete. Generator, electricity, equipment
   - Green Communities – annual report – complete
   - Green Communities – HVAC/Insulation 12/16-18, insulation may be different
   - DER Grant – BETA engineering Benton Hill Road. Waiting for kickoff. Will begin data collection.
   - Capital requests due 11/6. Waiting on a couple of departmental requests.
   - Budget requests sending out tomorrow, end of year due date.
   - Broadband construction – discussed under Agenda Item 4
   - Working on septic/well at Athenaeum/BAC/MH – complete
   - Yokum Pond Road - lines have been added to this road
   - Highway- getting paving pricing options
   - HMPG – nearly closed out
   - TH hours: if we move into green, yellow, red, close to public.
     The Town Hall will be closed to public 12/21-1/1 due to increased gatherings
   - BC, on behalf of the SB, will send thank you letters to the Becket, Otis, Chester, Monterey, Lee and Hinsdale Fire Departments for their assistance at the 11/17/2020 fire at Jacob's Pillow
   - Completed Supplies and Services Procurement Training

10. **Select Board's Comments and Announcements**
    CS stated that he was impressed by the mutual aid turnout at the 11/17/2020 Jacob's Pillow Fire and he remarked that the various towns and volunteers worked well together. CS mentioned that White Wolf operated its excavator to provide assistance. BC will also send White Wolf a thank you letter.

    BE commented that the Arts Center's yard looks good after being restored from the septic system project.

    Per BC's inquiry, the SB agreed to once again close the Town Hall early the day before Thanksgiving, 11/25/2020 (Town Hall will close at 1pm).

ML expressed concern about an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in Berkshire County. ML moved to allow the public virtual attendance only (SB members/staff may attend in person) at SB meetings through January 2021. CS 2nd: unanimous.

11. Any other business to come before the Board

BC mentioned that next week the guardrail by the Town Hall propane tank, and Town Hall's septic ring will be installed.

Per CS's inquiry, discussion ensued about the disposal of Highway Dept.'s surplus equipment.

12. Correspondence:

- **2020.11.9 e-mail Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services re: Excess and Deficiency – Central Berkshire Regional School District**
- **2020.11.2 ZBA notice of 12/1/2020 Public Hearing re: Dara Morin's Special Permit Application to install a camper/recreational tow behind camper on the property during construction project at Deer Trail Road (Map 214, Lot 117)**
- **2020.11.9 Town Administrator's letter to MA Office of Business Development re: support of FY2021 Grant Proposals Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) Grant Program**
- **2020.11.9 Superintendent of CBRSD's letter to offer her attendance at a SB meeting to answer questions about this year's education of our students.**

The Select Board reviewed the above captioned correspondence.

13. BOS to review and sign payable warrants.

The SB reviewed and signed payable warrants.

14. BOS to adjourn the Meeting

CS moved to adjourn, ML 2nd: unanimous. BE adjourned the meeting at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Administrative Assistant

Signed by:

William B. Elovirta / *December 2, 2020*
William Elovirta, *Chairperson* Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- 2020.11.4 Meeting Minutes
- 2020.11.18 Town Administrator's Report
- Departmental Reports (Agenda Item 8)
- Correspondence (Agenda Item 12)
- WiredWest Service Suspension Terms
- Appointment Applications (Agenda Item 3)
- 2020.11.10 Parks & Recreation letter re: Town Beach