SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, January 19, 2022
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

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

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

Others:
Remote participation: MLP Manager Bob Gross

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**
   MLP Manager Bob Gross provided the following update:
   - There are currently slightly under 500 subscribers paying for service.
   - Construction is on schedule. Service is available in Fiber Service Areas 2, 1, 5, 9 & 8. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group met with Whip City Fiber to address several premises needing connections in FSAs 1 & 5.
   - FSA 4 is next in line for connection (anticipated 2/3/2022, contingent on weather). Bob advised that after Sertex reports completion of outside work to WCF, WCF has two weeks to test before installing at individual premises. FSAs 6 and 7 are anticipated after FSA 4.
   - Resolution of Make Ready problems is anticipated to occur by early February (including matters related to King Richard Drive.)
   - When the ground freezes, underground Make Ready will pause. Some premises with undone underground may be eligible for temporary installation. The process includes that they will need to sign a release. A technician will determine whether a temporary install is feasible. The wire, which lays on the ground, cannot cross driveways and walkways. The homeowner must pay in advance: the estimated amount over the subsidy (if applicable to the premise) and a $150 fee (not part of the subsidy).
   - Bob has been receiving words of appreciation and positive remarks about the service.

4. **Approval of the January 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes**
   ML moved to approve the January 5, 2022 minutes. BE 2nd. Roll call: William Elovirta – yes, Chris Swindlehurst – yes and Michael Lavery – yes.

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

6. **Vote re: Intermunicipal Agreement By and Between the Town of Becket and Town of Otis – Shared Police Chief Services.**
   BC provided an update. Police Chief McDonough met with the Town of Otis last Thursday.

The next steps are for the Town Administrators to arrive on the salary and bring their recommendation to their respective Select Boards. The Becket SB will discuss this matter under Executive Session on February 2, 2022.

BC advised that Town Counsel agreed to eliminate the "strong police chiefs" language (3rd paragraph) in the draft agreement.

7. Select Board to review Departmental Reports

- **TBA**

The SB received the Fire Department's 2021 Annual Town Report and the Police Department's reports for calendar year 2021 (Accidents by Street Name, Offense Listing, Fines & # Offenses by Street location). BE mentioned that the Police Department should include the Animal Control Officer's report.

8. 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
- Massworks
  - McNerney Rd – surveying design works needs to be done for the expanded path if able to obtain the Complete Streets Grant. Would need to apply this spring
- USDA Grant – Covid health funds
  - Can be used for squad vehicle and ambulance monitor
  - Received quotes
  - 75/25 split
  - Submitted Tuesday
- USDA Grant – Cruiser
  - More information in the spring
  - Engine
- ARPA funds
  - $504k – broadband- voted
- Paramedic service
  - Proposed applicant - BC advised his intentions to hire Morgan McDonough for the Ambulance Dept.'s Paramedic opening. The Ambulance Director sent a letter in support of assigning the paramedic position to Morgan McDonough. Ms. McDonough, who obtained paramedic level in November 2020, has been working per diem for the Becket Ambulance Department. She works for and has extensive experience with the Adams Ambulance Service and Southwick Fire Dept.
- Budget and Capital
  - Staffing – Areas to be determined: 1) Police (Reform Bill impacts ability to hire part-time police officers) 2) The Ambulance Director will discuss the salaries of EMTs and Paramedics with the Finance Committee.
  - free cash to be determined awaiting school budget
- 2442 Main Street – Today we received word that DHCD is approved (Attorney General, Courts) to sell.
- BE requested for BC to ask the Fire Chief if he had applied for FEMA's COVID-19 Assistance Grant (Fire & EMS Agencies).
- The Highway Superintendent received quotes to take care of the North Becket Cemetery.

9. **Select Board's Comments and Announcements**
Last week ML attended the first Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting. Due to that several members were not in attendance, they will wait until the next meeting to vote on their Chairperson.

Last week ML and BC attended the Central Berkshire Regional School District's Regional Agreement Amendment Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

10. **Any other business to come before the Board**
None

11. **Correspondence:**
- TBA

None

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

13. **BOS to review and vote on appointment applications:**
Mary Latham - Alternate Representative to the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee effective 1/19/2022 through 6/30/24
Linda Shaw – Council on Aging effective 1/19/2022 through 6/30/2024
ML moved to appoint Mary Latham Alternate Representative to the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee effective 1/19/2022 through 6/30/24. BE 2nd: Roll call: William Elovirta – yes, Chris Swindlehurst – yes and Michael Lavery – yes.

ML moved to appoint Linda Shaw to the Council on Aging effective 1/19/2022 through 6/30/24. BE 2nd: Roll call: William Elovirta – yes, Chris Swindlehurst – yes and Michael Lavery – yes.

14. **Select Board to adjourn the Meeting**
ML moved to adjourn, BE 2nd. Roll call: William Elovirta – yes, Chris Swindlehurst – yes and Michael Lavery – yes. At 7:27pm, BE adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*

Signed by:

William H. Elovirta, *Chair* / *February 2, 2022*
Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:
- 2022.01.19 Select Board Agenda
- Agenda Item 4. 2022.01.05 Select Board Minutes,
- Agenda Item 7. Listed under the discussion
- Agenda Item 8. Town Administrator's report dated 01/19/2022
- Agenda Item 8. Ambulance Director's letter to recommend appointment of Morgan McDonough full-time Ambulance Dept. EMT – Paramedic position
- Agenda Item 13. Appointment Applications: Mary Latham (Alternate Representative to the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee; Linda Shaw (Council On Aging)