SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, November 3, 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;*
Edward Pickert, *Highway Superintendent*

Others remote: Jan (last name unknown)

1. **Call to order**
   BE called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. 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**
   BC read MLP Manager Bob Gross's update:
   1. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group had a constructive conversation with Whip City Fiber last Friday and has a good handle on the drop progress. Work is going very well. Per the scheduled sequence of the FSA construction (2, 1, 5, 9, 8) we expect all underground work to be completed in those five FSAs before the ground freezes. Expect that many, if not all, underground construction in FSA04 will also be done.
   2. The actual cost of the underground drops seems to be a little less than the estimated cost. However, it is based on a small number of drops to date.
   3. Still have a few MakeReady problems which delayed progress in a portion of FSA09. Approximately half of the area has been released for drops. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group is actively working on resolving the issues (mainly Eversource).
   4. Dan Parnell and Bob Gross will review the budget numbers next week but do not expect any issues or surprises.
   5. Info session last week went very well. Whip City Fiber participated and made a presentation. There were 95 subscribers on the Zoom call. Next Session is Saturday morning, November 6th.

4. **Approval of the October 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes**
   ML moved to approve the October 20, 2021 Select Board Meeting Minutes, CS 2nd. Motion carried 3-0.

5. **Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person, 20 minutes total for this agenda item).**
   Gale Labelle, Board of Health Chair, announced that the Board of Health will

convey to the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences that the Board of Health voted to allow the MDPH to establish a qualified and appropriate organization to operate a syringe services program in the Town of Becket.

CS asked Gale to talk to the Fire Chief to inquire about training needs (First Aid, CPR, etc.) for the Firefighters.

6. **Becket Ambulance Department Paramedic Update**
BC stated he will recruit for a third full-time Paramedic.

BC discussed the Ambulance Director's request for SB approval to implement a Paramedic On Call program. The proposed rate would be $60 per eight hour on call shift, and three hours minimum pay if called. BC indicated that in order for the Ambulance to sustain Commonwealth of Massachusetts paramedic licensing accreditation it must offer 24/7 coverage at a paramedic level and the Paramedic On Call program is more cost effective than Advanced Life Support Intercept. ML moved to instate the Ambulance Director's recommended Paramedic On Call Program, CS 2nd. Vote: 3-0.

The Ambulance Director's report included that John D. Hebert has been appointed to the position of Chaplain for the Becket Ambulance Dept. His services will be available to the Fire and Police Departments.

7. **Pavement Management Program Report (October 2021)**
BC provided the above listed draft report to the SB.

Highway Superintendent Ed Pickert provided an update re: his recommendations for road repair priorities. The Town received a one million dollar grant to resurface McNerney Road (Full depth, widening, guard rails, drainage, bike path – no property taken is anticipated). He would like to move up resurfacing Brooker Hill and Carter Roads before resurfacing Yokum Pond. This is based on logistics related to detouring traffic during the 1 ½ months working period for McNerney Road. Ed advised that he arranged for All States Asphalt Inc. to come in next week to provide cost estimates for resurfacing vs. shim and overlay of those two roads. He will also ask All States Asphalt Inc. to review last spring's cost estimates for McNerney Road prepared. He would like to put Brooker Hill and Carter Roads out to bid during this winter. Depending on the timing of various grant funding (including Complete Streets), McNerney Road may be a late summer 2022/early fall 2022 or spring 2023 project. Ed recommends working on Carter and Brooker Hill Roads while the equipment will be in the vicinity. BC indicated that Chapter 90 may be used as part of the funding.

Ninety percent of Leonhardt Road should be done next week. Ed expects to grade the road by the end of next week.

Ed discussed and fielded questions regarding various roadway repair categories and banding (listed in the draft Pavement Management Report).

8. **Town Administrator's Report**
BC provided an update of several items that he has been working on:
- Streetlights: Working with a contract to get Eversource incentive and purchase of ours. An option is to wait for an ATM article.
- Community Compact Grant: open space and recreation plan (BRPC)
- MVP: Master Plan with climate resilience focus next year - opens in spring
- META Grant: Green Communities competitive Grant – wind turbine
- Massworks: McNerney Rd
- Leonhardt Road: work nearly complete - STM will be needed
- EMS Massachusetts State Board Retirement Classification: Changing from Group 1 to Group 4 may be discussed with Berkshire County Retirement, and considered by the SB.
- Masks: BE moved that starting November 8, 2021, face masks will be recommended, not required, in the Town Hall. ML 2nd. Vote: 3-0.
- BC will talk to the Fire Chief to discuss applying for the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant which opens on November 8, 2021. BE suggested that BC check eligibility requirements with respect to percentage or number of Firefighters who obtained Fire Training
- BC awaits Capital Requests from a few departments.

9. **Select Board to review Departmental Reports (tba)**
The SB reviewed the following reports: Building Inspector October 2021, Highway Superintendent dated 11/3/2021, Animal Control Officer August/September/October 2021, and Ambulance Director November 2021.

10. **Select Board's Comments and Announcements**
ML reported that he had posted a sign at Esau Heel's Trail indicating that Nov. 1st (10 days' notice) was the deadline to remove the hunter's stand. The stand is no longer there.

11. **Any other business to come before the Board**
BG mentioned Energy Committee member Al Blake followed-up to see if CS will serve as a member of the Energy Committee. CS explained that due to increased time constraints he is declining.

BC advised that the Conservation Commission issued a Wetlands Protection Act Enforcement Order to an owner of a property that abuts a Town-owned parcel to mitigate the abutter's illegal removal of trees on Town-owned property.

12. **Correspondence:**
- **2021.10.13, Jewel Environmental Corporation Permanent Solution Statement Report, RTN 1-0021342 re: 190 West @Mile Marker 20 in Becket, MA – available through the Western Regional Office of the MA Dept. of Environmental Protection**
- **2021.10.18, Superintendent of the Central Berkshire Regional School District, offer to schedule time at a Select Board meeting to answer questions about the CBRSD**

The SB received the above listed communications.

13. **Select Board to review and sign payable warrants**
    The SB reviewed and signed payable warrants.

14. **Select Board to adjourn the Meeting**
    ML moved to adjourn, CS 2nd. Motion carried 3-0. BE adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*

Signed by:

_____ / *November17, 2021*
William H. Elovirta, *Chair* Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- 2021.10.020 Select Board Agenda
- Agenda Item 4. 2021.10.20 Select Board Minutes.
- Agenda Item 5. 2021.11.03 Board of Health letter to MA Dept. of Public Health re: Syringe Services Program
- Agenda Item 6. Becket Ambulance Department Paramedic and Asst. Training Officer Job Description
- Agenda Item 7.BETA Management Program Draft Report dated 10/28/2021
- Agenda Item 8. Reports listed above
- Agenda Item 11. WPA Form 9 – Enforcement Order
- Agenda Item 11. Correspondence listed above