

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, July 7, 2021
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees

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

Staff: William Caldwell (BC), *Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert (BG), *Administrative Assistant*;
Remote: Ray Ferrin, *Ambulance Director*

Remote: Austin Harpin, *Eversource Representative*

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. 7:05 PM: Public Hearing re: EVERSOURCE DBA WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY'S petition dated June 24, 2021, in accordance with the accompanying plan marked 5551614, to add six full owned Eversource Poles on Tyringham Road in Becket to provide 700 Tyringham Rd. with power. Permission is also requested to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables and wires in the above described or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making Connections with such poles and buildings as it may desire for distribution purposes.

At 7:06pm, BE announced the above captioned and read the notice of Public Hearing. During discussion, BE indicated that he and BC conducted a site visit at Tyringham Road. To address their concern, Austin Harpin (Eversource Representative) agreed that Eversource will obtain the Highway Superintendent's agreement re: the setback distances to ensure there is sufficient spacing should the town wish to widen the road. BE inquired whether others had additional remarks. No one did. CS moved to approve EVERSOURCE DBA WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY'S petition dated June 24, 2021, in accordance with the accompanying plan marked 5551614, to add six full owned Eversource Poles on Tyringham Road in Becket to provide 700 Tyringham Rd. with power. ML 2nd: Vote: 3-0. BE moved to close the public hearing, CS 2nd: Vote: 3-0. BE closed the public hearing at 7:12pm.

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

The MLP Manager had e-mailed an update: Premises are being connected. Residents who are connected are very happy with the service. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group will review the budget in the next week. Whip City Fiber will schedule more underground estimates.

Based on the Broadband Ad Hoc Group's recommendation to clarify the Determination of the Drop Subsidy Amount, CS moved to accept the below listed policy, ML seconded: Vote: 3-0.

The town drop subsidy is based on the path used to deliver electric and telephone service to the premise. If either service is aerial, the subsidy will be based on the cost to install the drop fiber overhead, up to a maximum of \$2,000.00. If both electric and telephone service are underground, the subsidy will be based on the cost of installing drop fiber underground up to a maximum of \$2,000.00. If a homeowner with aerial service wants the drop fiber to be installed underground,

they will be responsible for the total actual cost less the Town Subsidy amount, equal to the town's estimated average aerial drop.

5. **Approval of the June 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes**
ML moved to approve the June 16, 2021 minutes, CS 2nd: Vote: 3-0.
6. **Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person, 20 minutes total for this agenda item).**
 None
7. **Select Board to review and vote on One-Day Wine & Beer Permit Application Wandering Star Brewing, Shannon Post, July 19th, Becket Arts Center**
ML moved to issue a One-Day Wine & Beer Permit to Roundhouse Ventures LLP (Chris Post) for a beer tasting event at the Becket Arts Center, from 5pm till 8pm on July 19th, 2021, CS 2nd: Vote: 3-0.
8. **Board to vote on yearend financial transfers.**
CS moved to approve the 2021 yearend financial transfers (as listed below), ML 2nd: Vote: 3-0.

Account Name	Amount	Account Name
Advertising	\$ 3,000.00	Outside Payroll
Town Mtg. Exp.	\$ 3,164.50	Outside Payroll
Planning Board Exp.	\$ 39.96	ZBA Exp.
Muni. Bldg. Exp.	\$ 2,205.58	USDA Cruiser
Voc. Transportation	\$16,776.18	Voc. Tuition
General Maintenance	\$ 3,403.30	Machinery
Fuel Acct	\$ 23,879.13	Winter Rd. Salaries
Summer Labor	\$ 4,643.89	Winter Roads
Fuel Acct	\$ 473.90	FY21 Truck 1
Tree Account	\$ 283.91	Street Lights
Tree Account	\$ 11.87	Memorial Day Exp.
BOH Salaries	\$ 201.56	TS Salaries
BOH Salaries	\$ 229.60	WB Cemetery

9. **Board to discuss and possibly vote on ambulance paramedic service and pay rates.**
 After discussion with Ambulance Director Ray Ferrin, and BC, ML moved to approve the following hourly rates for paramedics *after* the Ambulance Department completes its upgrade process to obtain Paramedic Level Service status, CS 2nd: Vote: 3-0;

Lisa Michaud (employed since 10/2019) - \$25.00;
 Full-time starting: \$22; Per Diem: \$21.50

10. **SB review and possible approval of the Camp Greylock, Inc. Lease for Town of Becket's use of Property at the Town Beach**
ML moved to approve the lease between Camp Greylock, Inc. and the Town of Becket for use of Greylock's property at the Town Beach, CS 2nd: Vote: 3-0.

11. SB to vote to recognize the Constable position as a designated Special Municipal Employee under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A

BE recused himself from discussion and vote of this agenda item. ML moved to recognize the Constable position as a designated Special Municipal Employee under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A, CS 2nd. Vote: 2-0. This vote will allow Constables (paid to post warrants and for their presence at elections) to work in other town positions. Bob Ronzio & Bill Elovirta are newly elected Constables. As a result of this vote, BE may continue serving on the Select Board and Bob Ronzio may receive payments if he conducts Board of Health field work. Towns with a population under 10,000 are eligible to exercise MGL Chapter 268A.

12. Select Board to review Departmental Reports

◆ tba

None.

13. Town Administrator's Report

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

- Complete Streets – Tier 2 - prioritization plan
Working on cost estimates
- ADA Grant: Final report submitted
- Benton Hill – Preliminary plans draft complete to DER
Received comments from DER. Will be resubmitted. Need invoices
- Working on fiber connection to TH
- Received American Recovery PA funds part 1
Broadband (the Town Received about 89K)
- EOY Transfers
July 15 – FinCom Meeting
- Grow Boys – received comments on the document (Host Community Agreement) –Town Counsel will review (Tanglewood Circle)

14. Select Board's Comments and Announcements

ML indicated that the Greenagers will work on the Esau's Trail during July.

CS reported a caller interested in establishing a Heavy Truck Exclusion on Wade Inn Road. Discussion ensued about the process. If the SB receives a petition with ten signatures, it will consider submitting a request to Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation for its review and potential approval.

Per CS's suggestion, BC will invite the Highway Superintendent to attend a SB meeting for discussion on his schedule for road paving/reclamation.

The SB was amenable to CS's recommendation to invite Department Heads (Police, Fire, Ambulance, Building, Highway/Transfer Station) to attend one meeting in the fall and one in the springtime for department updates and discussion on capital expenses.

BE stated that due to that Chapter 90 has been relatively level throughout the years, the town needs to find additional funding for road upkeep.

BE reported that concrete has been poured and the Pavilion will be installed July 19th through 21st at 21 Maple Street.

BE reported that Yoga resumed today: fourteen attended.

BE suggested, as done in 2019, asking the Police Department to submit a list of properties in violation (those observed storing more than one unregistered vehicle outdoors) of the unregistered vehicle bylaw to the Zoning Enforcement Officer for enforcement. In 2019, the ZEO sent a letter to property owners in violation of Article 17 of the Town's Betterment Bylaws.

15. Any other business to come before the Board

None.

16. Correspondence: 

- ◆ 2021.06.17 Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing scheduled on August 11, 2021 re: Special Permit application submitted by John and Phyllis Hathaway to construct a new single story dwelling at 104 Alan A Dale Drive (Map 217, Lots 186 & 187)
- ◆ 2021.06.29 Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing scheduled on August, 11, 2021 re: Special Permit Application submitted by Tetra Hydra AgTek LLC to operate a Tier 11 marijuana cultivation facility at - 0 Quarry Road (Map 416, Lot 10.1)
- ◆ 2021.06.30, Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing scheduled on August 3, 2021 re: Special Permit Application submitted by Alyssa Maggi to encroach on front property lines set back at 0 Richard Drive (Map 216, Lot 285).

The SB the above listed communications.

17. Select Board to review and sign payable warrants.

The SB reviewed and signed payable warrants.

18. Select Board to adjourn the Meeting

ML moved to adjourn, CS 2nd: Vote: 3-0. BE adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Administrative Assistant

Signed by:

 / July 21, 2021
William H. Elovirta, *Chairperson* Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- 📅 2021.07.07 Select Board Agenda
- 📅 Agenda Item 3. Eversource Petition Notice dated 6/24/2021 and plan marked 5551614
- 📅 Agenda Item 4. draft Drop Subsidy Policy
- 📅 Agenda Item 5. Select Board Minutes – June 16, 2021 meeting
- 📅 Agenda Item 7. One-Day Wine & Beer Permit Application Chris Post P/P Roundhouse Ventures LLP, July 19th, Becket Arts Center
- 📅 Agenda Item 10. Lease between Camp Greylock Inc. and Town of Becket Massachusetts
- 📅 Agenda Item 16 Correspondence – listed above