

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, July 6, 2022
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees

Select Board (SB): William Elovirta (BE), *Chair*; Chris Swindlehurst (CS), *Vice-Chair*

Remote*: Michael Lavery (ML), *Clerk*

Staff: Mark Webber (MW), *Interim Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert (BG), *Administrative Assistant*

Parks & Recreation Committee: Rita Furlong, Madelaine Elovirta, Eila Bell

Others: Joe McCarthy (TRC/Eversource), Tim Fogarty, Kathe Warden, Ann Krawet, Jeremy Dunn (Broadband Ad Hoc Group Member), Jeff Piemont (Broadband Ad Hoc Group Member), Bob Ronzio (Board of Health Member), Gale Labelle (Board of Health Member) Julia Maynard, Jan Elovirta (Volunteer Fire Dept. Member), Chris Isner (Volunteer Fire Dept. Member), Mark Hanford (Volunteer Fire Dept. Member) **Via Zoom:** A.J. Pietronone (Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival, Inc.), Robin Mathiesen

1. The Chairperson will call the Select Board meeting to order.

BE called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

BE led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Due to poor reception, ML who was out of town tried to but was not able to participate at tonight's meeting. He left the meeting during discussion of the next agenda item.*

3. 7:05PM – Opening of sealed bids and possible award on: one (1) 2022 OR NEWER FIRE APPARATUS, FIRE PUMPER.

At 7:05pm, BE announced the above captioned agenda item and read the notice. MW indicated the town received one sealed bid. MW opened and announced the bid:

4 Guys, Inc. – Meyersville, PA

- One Four Guys 2000 GPM Rescue Pumper Installed on a Spartan Motors Metro Star cab and Chassis
- \$772,196.00
- Full payment due upon acceptance of completed unit
- Deduct \$10,167.00 from the bid price if chassis payment of \$381,613.00 is received 15 days of chassis delivery to their factory with balance due upon acceptance of completed unit
- Delivery shall be within 480 to 520 calendar days from receipt of signed contract, subject to all causes beyond their control
- This bid is valid for acceptance within 45 days.

MW pointed out that the town had approved \$750,000 (2022 Annual Town Meeting Article 4. Capital Expenditures) and perhaps private funding may provide the shortfall of \$22,196.00. The SB announced that the Fire Department Truck Committee will reviews the bid package, and provide a recommendation to the SB.

4. 7:10 PM: Public Hearing re: NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY DBA EVERSOURCE'S petition dated May, 17, 2022 in accordance with the accompanying plan marked 80199260, to install eight solely owned poles and nine new anchors and one new push brace on Surriener Road

At 7:13pm, BE announced the above captioned and read the public hearing notice. During

discussion, Eversource Representative Joe McCarthy agreed to check with Eversource's legal representation whether he may add Broadband Ad Hoc Group Member Jeremy Dunn's suggested language to the order: *The polls will be installed in a condition such that no remediation will be needed for fiber optic installation.* He asked that going forward all orders automatically include this as well. Mr. McCarthy indicated that there is ample space on the proposed poles for Broadband and he had discussed this petition with the Becket Highway Superintendent who had no issues with it. The Select Board tabled voting on this petition until the July 20, 2022 meeting. During the public comment agenda item, Jeff Piemont indicated that as a resident of Surriner Road, he supports this petition. At 7:19pm, BE closed the public hearing.

5. SB to vote to approve Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival Inc.'s Management/Operating Agreement which has been added to its application package for a new Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverage Restaurant License for premises located at 358 George Carter Road, Becket, MA, 01223

A.J. Pietronone explained that the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission requires that Jacob's Pillow's application for a new Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverage License include a management/operating agreement and Local Licensing Authority approval of such. Mr. Pietronone indicated that Jacob's Pillow chose Boston Gourmet which provides year-round employment in the Berkshires. CS moved to approve Jacob Pillow Dance Festival Inc.'s management/operating Agreement, BE 2nd: Motion carried.

6. Broadband Update and Select Board to discuss and possibly vote on policies and decisions relating to the Broadband Project

Broadband Ad Hoc Group Member Jeremy Dunn provided tonight's update

- Construction is complete in 9 out of the 10 fiber service areas. Service is available in eight of the FSAs.
- As of this morning, we have 1,257 (approximately 68% take rate) premises signed up to receive service. The take rate is more than sufficient to break even at the operating level.
- 885 (70% of the people who signed up) premises are active.
- We have a preliminary revenue distribution figure in the amount of \$117,500 from part of the WiredWest Co-op for Fiscal Year 2022. Next year we anticipate the distribution will increase because at the beginning of fiscal year 2022, we hardly had customers. Next year, we will have 885 plus additional customers for the entire year. Distribution will be used for the equipment replacement reserve, to pay off the debt, and for maintenance such as tree-trimming.
- Jeremy reported on significant delays in the Becket Woods fiber service area due to trenching/conduit problems. Becket Woods will need to resolve this situation with its contracted entities (not town's liability). The Broadband Ad Hoc Group and Westfield Gas + Electric are facilitating an investigation to help determine how to proceed. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group will keep the SB apprised of developments.
- The Towns of Becket, Washington, Blandford and Otis were awarded with a \$244,000 state grant to build a shared backhaul connection to increase redundancy. The deadline to spend the funding is September 2023.

7. SB to discuss/vote on the Parks & Recreation Committee's recommendation re: the Town's Beach Policy to address replacement permits.

CS moved to approve the below Policy to address replacement of Town Beach permits. BE 2nd: Motion carried.

If a person purchases a Becket Beach Permit and then loses, misplaces, shreds or takes any other action that makes the permit among the missing, the following steps shall be taken:

1. The person shall purchase a new permit for \$5.00.

2. The old permit number shall be entered into a Lost List for the Gate Attendants to be on the lookout for the reported missing permit.

During discussion, CS indicated he would not agree to include the following as part of the policy: If the old permit appears on another car the incident will be turned over to the Becket Police Department for investigation.

The Parks & Recreation discussed other items:

- Rita proposed cutting down trees along Mecum Road to create additional parking (about twelve trees). BE stated that this should be discussed at a future meeting to investigate this idea further.
- BE brought up that the Survey of Town Beach remains an open item.
- Rita expressed concern that the town will lose lifeguards to other swimming areas that offer higher pay. Eila and Maddy stated that they oppose increasing the rate of pay for the town's lifeguards after the season started. Discussion ensued about conducting a salary survey for Parks & Recreation positions and working with the Town Administrator to create a proposed Parks & Recreation FY2024 budget.
- Water Testing at the Beach – Administration will review the history of payments for water testing to clarify whether the Board of Health, Parks & Recreation Committee, or another town account should budget for this obligation. The Board of Health ran out of funds for Fiscal Year 2022, and the Parks & Recreation Committee, at the request of Administration, paid several water test invoices. Parks & Recreation Committee requested that the town arrange for the water testing company to also send Parks & Recreation Committee a copy of water testing reports. Mark Webber stated, and Board of Health Chair Gale Labelle confirmed that the Board of Health is responsible for closing the Town Beach when water testing shows unsafe levels of contaminants. Gale Labelle, Board of Health Chair, stated that the Board of Health had not budgeted for the water testing. The Parks & Recreation Committee why they were asked to pay for this year's water testing at the Town Beach when they never had done so before.
- The Parks & Recreation Committee described an incident for which they contacted the Police Dept. to report a resident who refused to show his Beach permit to the Gate Attendant. Should this reoccur, the SB will attach a copy of the report and a copy of tonight's meeting minutes with a letter warning this individual, that this individual will be banned at the beach daily 11am till 5pm if he does not comply with the beach permit policy.
- To discourage cars from speeding (they flash their Beach Permit) on Mecum Road, BE suggested posting an unofficial speed limit sign: the town is not authorized to post an official speed limit sign.
- BE brought up the open status of expanding the Pavilion (near the Town Hall) to replace the portion taken away from Parks & Recreation for the Broadband Hut. BE stated that at the 2022 ATM the town had appropriated \$15,000 for this project and it was supposed to be done last year. Rita Furlong stated that the Parks & Recreation Committee continues to need the space. BE stated that it should be done this year.

8. Ann Krawet re: follow-up to address concerns relating to Wade Inn Road

BE referenced discussion from the SB's August 18, 2021 minutes. At that meeting, the SB voted to install stop signs at Cross Road entering Wade Inn Road, Hopkins Lane entering Wade Inn Road and Hopkins Lane entering Bancroft Road. Based on the speed, curves, narrowness of the road, and to prevent accidents, the SB had directed the Town Administrator to commence the process for applying for heavy Vehicle exclusion with MassDOT for Wade Inn Road and the SB agreed to Ann Krawet's suggestion to consider placing a sign (non-enforceable) to discourage heavy vehicle traffic. BE advised on the status of the aforementioned items from the August 18, 2021 meeting:

- Cross Road entering Wade Inn Road – not installed

- Hopkins Lane entering Wade Inn Road - installed
- Hopkins Lane entering Bancroft Road – installed
- Apply for a Heavy vehicle exclusion with MassDOT for Wade Inn Road – open item
- Place a non-enforceable sign (yellow background with black letters - cautionary) to discourage heavy vehicle traffic on Wade Inn Road – Open item

During discussion Ann Krawet clarified that her understanding is that there will be a sign placed at each end of Wade Inn Road.

CS stated as he had previously brought up, he recommends looking into placement of electronic speed feedback signs (moveable and fixed) in various locations in town (including Algeria Road. CS moved to send a letter to MassDOT to initiate applying for a heavy truck exclusion on Wade Inn Road. BE 2nd: Motion carried. CS moved to place cautionary signs to discourage heavy vehicle traffic on both ends of Wade Inn Road. BE 2nd: Motion carried.

BE moved to ask MassDOT to install a stop sign at the end of Cross Road coming onto Route 8. CS 2nd: Motion carried. BE indicated that the state will ask for Police Reports of accidents occurring in that location.

9. Approval of the June 15, 2022, June 16, 2022, June 22, 2022 and June 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes

CS moved to approve the June 15, 2022, June 16, 2022, June 22 & June 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes. BE 2nd: Motion carried.

10. Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person, 20 minutes total for this agenda item).

Jeff Piemont stated that his home is located on Surriner Road, and he favors approval of Eversource's petition to improve service reliability.

Bob Ronzio reported that at tonight's BOH meeting discussion included that someone broke down a door of the unoccupied 358 Prince John Drive home (Owner: GO AMERICA LLC – a holding company) and the BOH is asking the SB to arrange to secure (boarded-up) this home to prevent children from entering. Bob suggested for the SB to send a letter to the holding company. Bob Ronzio suggested for the SB to arrange to secure the door and then charge the owner.

CS brought up 254 Benton Hill Road (Should it be secured or demolished?) recently destroyed by fire. The insurance company or the owner should take care of securing this property. BE stated that the administration should send the building inspector (with a copy to the Fire Chief) an email to address contacting the owner.

11. BOS to vote on Town Administrator's recommendations for Transfers of Appropriations, and Reserve Fund Transfer(s)

The SB tabled till this matter until the July 20th meeting. Tomorrow, MW will obtain input relating to this item with the Finance Committee.

12. Appointments:

- **Tim Fogarty – Harbor Master effective July 6, 2022 through June 30, 2023**

Tim Fogarty advised that Steve Rosenthal who did not seek Harbor Master reappointment will meet with him to orient him to Harbor Master duties. CS moved to appoint Tim Fogarty Harbor Master effective July 6, 2022 through June 30, 2023. BE 2nd: Motion carried.

13. SB to acknowledge resignations of Ambulance Department Employees:

- **Morgan McDonough (Full-time Paramedic) effective July 2, 2022**
- **David Norcross (EMT Basic Per diem) effective July 1, 2022**

The SB acknowledged the above captioned resignations and will send a letter of appreciation to Morgan McDonough and David Norcross.

14. Select Board vote on Ambulance Director's FY2023 salary.

CS moved to increase Ambulance Director Raymond Ferrin's pay rate to \$30.00 per hour effective July 1, 2022. BE 2nd: Motion carried.

15. SB to approve FY2022 Amended Payrates and FY2023 Payrates

BE moved to approve the FY2023 Payrates, subject to agreed with the below listed corrections, CS 2nd: Motion carried.

- Veterans Agent – will be listed monthly
- Select Board's Stipends will be listed separately for each Member
- Town Administrator's Salary will be corrected to \$80,000.00

16. Select Board to review Departmental Reports

- Tba

The SB reviewed the Building Inspector's June 2022 report. The SB asked Mark Webber to remind the other department heads to submit their monthly reports for the next meeting.

17. Town Administrator's Report

Mark Webber provided the following update:

- The Town was notified that the 2nd half of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund will be released by the State. No date was specified. We have updated our SAM (Systems Administration Management) account to be able to accept the funds. Becket will receive another \$256,462 earmarked for Broadband.
- Tomorrow Mark Webber will attend the Berkshire Manager's Meeting to announce Becket's new Town Administrator.
- Mark Webber sent the new Town Administrator the upcoming Massachusetts Public Procurement Officials training/classroom schedule. It appears the courses are exclusively on-line. Successful completion of three training programs are needed for MPPCO designation.
- Tomorrow Mark Webber will meet with the Finance Committee to review and finalize the fiscal year end line-item account transfers to cover any deficits. He has been reviewing it over the past months with the Town Accountant and there are no major surprises. There are available balances to cover deficits. It is more a matter of procedural preference as to which funds to transfer from. Mark Webber's recommendation is to review and act on year end transfer on July 20th.
- Three legitimate vendors took out bids for the Fire Pumper. Only one bid was received (which is not out of the ordinary). The working budget for the unit is \$750,000.

18. Select Board's Comments and Announcements

CS who also serves as a member of the Volunteer Fire Department advised that the VFD responded to ten calls over the weekend, including one that occurred at the Quarry.

19. Any other business to come before the Board

None

20. **Correspondence/announcements:** 📁

- 2022.06.15 Steven Rosenthal letter to praise Ambulance Department Responders Michael Mullany and Morgan McDonough
- 2022.06.15 Department of Environmental Protection re: PWS ID # 1022033 ENF # 00004151 with Notice specifying that the Drinking Water Program has been corrected and the Boil Water Requirement has been lifted from Becket Arts Center / Mullen House.
- Received 2022.06.17 Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. re: CSX Transportation, Inc.'s 2022 Yearly Operational Plan for Railroad Right-of-Way Vegetation Management is available upon request from stephen.herzog@woodplc.com Application will commence on or after July 5 and conclude on or before August 5, 2022.
- 2022.06.24 Jewel Environmental Corporation notification they will file to DEP a Permanent Solution Statement Rpt., RTN 1-0021547 (I90 between MM 18.8 & 19, Becket, MA).
- 2022.06.23 Dept. of the Interior issued a \$318 Payment in Lieu of Taxes to Becket for Federal Lands in Becket administered by Agencies within its department.

The Select Board reviewed the above correspondence and read Steven Rosenthal's letter expressing appreciation for Ambulance Dept. Responders Michael Mullany and Morgan McDonough's professional and kind care they had provided to him.

21. **Select Board to review and sign payable warrants**

The Select Board reviewed and signed payable warrants.

22. **Select Board to adjourn the Meeting**

CS moved to adjourn, BE 2nd: Motion carried. At 8:53pm, BE adjourned the meeting.

Signed by:



William H. Elovirta, Chair

/ July 20, 2022

Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- ✚ 2022.07.06 Select Board Agenda
- ✚ Select Board Minutes as listed above
- ✚ NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY DBA EVERSOURCE'S petition dated May, 17, 2022 in accordance with the accompanying plan marked 80199260, and public hearing notice
- ✚ Correspondence as listed above
- ✚ Building Inspector's June 2022 report
- ✚ FY2023 Payrate Listing
- ✚ Town Administrator's Report
- ✚ Parks & Recreation Committee's Beach suggested beach permit replacement policy
- ✚ Notification - Request for sealed bids and possible award on: one (1) 2022 OR NEWER FIRE APPARATUS, FIRE PUMPER., Bid package received from 4 Guys, Inc. – Meyersville, PA