SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, December 1, 2021
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees

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

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

Others: A.J. Pietrantone, Jacobs Pillow Deputy Director **Remote:** David (last name unknown) Nathan (last name unknown)

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. **Approval of the November 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes**
   ML moved to approve the November 3, 2021 Select Board Meeting Minutes, BE 2nd. Motion carried 3-0.

4. **Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person, 20 minutes total for this agenda item).**
   None. Under Agenda Item 7, BC read/discussed the MLP Manager's Broadband update.

5. **Board to consider Renewals of Annual Licenses:**
   - **Dreamaway Inc. (d/b/a Dream Away Lodge): All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant, Common Victuallers, Six Day Entertainment, and Sunday Entertainment**
   - **M.D.A. Inc. (d/b/a Berkshire Berries): All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant, Wine & Malt Package Store, and a Common Victuallers;**
   - **Mountain Grove Association Inc.: All Alcoholic Beverages Club, Common Victuallers, Six-Day Entertainment, and Automatic Amusement**
   - **Sherwood Shoppe of Becket LLC: All Alcoholic Beverages Package Store, and Common Victuallers;**
   - **Papa Bob's LLC: All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant, Common Victuallers, Six Day Entertainment, Sunday Entertainment, and Automatic Amusement;**
   - **Becket General Store Inc. (d/b/a Becket General Store): All Alcoholic Beverages Package Store, All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant, Six Day Entertainment, Sunday Entertainment, and Common Victuallers**
   - **Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival: Six Day Entertainment, Sunday Entertainment**

   BE stated that although Dream Away is currently not operating, the owner Daniel Osman wishes to renew his licenses and transfer them when the sale of his property occurs (anticipated early 2022). BC awaits Town Counsel's opinion as to whether Dream Away must have insurance when it is not operating. BE reported the Building Inspector conveyed all premises passed Building/Fire Inspector Inspections and he will provide inspection certificates. BG reported Heather Anello indicated Becket General Store's Workers Comp is renewed in December and she will forward certificates to the Select Board: Ms. Anello will need to sign the WC affidavit form.

BE stated that all required documents and payments must be received prior to release of licenses.

CS moved to approve the above captioned licenses for operation during 2022, and this stipulates that Dream Away will comply with Town Counsel's opinion relating to insurance, ML 2nd. Vote: 3-0.

6. Select Board to review Departmental Reports (tba)
None

7. 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
- MVP – Master Plan w/Climate resilience focus next year: Spring
- META Grant- Later GC competitive Grant in spring: We were not awarded
- Massworks: McNerney Rd
- Leonhardt Road: STM will be needed. Begin to look at dates after the holidays; Will check with PB for any other articles; The SB favored BC's idea to change the Bylaw to sending a postcard rather than mailing the entire warrant. BC will research the language to add this to the STM warrant.
- 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
- Becket Police Dept./Otis Police Dept.: Shared service – BC met with the Otis Town Administrator. They will draft an inter-municipal agreement for Town Counsel's review and then present it to the Select Boards. BC will ask Town Counsel about changing the Police Chief's position from an annual appointment to a 3 year contract. BE suggested this may be something to try on a trial-basis.
- BE initiated discussion on the status of air conditioning for the Town Hall. BC advised the condensers are stored in the Town Hall and in the spring, he will arrange for the plumber to connect them to the Town's system.

BC read the MLP Manager's update on the Broadband Project:

- The ability to do underground work will end shortly. WCF will give priority to jobs which require plowing.
- FSA09 should be completed by Sertex the end of the week. WCF will then need up to two weeks to test the network before drops can start.
- As mentioned before, aerial drops will continue throughout the winter, weather permitting.
- Premises in the active FSA's with underground service which could not be done may have the opportunity to have a temporary connection. As long as they can run a drop fiber on the ground and not cross a driveway or walking path, it can be done. The cost to the homeowner will be $150 and not covered by the subsidy.
- After underground work has completely stopped, we will contact those premises that could not be done and advise them that they may be able to get a temporary installation. WCF will evaluate those premises which are interested to see if the work can be done if possible.
- MakeReady work is still an issue. WCF and the State seem to be making progress. At the present time, there is a single pole on Jacobs Ladder Road that is a show stopper. Hopefully Bill Ennen will successfully get the problem resolved.
- Sherwood Forest (with Road District approval) will be getting three utility poles to span an area on Sir George Drive without electric or telephone service which is part of the network design.

In addition, several areas need tree trimming that is not the responsibility of Eversource. Fortunately, I have confirmed that the State will reimburse us for the expense as it is considered MakeReady.

8. Select Board's Comments and Announcements

CS moved to reimburse ML $254.32, from the Select Board's expense account, for purchase of two signs for the Esau's Heel Trail. BE 2nd. Motion carried with ML recusing himself.

9. Any other business to come before the Board

BG reported Al Blake of the Energy Committee informed her that Katherine Hoak and Susan Purser swapped positions on the Energy Committee. CS moved to appoint Susan Purser full member of the Energy Committee with an expiration date of 2024 and Katherine Hoak Alternate member of the Energy Committee with an expiration date of 2022. ML 2nd. Vote 3-0.

10. Correspondence:

- 2021.11.08 Melanson comments regarding audit of the 2019 Fiscal Year Financial Statements
- 2021.11.17 Commonwealth of MA Dept. of Public Utilities, Dept. of Telecommunications & Cable, Regulatory Bulletin Reminder concerning obligations relating to management of Utility Poles, Wires, Cables & Attachments
- 2021.11.29 MassDOT Bridge Inspection Report B-03-053 (BU3) Bonnie Rigg Hill Road/Walker Bridge Walker Brook dated 2021.08.03

The SB reviewed the above communications.

11. Select Board to review and sign payable warrants

The SB reviewed and signed payable warrants.

12. Select Board to adjourn the Meeting

ML moved to adjourn, CS 2nd. Motion carried. BE adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*

Signed by:

William H. Elovirta / *December15, 2021*
William H. Elovirta, *Chair* Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- 2021.12.01 Select Board Agenda
- Agenda Item 3. 2021.11.17 Select Board Minutes
- Agenda Item 4 License renewal checklist, BG's notes about license renewals
- Agenda Item 7. Town Administrator's report dated 12/01/2021
- Agenda Item 7. MLP Manager's e-mail report dated 12/01/2021
- Agenda Item 10. Correspondence listed above