SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, June 15, 2022
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees

Select Board (SB): William Elovirta (BE), *Chair*; Chris Swindlehurst (CS), *Vice-Chair – arrived 7:18pm*; Michael Lavery (ML), *Clerk*

Staff: Mark Webber (MW), *Interim Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert (BG), *Administrative Assistant;* Edward Pickert, Highway Superintendent; Ray Ferrin, Ambulance Director; Kristopher McDonough, Police Chief

Others: A.J. Pietronone, Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival, Inc. **Via Zoom:** Andrew Jackson, Chrstopher Clapper, Lei-Anne Ellis, Shaw Israel Izikson (Editor of the Country Journal), Cindy Delpapa, Eric D'Antonio, Kate Kinsman, Sarah Reedy

1. **The Chairperson will call the Select Board meeting to order.**
   At 7:00pm, BE called the meeting to order and indicated that the SB was recording the meeting.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   BE led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. **7:05pm, Public Hearing on the application of Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival Inc. for a new Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverage Restaurant License for premises located at 358 George Carter Road, Becket, MA, 01223**
   At 7:05pm, BE read the public hearing notice for the above captioned and opened the public hearing. BG advised that Jacob's Pillow application to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission for the Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverage Restaurant License for premises located at 358 George Carter Road, Becket contained all required documents. She handed the application to the SB for review. A.J. explained that to assume additional control and have better accountability, Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival Inc. will return to holding their own licenses and discontinue using outside vendors to procure their licenses. He indicated that the food/beverages operations will continue in the center campus locations. The SB specified the proposed hours of operation: Wed-Thurs 4:00pm - 10:00pm; Fri 4:00pm - 11:00pm; Sat 11:00am - 11:00pm; Sun 11:00am - 4:00pm. No others commented. ML moved to approve Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival Inc.'s application for a seasonal All Alcoholic Beverage Restaurant for premises located at 358 George Carter Road, Becket, MA 01223. BE 2nd: Motion carried. The SB will submit the application to the ABCC. At 7:09pm, the hearing concluded.

4. **Broadband Update and Select Board to discuss and possibly vote on policies and decisions relating to the Broadband Project**
   None.

5. **Approval of the 6/1/2022 Meeting Minutes**
   ML moved to approve the 6/1/2022 meeting minutes, BE 2nd: Motion carried.

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

7. **Ed Pickert, Highway Superintendent, to discuss use of Pothole funding and discussion and request to increase the Transfer Station Household Trash Fee Schedule due to increased disposal costs of spring and foam items**

Ed Pickert, Highway Superintendent, suggested using $146,000 pothole funding for oil and stonework on Quarry Road (From the Quarry to Route 20) and Upper County Road (portion from the intersection of Stanley to past the Dream Away Lodge). Prep work involves patching. He estimates this surfacing will last approximately four to five years.

Other road-related discussion: 1) Ed Picker will arrange for line painting on Quarry Road which will be added the list of streets regularly painted. 2) Ed Pickert mentioned the Highway Dept. will swap snowplow blades depending on road surface (segmented blades damage oil and stone surfaces); 3) BE mentioned that replacement of the Quarry Road Bridge (over Cushman Brook) near Route 20 is on the 2026 Berkshire Region Transportation Improvement Project list; 3) other roads that may benefit from oil and stone (upper section of Benton Hill Road) 4) To file insurance claims, in the next few weeks, Ed Pickert anticipates obtaining quotes for repair of two guardrails sections (hit & run damage) located on Yokum Pond Road

Transfer Station discussion – Bulky Waste

Ed Pickert reported that Valley Rolloff sent notification that due to an increase in their disposal fees for foam and spring upholstered items, they will charge the town $50.00 per piece across the board for disposal of mattresses, couches, recliners, love seats, chairs will rise effectively immediately. Per Mr. Picker's recommendation, CS moved to increase the Transfer Station bulky waste per piece fee for mattresses and upholstered items to $50.00, effective 7/2/2022, ML 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

The SB agreed the Transfer Station should continue not charging for disposal of fluorescent light bulbs to prevent these items from being discarded in the regular trash. Mr. Pickert estimates the annual cost will be $400.00 or $500.00 if Valley Rolloff determines it is necessary to charge the town a per bulb fee.

8. **Select Board to review and vote on reappointments effective 7/1/2022:**

Name	Position	Expiration date
Neil Toomey	Agricultural Commission Member	6/30/2023
Kristopher Massini	Agricultural Commission Member	6/30/2023
Larisa Shpitalnik	Community Preservation Committee At Large Member	6/30/2025
James Schaefer	Conservation Commission Member	6/30/2025
John Verity	Conservation Commission Member	6/30/2025
Paula Bergeron	Council on Aging	6/30/2025
Celine Godbout	Council on Aging	6/30/2025
Marie Grull	Council on Aging	6/30/2025
William Robinson	Council on Aging	6/30/2025
Andrea Pecor	Cultural Council	6/30/2025
Andrea Nix	Cultural Council	6/30/2025
Katherine Hoak	Energy Committee, Alternate Member	6/30/2023
Nina Weiler	Assistant Tax Collector	6/30/2023
David Shorey	Deputy Tax Collector	6/30/2023
Christine Bleau	Treasurer	6/30/2025

Cindy Delpapa	Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee	6/30/2025
Jeffrey Piemont	WiredWest Delegate	6/30/2024
Robert Gross	WiredWest Alternate Delegate	6/30/2024
Robert Gross	Energy Committee Member	6/30/2025
Jeff Wilkinson	Zoning Board of Appeals Member	6/30/2025
Alvin Blake	Energy Committee Member	6/30/2025
Alvin Blake	Zoning Board of Appeals Associate Member	6/30/2023
Christopher Milenkevich	Zoning Board of Appeals Associate Member	6/30/2023

BE moved to approve reappoint of those listed above in their respective position with expiration dates, CS 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Select Board to consider the following Appointment Applications:**
   - **Sarah Reedy, Cultural Council Member effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025**
   - **Lisa Rosier, Cultural Council Member effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025 Sarah reedy ml knows --**
   - **Christopher Clapper, Conservation Commission Member, effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025**
   - **Andrew Jackson, Conservation Associate Member, effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024**

   ML moved to appoint Sarah Reedy and Lisa Rosier to the Cultural Council effective 7/1/2022 through 6/30/2025. CS 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

   ML moved to appoint Christopher Clapper to serve as a member of the Conservation Commission effective 7/1/2022 through June 20, 2025 and to appoint Andrew Jackson to serve as Associate Member of the Conservation Commission effective 7/1/2022 through 6/30/2024. Cs 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

10. SB to review and vote on approval of the Town Administrator's Appointment:
    - **Charlene Auger - promotion from Part-Time Reserve Police Officer to Full-time Officer effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023** *(corrected from June 30, 2022 listed on the agenda)*

    Police Chief McDonough spoke in support of promoting Charlene Auger to full-time status. He indicated that she has worked for the town since 2017, does an excellent job, is a great fit with the department and recently completed the Bridge Academy. The Police Department's FY2023 budget, approved at Town Meeting, will cover this full-time position. Police Chief McDonough brought up that changing to full-time status is sensible when considering police reform legislation (which requires reserve officers to have the same level of training and certification as for full-time officers and is more onerous for smaller police departments). ML moved to approve the Town Administrator's recommendation for an appointment that will promote Charlene Auger to Full-time Police Officer effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, CS 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

11. **Select Board to vote on renewal of the agreement between the Town of Becket and the Town of Otis for Shared Police Chief Services effective 7/1/2022 through 6/30/2023.**
    MW updated the dates and dollar amounts on the existing agreement between the Town of Becket

and the town of Otis for shared Police chief Services. Police Chief McDonough stated that this arrangement has been going very well, he has been enjoying working for both towns, and he is up for continuing the additional work and challenge.
CS moved to approve renewal of the shared services agreement between the Town of Becket and the Town of Otis for Shared Police Services effective 7/1/2022 through 6/30/2023. ML 2nd: Motion carried unanimously. MW indicated that The Beacon publication interviewed Police Chief McDonough. At 7:29pm, Police Chief McDonough left the meeting.

12. **Select Board to review Departmental Reports**
    - **tba**

    None.

13. **Town Administrator's Report**
    After MW met with the Fire Chief and Fire Department Officers last week, he posted/advertised the bid for one (1) 2022 OR NEWER FIRE APPARATUS, FIRE PUMPER. Bid documents may also be found on the town website. The bid opening is scheduled for 7pm at the 7/6/2022 Select Board's meeting. The town awaits a response to the bid application for this vehicle.

    Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival gave the town a $7,500.00 Payment in Lieu of Taxes.

    A contractor is tentatively scheduled to appear at Town Hall next week to retrofit the air conditioning system and hookup the gas line to the generator (generator will also be tested) at Town Hall.

    Tomorrow the Highway Superintendent and MW will interview an applicant for the Town Mechanic position.

    Town Counsel advised to MW that an appeal against the Planning Board Special Permit for the Quarry Road marijuana facility filed with Land Court does not require SB action/response at this time.

14. **Select Board's Comments and Announcements**
    Michael: Grand Opening Ceremony for the Newly Created Esau's Heel Trail will occur at 10:00am on Saturday, June 18th. The public is welcome to attend and this will be announced through the website news/e-mail blast.

    BE reported that in response to the Historical Commission and Parks & Recreation Committee's invitation, he attended yesterday's opening ceremony of the North Becket Park dedication of the special seating area/plaque in remembrance of the historical Baptist Parsonage Building (21 Maple Street). BE represented the SB and gave a speech to the school children at this event. BE reported on enhancements (electricity, porta potty, signs, walking path has been re-done) and encourages the community to visit.

15. **Any other business to come before the Board**
    The Select Board approved the Becket Scholarship Foundation and Broadband Ad Hoc Group Tax Inserts.

    BG advised that the following individuals did not wish to be reappointed: Tina Lavasseur (Parks & Recreation Committee), Sally Baumer (Cultural Council), and Steve Rosenthal (Harbor Master). Mr. Rosenthal had conveyed his willingness to continue serving as the Harbor Master until another individual is appointed and he will help transition this position: The SB agreed for MW to inquire with a person who had previously expressed interest. BG will send the Country

Journal a list of open Committee/Board positions, and she will post them on the town website.

16. **Correspondence/announcements:**
    - **2022.05.25 Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities Notice of Filing and Public Hearing (D.P.U. 22-52) on the petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Plainfield-Blandford capital investment project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021).**
    - **Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing scheduled on July 13th to review Sergiy and Tatyana Suprunchuk's Special Permit application to build a house at 102 Wells Road (Map 217, Lot 147).**

    The SB reviewed the above listed communications.

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

18. **Select Board to review and possibly vote on the Ambulance Director's recommended FY2023 Ambulance Billing Fee Schedule.**
    CS moved to accept the Ambulance Director's recommended FY2023 Ambulance billing fee schedule, ML 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.
    Prior to the vote, Ray Ferrin, Ambulance Director, discussed his recommendation (increased expenses including rising gasoline prices) and fielded questions about receivables/collections.

19. **The Select Board will vote to enter into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) 2. To conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Ambulance Director). The Select Board will indicate whether the Select Board will return to open meeting after the Executive Session.**
    BE moved for the SB enter into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) 2. To conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Ambulance Director) and after the SB will return to open meeting. CS 2nd: Roll call vote: William Elovirta – yes, Chris Swindlehurst – yes, and Michael Lavery – Yes. At 8:04pm, the SB went into Executive Session. The SB returned to open meeting at 8:41pm.

20. **Possible Select Board vote on Ambulance Director's FY2023 salary.**
    The SB tabled this agenda item until the July 6, 2022 meeting.

21. **Select Board to adjourn the Meeting**
    ML moved to adjourn, CS 2nd: Motion carried unanimously. At 8:42pm, BE adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*

Signed by:

_____ / *July 6, 2022*
William H. Elovirta, *Chair* Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- 2022.06.15 Select Board Agenda
- 2022.06.01 Select Board Minutes
- Correspondence – listed above Agenda Item 16.
- Transfer Station Bulky Waste fee listing
- Appointment applications – Lisa Rosier (Cultural Council), Sarah Reedy (Cultural Council), Christopher Clapper (Conservation Commission), and Andrew Jackson (Conservation Commission)
- 22.06.07 Police Chief memo to SB re: recommendation of Charlene Auger for full-time officer
- Intermunicipal Agreement Police Services
- Staff Stuffers (Inserts): Becket Scholarship Foundation, Broadband Information Session
- Local licensing authority review form (Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival Inc.)