

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
6:00 PM, APRIL 5, 2023
TOWN HALL, 557 MAIN ST. BECKET

Attendees:

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

Staff: Katherine A. Warden (KW), Town Administrator; Susan Crossley (SC) taking minutes for Beverly Gilbert

Others: Finance Committee: Dan Parnell on Zoom, Chuck Garman, Mark Karlberg, Ann Spadafora, and Ron DeFoe. AJ Pietrantonte representing Jacobs Pillow, Jeff Piemont, Bob Gross and Robin Mathiesson on Zoom

1. **The Chairperson will call the Select Board meeting to order.**
BE calls the meeting to order at 6:02pm and indicates the SB is recording the meeting.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
BE leads the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **BE informs the room that Item 3 in regards to Executive Session will be postponed until the next meeting.**
4. **BE informs the room that Item 4 will also be postponed until the next meeting.**
5. **Police Chief and Town Administrator request the appointing of Dominic Crupi to be a reserve officer**
Chief McDonough and KW both spoke in favor. ML made the motion to approve CS seconds; Motion carried unanimously.
6. **Items 6& 7 moved until after Item 11.**

Finance Committee goes back into session with the Select Board at 6:09 pm.

7. **Administrator's input/summary regarding budget. (8)**
KW discusses putting together an article to establish a road stabilization fund. Dan Parnell of the Finance Committee discusses that it can be also used for equipment as long as the Town follows Chapter 90 guidelines. Be it said it should be stated as according to Chapter 90 regulations. Dan Parnell Agrees that sounds good.
8. **Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Discussion and possible votes**
Article 1: Compensation
SB: ML makes the motion to accept the language as written CS seconds; Motion carries unanimously
FC: Dan Parnell makes the motion Chuck Garman seconds; Motion carries unanimously

Article 2: Operating Budget

SB: CS makes the motion to accept with the understanding some figures may Change a little ML seconds; Motion carries unanimously

FC: Dan Parnell makes the motion Chuck Garman seconds; Motion carries Unanimously

Article 3: Debt Service

CS asks when Broadband will start to show a profit. Jeff Piemont states they Should have more information by the fall.

ML makes the motion to accept the language as written CS seconds. Motion Carries unanimously

FC: Dan Parnell makes the motion Chuck Garman seconds: Motion carries Unanimously

Article 4: Capital Expenditures

BE lets the boards know that the Payment of FY22 Invoices will need its own Article.

SB: CS makes a motion to accept the article as written except for the Payment of FY 22 Invoices ML seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously

FC: Dan Parnell makes the motion to accept with the adjustment of the FY22 Invoices Chuck Garman seconds. Motion carries unanimously

Vote is taken to add another Article to pay the FY22 Invoices

SB: CS makes the motion to add an Article to the Warrant for the FY22 Invoices.

ML seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously

FC: Dan Parnell makes the same motion for the FC Chuck Garman seconds. Motion carries unanimously

Article 5: Stabilization Fund

SB: CS makes the motion to accept the Article as written ML seconds. Motion Carries unanimously

FC: Dan Parnell makes the motion to accept the Article as written Chuck Garman Seconds. Motion carries unanimously

Article 6: Acceptance of Chapter 90 Funds

SB: ML makes the motion to accept the Article as written CS seconds. Motion Carries unanimously

FC: Dan Parnell makes the motion to accept as written Chuck Garman seconds Motion carries unanimously

Article 7: Ambulance Budget

SB: CS makes the motion to accept the Article as written ML seconds. Motion Carries unanimously

FC: Dan Parnell makes the motion to accept as written Chuck Garman seconds Motion carries unanimously

Article 8: Ambulance Stabilization

SB: ML makes the motion to accept the Article as written CS seconds. Motion Carries unanimously

FC: Dan Parnell makes the motion to accept as written Chuck Garman seconds Motion carries unanimously

Article 9: Revolving Funds

SB: CS makes the motion to accept the Article as written ML seconds. Motion Carries unanimously

FC: Dan Parnell makes the motion to accept as written Chuck Garman seconds

Motion carries unanimously.

Article 10: FY 2023 Community Preservation

SB: ML makes a motion to accept the Article as written CS seconds. Motion

Carries unanimously. BE asks KW to put a total amount on the Article

FC: no vote since it doesn't affect the Budget per Dan Parnell

Article 11: Community Funding for Recreational Land-Esau Walking Path Extension & Bridge Building

SB: ML makes a motion to accept the Article as written CS seconds. Motion Carries unanimously.

FC: no vote

Article 12: Community Preservation Funding for Historical Purposes - Town Hall Cupola Restoration

SB: CS makes the motion to accept the Article as written. BE seconds ML abstains BE and CS vote aye. ML recuses himself

FC: no vote

Article 13: Community Preservation Funding – Community Housing – 50 Dawn Dr.

SB: CS makes the motion to accept the Article as written ML seconds. Motion Carries unanimously

FC: no vote

Article 14: Community Preservation Funding – Undesignated Funds for Becket Arts Center

SB: ML makes the motion to accept the Article as written. CS seconds. Motion Carries unanimously

FC: no vote

Article 15: Community Preservation Funding – Affordable Rental Housing Development in Lenox MA

SB: ML makes the motion for the board not to recommend this Article CS Seconds. Motion carries unanimously

FC: Dan Parnell makes the motion for the Finance Committee not to Recommend this Article Chuck Garman seconds. Motion carries unanimously Dan Parnell wants to make sure this Article is carefully explained to the voters

Article 16: Select Board Petition to Establish a Local Excise Tax on Short Term Rental Properties

After much discussion between the Select Board and Finance Committee CS Wants to make sure the pros and cons are explained very thoroughly to the Voters. Dan Parnell brings up the issue that there are not many options from the State to raise money for the Town.

SB: CS makes the motion to accept the Article as written BE seconds ML abstains Chairperson calls for a vote CS aye, BE aye, ML abstains from voting. Motion Carries.

FC: Dan Parnell makes the motion to accept the Article as written Chuck Garman Seconds. Motion carries unanimously

Article 17: Citizens Petition

Article 18: Citizens Petition

No vote needed by Select Board or Finance Committee on Article 17 or 18

Finance Committee adjourns their portion of the meeting at 7:15

9. **Select Board goes back to # 6 on the Agenda Highway Superintendent and Town Administrator request the hiring of Robert Scolforo to the position of Buildings and Grounds Technician.**

ML makes the motion to hire Mr. Scolforo CS seconds the motion. Chairperson Calls for a vote ML aye, CS aye, BE aye, motion to hire carries unanimously.

Bob Gross spoke to the Board about the Broadband in Becket Woods. There is an amendment to Agreement that the Town is not providing any additional funds to them. Any remediation or new work to be done is Becket Woods responsibility. Becket Woods has decided that they will not bring the plant up to the way it was originally designed. They only will provide minimum service to everyone in the community. For any future homes the make ready expense will be theirs. The board has a copy of the agreement and asks that it be put on the next Agenda to go over. Discussion was also had on when Broadband would be profitable.

10. Item 13 on Agenda - SB to review and vote on Seasonal Licenses

M.D.A., Inc d/b/a Berkshire Berries (Manager: David Graves), to operate at 650 Jacobs Ladder Road-Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverages Package Store license
Camp Lenox, Inc. d/b/a Camp Lenox (Manager: Morgan Moss) to operate at 2034 N. Main Rd. –Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverages General On-Premises and Common Victuallers licenses

Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival Inc. (manager: Ryan Cummings) to operate at 358 George Carter Rd.- Seasonal All Alcoholic Restaurant On Premis, and Common Victuallers licenses

CS makes the motion to approve the seasonal licenses ML seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

11. Going back to item #7 on Agenda. Signing the contracts for Werden Rd. bridge and McNerney Rd. project

KW explains that when the SB votes to award projects they also need to have a vote to allow the chair to sign the contracts. KW needs a vote to allow the chair to sign the Werden Rd. Bridge and McNerney Rd. contracts.

ML makes the motion CS seconds. Chair calls for a vote all in favor motion carries unanimously

12. Public Input - No Public Input.

13. Adelson & Company FY 2021 audit

CS makes the motion to have Adelson & Company do the FY2021 audit ML seconded the motion. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

14. Select Board to discuss offering employee Vision Plan Insurance

KW explains it won't cost the Town any money and would like to put in for the next year.

ML makes the motion to approve offering the Vision Plan Insurance CS seconds the motion

Chairperson calls for a vote motion carries unanimously. The Plan provider would like to come and explain the plans to the employees and retirees.

15. Select Board to subordinate 3309 Main Street mortgage.

ML makes the motion to subordinate the grant as written CS seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

16. Department Reports and Town Administrator Reports. No reports to go over.

17. Select Board Comments and Announcements:

Discussion is held about people who have property in Becket but do not live and can't get Beach permits and Transfer Station permits.

Board will table until next meeting

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by CS seconded by ML. Motion carries unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susan A. Crossley, Planning Board Administrative Assistant



William H. Elovirta, Chair

4/19/2023

Date Approved