

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**7:00pm, August 4, 2021**  
**Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket**

**Attendees**

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

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

**Others:** Timothy Sullivan, Robin Mathiesen, Joe DeLuca, Tim Deluca, Yana DeLuca

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

ML and BC provided an update. FSA 01 is released for hook ups. There have been some make-ready issues (Eversource) which are being resolved, and construction is continuing in FSAs 05 and 09.

**4. Approval of the July 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

CS moved to approve the July 21, 2021 minutes, ML 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote: 3-0.

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

None.

**6. Review/potential vote on One-Day Wine & Beer Permit Application – Jacob’s Pillow, 358 George Carter Road, 8/28/2021**

The SB tabled this agenda item pending receipt of Jacob’s Pillow’s application.

**7. Discussion/potential vote on appointment applications: Timothy Sullivan, Historical Commission Member, effective 8/4/2021 through 6/30/2024; Robin Mathiesen, Zoning Board of Appeals Member, effective 8/4/2021 through 6/30/2024**

Tim Sullivan discussed his background and interest to serve on the Historical Commission. He wishes to be an active member of the community and help preserve Becket’s history.

ML moved to appoint Timothy Sullivan to the Historical Commission, effective 8/4/2021 through 6/30/2024; CS 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote: 3-0.

Robin Mathiesen, who moved to Becket three years ago, wishes to be involved in the community. While attending a Democratic Committee meeting, Al Blake (Alternate member of the ZBA), encouraged her to apply for membership on the ZBA and she looks forward to learning about zoning.

CS moved to appoint Robin Mathiesen to the Zoning Board of Appeals, effective 8/4/2021 through 6/30/2024; ML 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote: 3-0.

The SB thanked Tim and Robin for their willingness to serve the community.

**8. Discussion/potential vote on Town of Becket and Grow Boys, LLC Host Community Agreement in conjunction with a licensed Tier 2 Marijuana Cultivation Establishment (indoor cultivation, processing, packaging and transfer of Marijuana for adult use) at 0 Tanglewood Circle, Becket**

BC discussed and fielded questions relating to the draft of the above captioned agreement vetted by Town Counsel. BE pointed out that this agreement will only be honored if it complies with state laws (which the legislature can decide to change). BC specified that many MA municipalities have adopted this document's format/language. The SB agreed the allocation of the 3% impact fees was sensible (1% Community Impact, 2% Community Benefit) for Becket's needs.

The Deluca family (Joe, Yana and Tim) voiced their objections to the proposed Marijuana Cultivation Establishment (metal building will be visible from their home, potential fumes). They were not aware about this matter. Joe and Yana Deluca stated that it is their understanding that the proposed is within a subdivision (Mystic Isle Estates/Huckleberry/Tanglewood Circle) that prohibits commercial use. The SB agreed to review a copy of a deed they provided.

CS moved to table this agenda item until August 18, 2021. BE 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote: 3-0.

**9. Select Board to discuss/vote on the potential purchase of town streetlights for LED conversion**

BC described Eversource's streetlight conversion to LED program. Eversource will pay for the conversion (parts/initial installation of LEDs, will not include payment of the LEDs). The town must pay for the LEDs and then it will be responsible for subsequent replacement of the LEDs. BC anticipates LEDs will save approximately 2/3 of the town's street light electrical costs compared to what is currently paying.

CS moved for BC to investigate the potential purchase of town streetlights for Eversource's LED conversion program, ML 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote: 3-0.

**10. Select Board to review Departmental Reports**

♦ tba

The SB reviewed the Highway Department Reports (5/31/21 through 7/30/21) not receive any Departmental Reports.

BC mentioned the grader broke down and will hopefully return to service tomorrow.

**11. Town Administrator's Report**

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

- Benton Hill – Preliminary plans draft complete to DER
  - Final reimbursement submitted
  - Final Design grant approved
  - Will work with BETA for final design
- Working on fiber connection to TH
- Received ARPA funds
  - Received Town funds, state waiting on guidance for county funds
  - Funds to be used for Broadband
- 2442 Main Street – near completion – can market that soon. BE commented that he hopes Construct will cut weeds to make it more presentable

- Leonhardt Rd repair – BC and the Highway Superintendent arranged for emergency procurement with LB Corporation to repair this road. Repair is anticipated to begin in the next few weeks. BC will discuss this with the Finance Committee tomorrow.
- Pavement assessment - The Highway Superintendent will attend the next meeting
- MEMA – There is a small chance the Town will receive funding for the recent storms to mitigate road damages.
- BC is arranging for the Town of Washington to transport Becket students to McCann Vocational H.S.

## **12. Select Board's Comments and Announcements**

CS stated that he is disappointed the SB did not conduct a site visit at Leonhardt Road to brainstorm ways to save on the cost of its rebuild. BE acknowledged CS had requested a site visit meeting at Leonhardt Road. However, after BE visited Leonhardt Road and had discussed options with the Highway Superintendent and BC that they had explored, he agreed with their recommendation to contract with LB Corporation through emergency procurement.

BE inquired about the status of the Fire Dept.'s acknowledgment of the Code of Conduct policy. BG indicated that she gave copies of the Code of Conduct; and Equal Employment Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination and Harassment (including Sexual Harassment) policies to the Fire Chief who agreed to distribute them to the volunteers at a Fire Dept. meeting.

## **13. Any other business to come before the Board**

BC advised the Conservation Agent resigned. He will recruit for her replacement.

Tim Sullivan brought up his concern about speeding vehicles on Wells Road. The SB directed BC to ask the Police Chief to investigate funding sources to purchase speed radar trailers for the town.

The Select Board asked BC to:

- Check if the Town Clerk has record of Select Board authorization of stop signs at the Wade-In Road/Cross Road and the Wade-Inn Road/Hopkins Lane intersections. If not, the SB can vote to place a stop sign there. The SB agrees stop signs are warranted at these intersections.
- Find out the process for instituting a heavy truck exclusion on Wade Inn Road.

## **14. Correspondence:**

- ♦ **2021.07.16 Notice of Filing, Public Hearing, Procedural Conference and Request for Comments: re: D.P.U. 21-76 - Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of Deferral of Major Storm Threshold Amounts for 2020 Storms.**

The SB reviewed the above listed communication.

## **15. Select Board to review and sign payable warrants.**

The SB reviewed and signed payable warrants.

16. **Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (2) To conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Employment Agreement effective January 28, 2022 between Town of Becket and Town Administrator William Caldwell); The Chair shall publicly announce whether the open session will reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session**

BE moved to enter into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (2) To conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Employment Agreement effective January 28, 2022 between Town of Becket and Town Administrator William Caldwell); and BE (the Chair) publicly announced that open session will reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session. CS 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call vote: BE- aye; CS aye and ML aye. At 8:07pm, the SB went into Executive Session.

At 8:10, the SB returned to open meeting.

17. **Select Board to vote on Employment Agreement effective January 28, 2022 between the Town of Becket and Town Administrator**

CS moved to approve the Employment Agreement effective January 28, 2022 and January 27, 2025 as presented between the Town of Becket and Town Administrator, ML 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote: 3-0.

18. **Select Board to adjourn the Meeting**

ML moved to adjourn, CS 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote: 3-0. BE adjourned the meeting at 8:12pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Gilbert, Administrative Assistant











Signed by:



William H. Elovirta, Chairperson

/ August 18., 2021  
Date Approved

**Documents discussed at this meeting:**

-  2021.08.04 Select Board Agenda
-  Agenda Item 4. Select Board Minutes – July21, 2021 meeting
-  Agenda Item 7. Robin Mathiesen's appointment application – ZBA
-  Agenda Item 7. Timothy Sullivan's appointment application - Historical Commission
-  Agenda Item 8. Draft Host Community Agreement between TOB and Grow Boys, LLC
-  Agenda Item 10. Highway Department Reports (5/31/21 through 7/30/21)
-  Agenda Item 11. Town Administrator's Report
-  Agenda Item 12 Correspondence – listed above
-  Agenda Item 14. Correspondence listed above
-  Town Administrator's Contract