SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, December 15, 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/remote: Drea Pecor, Jenn Beatty (Executive Director of the Becket Arts Center), Adele Levine (Becket Arts Center), Shaw Israel Izikson (The Country Journal), Ken Cheeseman, Amy Attias, Paula Langton, Jim Petosa, Charlie Kaniecki

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**
   BC read the MLP Manager's update:
   1. Project is going well.
   2. The section of FSA09 which was on hold will be released today except for a small area which needs additional testing. We will have a list of the premises that will be delayed in order to respond to inquiries.
   3. FSA08 should be released the end of next week.
   4. We reviewed the premises in FSA09 which still need underground work. Weather permitting, they will be done.
   5. Once WCF completely stops underground MakeReady work, we will contact the premises that were not done and advise them that a temporary installation may be possible. The process will be:
      a. Emails will go out instructing the homeowner to contact WCF Customer Service if they are interested in a temporary installation.
      b. WCF will advise them that they need to sign a release (which we will review) so it will not be responsible if there is an accident (tripping) and that they will be responsible for the $150 cost which is not part of the subsidy calculation.
      c. WCF will schedule the work. If tech determines the temporary install is feasible, the work will be done the same day. If the installation is not possible, there will be no charge to the homeowner.
   6. Starting the week of 1/3, we expect a significant increase in the number of techs available to do installs, as work in several other towns will be done.
   7. We have reached the point where the backhaul (internet capacity) needs to be increased due to the number of subscribers and their usage. Something to be happy about.
   8. Also, starting the week of 1/3, we should finally get the monitoring system installed in the hut.

4. **Approval of the December 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes**
   ML moved to approve the December 1, 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).**
None.

6. **Jenn Beatty to discuss Becket Arts Center's upcoming application with MA Facilities Fund and future funding for the Becket Arts Center**
Jenn Beatty discussed Becket Arts Center's proposal to upgrade its facility's heating and cooling systems and asked the Select Board to support town funding in the amount of $18,500.00.
   - CS will meet with Jenn next week to examine the structure in the BAC's basement.
   - BC will inform the Building Inspector to expect a call from Jenn to look at the basement.
   - Jenn Beatty will send BAC's proposal and Pioneer Plumbing's written estimate detailing the proposed work to BC and he will forward these to the SB and Finance Committee.
   - The grant application is due on January 15, 2022. The SB will discuss this matter on January 5, 2022.

7. **SB to vote on appointments:**
   - **Flora Whiffen, Council on Aging effective 12/15/21 through 6/30/24**
   - **Ann Krawet, Alternate Delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.**

   CS moved to appoint Flora Whiffen to the Council on Aging effective 12/15/21 through 6/30/24, ML 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.

   BG received an e-mail from the Planning Board Chair specifying that Ann Krawet is serving as the Alternate Delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Board Commission. For this position, the SB is the official appointing authority. CS moved to appoint Ann Krawet Alternate Delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission effective 7/1/2021 (backdated) through 6/30/2022, ML 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **Select Board to review Departmental Reports (tba)**
   - **Building Inspector – November 2021**
   - **Others tba**

   The SB reviewed the Building Inspector's November 2021 monthly report.

9. **Town Administrator's Report**
BC provided an update of several items that he has been working on:
   - MVP – Master Plan w/Climate resilience focus next year
     - Spring – BC will discuss with BRPC
   - Massworks
     - McNerney Rd – The Highway Superintendent and BC met with engineers. This project, involving mixed paths, is likely to be the first project in 2023 (surveying and design needs to be done). This provides time to use Chapter 90 funding to repair Carter and Brooker Hill Roads (McNerney will likely absorb substantial detour traffic).
   - Leonhardt - STM - Dates
     - STM will be needed. The SB agreed BC may schedule for Monday, January 10th
     - Will check with Planning Board for any other articles.
     - Bylaw change – postcard vs. mailing warrant
     - SB/Finance/TC/Moderator
   - 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 /Otis Police Dept.
    - Shared service
    - Getting draft contract from Town Counsel (questions/review in process)

10. Select Board's Comments and Announcements
None.

11. Any other business to come before the Board
Pay increase for
Based on the Police Chief's memo of recommendation, ML moved to approve the increased payrate for Police Department employee Frank Murphy to $20.39 per hour effective 12/12/2021 for completion his probationary employment period. CS 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

12. Correspondence:
- Tba

The Historical Commission sent a letter dated December 14, 2021 to recommend TOB support of the Becket Arts Center's proposal re: improvement to the heating and cooling systems in the Seminary Hall.

The Select Board acknowledged receipt of Robert Crosier's letter dated December 1, 2021 asking to go before the SB to discuss his dog complaint on the basis that he signed for receipt of the certified letter after the public hearing occurred. BE commented that this matter was resolved (Select Board's public hearing on 11/17/2021).

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

14. Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (6). To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property (Topic: Receivership Properties) if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. The Chair shall publicly announce whether the open session will reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session.
BE read and suggested a motion for the above captioned. He specified that it is not necessary for the SB to return to open meeting. ML moved to enter into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (6). To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property (Topic: Receivership Properties) based upon that the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body and the SB will not return to open meeting. CS 2nd: Roll call vote: Michael Lavery – yes, Chris Swindlehurst – yes and Bill Elovirta – yes. At 7:26pm, the SB entered into Executive Session.

15. Select Board to adjourn the Meeting
Under Agenda Item 14, the Select Board entered into Executive Session at 7:26pm

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*

Signed by:

_____ / *January 5, 2022*
William H. Elovirta, *Chair* Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- 2021.12.15 Select Board Agenda
- Agenda Item 3. MLP Manager's e-mail report dated 12/15/2021
- Agenda Item 4. 2021.12.01 Select Board Minutes
- Agenda Item 7. Appointment Application: Flora Whiffen, 2021.12.12.02 e-mail from Planning Board Chair re Alt. Delegate to the BRPC
- Agenda Item 9. Town Administrator's report dated 12/15/2021
- Agenda Item 11. 2021.12.13 Police Chief's Memo re: Frank Murphy's rate of pay and notice that he completed probation; FY2022 Select Board Amended Authorized Payrate
- Agenda Item 12. Correspondence listed above