

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, November 17, 2021
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees

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

Absent: Chris Swindlehurst, Vice Chair (CS),

Staff: William Caldwell (BC), *Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert (BG), *Administrative Assistant*; Christine Bleau, *Treasurer – Tax Title Custodian*, Nicole Miller, *Animal Control Officer*

Others: Daniel Lavery **Remote:** Howard Lerner, Kelcie Marie Drohan, Laurie Friedman

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 read MLP Manager Bob Gross's update:

1. We are continuing to connect new premises.
2. There are still problems with MakeReady but fortunately none will interfere with the FSAs to be connected thru winter. Bill Ennen and the state are actively involved in resolving the problem.
3. Except for a few areas where the MR issues exist, the strand should be complete installed the first week of December. This will enable us to identify any missed MR issues.
4. The contractors who do the underground work will stop the middle of December. On a very limited basis Whip City Fiber will send in a crew, if possible.
5. We asked WCF to focus on those underground installations which require plowing. Kent Lew will work with a couple of volunteers and install drop cables where there is usable conduit to maximize the number of underground installations that can be done before the ground freezes.
6. WCF has told us that in some cases, where the underground work has not been done, that they can install a temporary aerial connection. There is an additional \$150 cost. When the Ad Hoc Group meets next week and discusses this issue, I think our recommendation will be that the homeowner should be responsible for the cost.
7. Because of certain MakeReady problems, which have been corrected, a section of FSA09 will not be turned over to us until the end of the year rather than the beginning of November. As a consequence, the FSA08 is pushed back a week and installations will start after the first of the year. BE commented that his premise located in FSA09 was hooked up today and he is pleased with the improvement.

4. 7:05pm – Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140, Section 157, the Select Board will conduct a Public Hearing in response to a dog complaint to determine whether the dog, is a nuisance or dangerous dog, in accordance with Section 157, other

applicable laws and the by-laws of the Town of Becket. Said canine is housed at 199 Maid Marion Lane, Becket, MA 01223

BE read the public hearing notice for the above captioned agenda item. At 7:07pm, BE commenced the Public Hearing. BE read Robert Crosier's letter of complaint contending that the dogs residing at 199 Maid Marian Lane run loose off their property and bark incessantly and therefore the SB should deem them a nuisance.

BE stated that he drove past 199 Maid Marian Lane twice and found the dogs in a fenced-in area.

Animal Control Officer Nicole Miller read her report outlining her investigation in response to Mr. Crosier's complaint. On 10/30/2021 Nicole issued a citation in the amount of \$25.00 to Ms. Drohan of 199 Maid Marian Lane for violation of Town Bylaw Article 20, Section 4 Disturbing the Peace due to that three dogs were outside upon her arrival and barked in a fenced in area of the yard located at 199 Main Marian Lane.

Nicole concluded:

- There is insufficient evidence to regard the three dogs at 199 Maid Marion Lane a nuisance, as defined by law. She observed that the dogs barked when a car or a person passes but became quiet when the perceived "threat" left the area. She reports no complaints from other neighbors and she did not observe the dogs running free in the area.
- The Town Clerk had confirmed that three dogs located at 199 Maid Marian and two dogs located at 14 King Arthur are not registered and therefore she is warning all parties that each dog must be registered in the Town of Becket per State Statute Chapter 140, Section 141 and they have 30 days to do so or will be fined \$50.00 for each dog.

Kelcie Drohan stated that although her dogs run unleashed inside a fenced in yard on her property, they do not run loose off her property. In response to the complaint about barking, she has reduced her dogs' outdoor time. She stated that her dogs are not vicious and believes the barking falls within the normal scope of dog behavior: They bark if someone is passing by or on her property, and they stop when the person/vehicle has left. She regards Mr. Crosier's complaint as petty harassment and she does not feel safe encountering him with her children in her neighborhood: he walks his two dogs with a baseball bat. She stated that Mr. Crosier had told her that his dogs will eat her dogs.

ML expressed concern about the aggressive wording in Mr. Crosier's letter ("People walking by with their dogs won't end well eventually....").

BE moved to dismiss the complaint relating to the dogs located at 199 Maid Marian Lane. ML 2nd. Motion carried.

BE closed the public hearing at 7:20pm.

5. Approval of the November 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes

ML moved to approve the November 3, 2021 Select Board Meeting Minutes, BE 2nd. Motion carried 2-0.

6. Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person, 20 minutes total for this agenda item).
None.

7. SB to vote on approval of Town Clerk's recommendations for reappointment of Election Workers through August 14, 2022:

Charles Francis (Democrat)	Priscilla McEwen (Unenrolled)
Meredyth Babcock (Democrat)	Alvin Blake (Unenrolled)
Julia Kay-Grace (Democrat)	Ruth Rosenthal (Unenrolled)
Ann Krawet (Democrat)	Patricia Clemons (Democrat)
Adele Levine (Democrat)	Thomas Henry Rock (Republican)
Barbara Craft-Reiss (Democrat)	Susan Purser (Democrat)
Steven Reiss (Democrat)	Susan Crossley (Democrat)
Gale LaBelle (Republican)	Lynn Howard (Democrat)
Steven LaBelle (Republican)	Tarcusio Ramos dos Santos (Democrat)
Adrienne Metcalf (Unenrolled)	Flora Whiffen (Unenrolled)
Jerome Schwartzbach (Unenrolled)	Timothy Hickey (Unenrolled)
Charles Garman (Unenrolled)	James Peter Levy (Unenrolled)

ML moved, per the Town Clerk's recommendation, to reappoint the above captioned (ML read the names aloud) Election Worker through August 14, 2022. BE 2nd. Motion carried.

8. Pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 77B, open and announce the winner of sealed bids for Pine Dale Circle Parcel (Map 219, Lot 133).

Tax Title Custodian Christine Bleau opened the sole sealed bid she received:

Sherwood Forest Lake District (submitted by its Representative Bob Ronzio)
\$7,610.09; \$500.00 deposit (not a personal check) was received
The bid satisfied the \$7,600.00 minimum bid requirement

ML moved to approve Sherwood Forest Lake District's bid in the amount of \$7,610.09 pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 77B for purchase of Pine Dale Circle Parcel (Map 219, Lot 133). BE 2nd. Motion carried.

9. SB to review and vote on approval of Board of Assessors Tax Stuffer

ML moved to approve the Board of Assessors Tax Stuffer regarding Tax Relief. BE 2nd. unanimous.

10. Select Board to review Departmental Reports (tba)

The SB reviewed the Police Chief's year to date reports: Offense Listing by Category & month; and Fines by Locations.

11. Town Administrator's Report

BC provided an update of several items that he has been working on:

- Community Compact Grant:
Open Space and Recreation Plan (BRPC)
Agreement with BRPC may be signed and returned

- MVP – Master Plan w/Climate resilience focus next year - Spring
- META Grant- Later GC competitive Grant - Wind Turbine
- Massworks - McNerney Rd – Grant has been received
- Leonhardt – work nearly complete; STM will be needed – after the holidays to pay for this
- USDA Grant – Covid health funds -
Can be used for squad vehicle and ambulance monitor
Receiving quotes
75/25 split
- USDA Grant – Cruiser; More information in the spring
- AFG Grant - Attempt to fund engine – cover up to 95%
- BC anticipates receiving additional budget requests at the end of the week
- The Otis Police Chief resigned. Otis Officials approached BC to inquire if the TOB would be amenable sharing a Police Chief with Otis. BC reported that Becket's Police Chief is amenable to considering this. It was agreed that BC will discuss this matter with Otis officials and report to them.

12. Select Board's Comments and Announcements

ML reported he ordered signs for the entrance of the Esau Heel's trail. It was agreed that the Highway Department will install them.

Per BE's suggestion, the SB agreed to reposition the Town's cemetery signs to face traffic in both directions. The signs will change from one to two-sided.

ML initiated discussion regarding James Levy's letter (listed under Correspondence) relating to Emergency Preparedness. BE indicated that due to that the town has an Emergency Management Director (Police Chief McDonough) and many protocols in place through Berkshire County Sheriff's Office and MEMA (including shelters: Town Hall, Fire Stations, Schools, YMCA & special communications), he does not agree a committee is needed. It was agreed that ML will contact Kris McDonough to discuss the possibility of setting up a ham radio.

13. Any other business to come before the Board

The SB will have an 2021 Annual Town Report Cover Photo Contest

As done in the past, the SB agreed to close Town Hall 1pm on Wednesday, November 24th. Unless inclement weather requires attention to the roads, this will extend to the Highway Department.

Based on the Ambulance Director's letter of recommendation, ML moved to approve the amended payrate effective 11/16/2021 for Ambulance Department employee Max Koivisto to \$19.29 per hour for completion of Advanced EMT. BE 2nd: Motion carried.

14. Correspondence:

- ◆ Received 2021.11.09, memo from James P. Levy re: request for review of Community Resources/Procedures to prepare for potential Emergencies
The SB discussed the above letter under Agenda Item 12.

15. Select Board to review and sign payable warrants

The SB reviewed and signed payable warrants.

16. Select Board to adjourn the Meeting

ML moved to adjourn, BE 2nd. Motion carried. BE adjourned the meeting at 7:39pm

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*

Signed by:



William H. Elovirta, *Chair*

/ December 1, 2021

Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- ✚ 2021.11.17 Select Board Agenda
- ✚ Agenda Item 3. MLP Manager's e-mail report dated 11/17/2021
- ✚ Agenda Item 4. Public Hearing Notice, Town Clerk e-mail dated 11/10/2021 re: dog licensing, Robert Crosier's dog complaint letter dated 10/22/2021; ACO's Report
- ✚ Agenda Item 5. 2021.11.03 Select Board Minutes
- ✚ Agenda Item 7. Town Clerk's letter dated 11/10/2021 re: recommended Election Worker reappointments
- ✚ Agenda Item 9. BOA Tax Stuffer.
- ✚ Agenda Item 10. PD YTD Reports: Offense listing by category & month, and # Offenses & amount of fines by location
- ✚ Agenda Item 11. Town Administrator's report dated 11/17/2021
- ✚ Agenda Item 13. Amended payrate authorization for Ambulance Dept. Employee, memo from Ambulance Director
- ✚ Agenda Item 14. Correspondence listed above