SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, July 20, 2022
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

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

Staff (remote): Mark Webber (MW), *Interim Town Administrator*; Robin Mathiesen, Town Clerk

Staff: Paul Mikaniewicz, Fire Chief; David Shorey, Building & Grounds Technician; Beverly Gilbert (BG), *Administrative Assistant*

Other(s): Bob Gross, MLP Manager; Kathe Warden

Others remote: Joe McCarthy (TRC/Eversource), Michael Rosenburg (Eversource)

1. **The Chairperson will call the Select Board meeting to order.**
   BE called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and indicated that the SB is recording the meeting.

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

3. **Becket Fire Department Truck Committee update/Select Board potential vote to award on: one (1) 2022 OR NEWER FIRE APPARATUS, FIRE PUMPER.**
   Mark Webber and Paul Mikaniewicz discussed the status of the Volunteer Fire Department Truck Committee's review of 4 Guys, Inc. – Meyersville, PA bid for the Fire Apparatus/Fire Pumper bid. Mark Webber reported that Jan Elovirta, member of the Fire Dept. Truck Committee, indicated that the Committee, opts for a conservative approach, and had worked with 4 Guys, Inc. to eliminate and add several items so that the cost will not exceed $750,000.00, the appropriated amount. CS moved to accept 4 Guys, Inc.'s bid for the 2022 or Newer Fire apparatus, Fire Pumper at a cost not to exceed $750,000.00, ML 2nd: Motion carried unanimously. Once the Fire Department submits the final paperwork, the Town Administrator will send them a letter to proceed.

4. **Update/Select Board potential vote 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 Surriner Road**
   Joseph Mitchell and Michael Rosenthal responded to the SB's request at the 7/6/2022 Pole Hearing to add language (*The polls will be installed in a condition such that no remediation will be needed for fiber optic installation.*) to the above captioned petition. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Rosenthal explained that due to that Eversource must abide by Department of Public Utilities regulations, they must treat all entities equally and therefore Eversource cannot reserve space on its poles before it receives an application. Bob Gross asked if Verizon were to attach its equipment to the proposed poles, could Eversource ask Verizon to attach the equipment in such a way that the poles would remain in Make Ready condition for Broadband. They advised the town would need to apply to reserve space ($10.00 annual attachment cost per pole). CS moved to approve 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 Surriner Road. ML 2nd: Motion carried 3-0.

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

Bob Gross, MLP Manager, provided an update:

- The Broadband Ad Hoc Group is holding Update/Information Sessions (via Zoom and in person) tomorrow night and Saturday morning. Although the attendance will not be large (approximately 35 total), the Broadband Ad Hoc Group thinks it is important to offer this opportunity to the Becket Community. Marketing and tech representatives from Westfield Gas and Electric will participate.
- Becket Woods area has problems with their conduits that need to be resolved. Burke Engineering did the underground make-ready work in approximately 70-80 percent of BW's project (2 out of the 3 phases). It appears the backfill contained heavy materials (rocks) that put too much pressure on the conduits. Sertex, contracted to run the fiber, found significant problems with the conduits. Becket Woods contacted Dura-line, the manufacturer of the conduit, who offered to spend two days to work with Sertex to test the conduit. Bob anticipates Dura-line will agree with Sertex's testing methods. Becket Woods is responsible for the cost associated with Sertex's time. Bob advised that once we have a scope of the problem, we can figure out how to resolve this. The worst case scenario is that it will be necessary to redo all the underground work. It is possible that we can identify areas where there are problems, do a work around and use the conduits in areas that are good. This is complicated because Eversource has energized all their wires and Sertex is not certified work in trenches with electrical conduits. Westfield Gas + Electric is certified and may be willing to work on those trenches. Due to this extenuating situation, the Broadband Ad Hoc Group is considering making an exception to the town's practices by turning on service to sections of premises that are ready for connection rather than waiting until this entire service areas is ready.
- Due to delays in Becket Woods, Bob Gross had contacted Bill Ennen regarding the town's contract with the state which ends June 20, 2023. Bill Ennen conveyed that if Westfield shows documentation the town has either connected or has orders to connect (cold drops qualify) up to 70% of the premises, the State will fund the drop subsidy. If the only issue regarding completion of the network is the Becket Woods area, Bill believes he will be able to consider the project substantially complete and release the remaining funding to the town.

6. **SB to vote to approve Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival Inc. s Common Victuallers License for premises located at 358 George Carter Road, Becket, MA, 01223**

ML moved to issue a Common Victualler's License to Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Inc. for premises located at 358 George Carter Road, Becket effective 7/6/2022 through 1/15/2023. CS 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Approval of the July 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

CS moved to approve the July 6, 2022 minutes, ML 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

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

None.

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

ML moved to approve the Town Administrator's recommended listing of Transfers of Appropriations (Finance Committee approved on 7/7/2022), CS 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

ML moved to approve the Town Administrator's recommendation to transfer $2,000.00 from the Reserve Fund into the Board of Health fund (Finance Committee approved on 7/7/2022). CS 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Select Board to review Departmental Reports

- **Tba**

The SB reviewed departmental reports: Highway (May 2022 & June 2022), Fire (Summary of Inspections January 2022 through June 2022, Summary of departmental business, Dispatch breakdown January 2022 through June 2022) and Police (Violation breakdown January 2022 through June 2022, Offense Listing January 2022 through June 2022. BE stated that the SB awaits the Animal Control Officer's report.

11. Town Administrator's Report

Mark Webber is on the mend from COVID, is no longer contagious and will return to Town Hall next week.

12. Select Board's Comments and Announcements

Fire Chief Mikaniewicz and CS discussed recent emergency responses for injuries which occurred at the Quarry. CS will contact Brian Cruey, representative of the Trustees of Reservations (assumed ownership of the Becket Quarry) to request that Trustees of Reservations repair the road leading up to the Quarry to allow for better emergency service access. Fire Chief Mikaniewicz said he would not expect them to pave it, but he would like large rocks/logs removed, gravel added and improvements sufficient so that the brush truck or another all-wheel Subaru vehicle (not a larger vehicle such as an ambulance) will have a less treacherous ride.

CS reported that a citizen complained that a chairperson of one of the elected boards treated him/her poorly. The SB agreed that CS may privately talk to the chairperson to obtain his or her perspective to ascertain if this matter warrants SB attention.

BE shared his thoughts about a request he had received from a member of the Parks & Recreation Committee to remove a Pine Tree and several stones (ledge) from the Parade Grounds off YMCA Road: 1) Becket's Tree Warden would need to conduct a hearing because the Pine Tree is not dead. 2) He questions whether the National Parks Service needs to be consulted since the Parade Grounds are within the Becket Center Rural Historic District. 3) Would it be more appropriate to apply for Community Preservation Commission funding (Open Land category) for this endeavor since it is public land? 4) This is likely a complicated job due to ledge and the need to use fill. During discussion, Dave said to make it easier to mow, he will place topsoil to cover the exposed roots in the area near the Pine Tree and at the top of the hill by the monument.

BE reported that the new Town Mechanic repaired two items that the Highway Dept. was considering junking.

13. Any other business to come before the Board

BE reported that Dave Shorey came to him this week to discuss water (chlorine) testing at Mullen House. Since 2016, this has been part of Dave's daily seasonal responsibilities. Testing is needed when the Becket Arts Center is open since the Becket Arts Center shares the water system with Mullen house. Dave explained that it is too difficult for him to continue adjusting his schedule (including holidays, vacations) to fulfill this responsibility. Dave fielded questions and provided background regarding the chlorine testing. During the testing season, David conducts water testing and works full days Monday through Thursday and travels on Fridays,

Saturdays, and Sundays solely to conduct the test at Mullen House. Dave stated he prefers to eliminate this responsibility and he wishes to resume a Monday through Friday work week. As a courtesy, Dave wanted to provide sufficient notice so that arrangements may be in place before his August vacation. Dave anticipates that after BAC installs a new heating system it may expand operations, and there will be the potential that year-round testing will be required. Dave stated that certification is not required, and he can train others to perform this task.

Per CS's request, Dave agreed to continue testing Monday through Friday. The SB is amenable to finding others to conduct the testing over the weekend and to serve as Dave's backup. BE stated that he may know a local resident/former employee of Camp Becket who may be interested. Dave will contact BAC's Executive Director to ask if she or another BAC employee may be willing to conduct the testing. Dave will provide Mark Webber with an update on Tuesday.

CS moved to approve and sign the Warrant for the 2022 State Primary, ML 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

14. Correspondence/announcements:

- **2022.07.01, Zoning Board of Appeals notice of Public Hearing scheduled on August 2, 2022 re: Special Permit application from Donna M. DiCarlo to construct a pavilion at 345 Friar Tuck Drive (Map 216, Lots 546 & 547)**

The SB reviewed the above captioned communication.

15. Select Board to review and sign payable warrants

The SB reviewed and signed the payable warrants.

16. Select Board to adjourn the Meeting

ML moved to adjourn, CS 2nd: Motion carried 3-0. At 8:08pm, BE adjourned the meeting.

Signed by:

_____ / *August 6, 2022*

William H. Elovirta, *Chair* Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- 2022.07.20 Select Board Agenda
- 2022.07.06 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; e-mail from Eversource dated 7/19/22
- Reports as listed above - Agenda Item 10
- Correspondence as listed above - Agenda item 14
- Transfers of Appropriations Listing/approval, Reserve Fund Transfer approval