SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, April 19, 2023
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, 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; Beverly Gilbert (BG), Administrative Assistant Kris McDonough, Police Chief;

Others: Crispina Swindlehurst, Andy McDowell, Scott Levy, Sarah Clapper, Daniel Osman, Jason Wells, & Mary F. Courtney

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

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

3. **Possible Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (2) To conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Employment Agreement between the Town of Becket and Police Chief Kristopher McDonough. The Chair shall publicly announce that the open session will reconvene at the conclusion of the Executive Session.**
   CS moved to enter into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (2) To conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Employment Agreement between the Town of Becket and Police Chief Kristopher McDonough, and the Select Board will return to regular session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. ML 2nd. Roll call: William Elovirta – yes, Chris Swindlehurst – yes, and Michael Lavery – yes. At 7:15pm, the SB entered into Executive Session.

   At 7:22pm, the SB returned to open meeting.

4. **Select Board to vote to approve the Employment Agreement between the Town of Becket and Police Chief McDonough.**
   CS moved to approve the Employment Agreement between the Town of Becket and Police Chief McDonough for Fiscal Year 2024 through Fiscal Year 2026. ML 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **7:05 p.m. Public Hearing on the application of DREAMAWAY INC. d/b/a DREAM AWAY LODGE for Transfer its Annual All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant License to THE DREAMAWAY LODGE RESTAURANT LLC d/b/a THE DREAM AWAY LODGE. The address of the premise is 1342 County Rd., MA 01223 (Assessors Map 401, Lot 4).**
   BE read the Public Hearing notice for the above captioned. At 7:05pm, BE commenced the Public Hearing. Attorney Mary Courtney, representing the applicant, spoke on behalf of the liquor license transfer application and indicated that she is available to answer any questions. She stated that all required documents have been submitted in the license application. Moreover, notices have been mailed to abutters, and a public hearing notice was published, and they do not know of opposition. CS indicated that he is a longstanding friend of Daniel Osman, Manager of the Dream Away Lodge, and he has no financial

interest in this matter. Sarah Clapper and Crispina Swindlehurst attended to demonstrate their support of the application. There were no other comments offered at this hearing. ML moved to approve and submit to the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission Dreamaway Inc. d/b/a Dream Away Lodge's application for Transfer of its Annual All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant License to The Dreamaway Lodge Restaurant LLC d/b/a The Dream Away Lodge., CS 2nd: Motion carried unanimously. ML moved to close the public hearing, CS 2nd: Motion carried unanimously. BE closed the public hearing at 7:09pm.

6. **Broadband Update and Select Board to discuss and possibly vote on policies and decisions relating to the Broadband Project. MLP Manager to discuss Becket Woods with the Select Board: possible vote.**
The MLP Manager Bob Gross had communicated that Becket Woods Community Association, Inc. has determined that they will undertake the Broadband Project Work and resulting Broadband Infrastructure in a manner changed from what was originally listed in the 5/1/2020 Agreement for Installation of Broadband Network in Becket Woods. Bob Gross had provided an amendment to the agreement: Becket Woods will be responsible for the costs affiliated with the changes. CS moved to sign an amendment to the 5/10/2020 agreement between the Town of Becket and Becket Woods regarding Broadband, ML 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

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

8. **Select Board to review Jacob Pillow's request to schedule a Free Pop-up performance for Jacob's Pillow On The Road 5pm-6pm, on July 15th at the North Becket Park.**
Jason Wells, Jacob's Pillow's Technical Director, discussed Jacob's Pillow's request to conduct their annual Free Pop-up On The Road performance on July 15th at the North Becket Park. The Select Board indicated that JP is welcome to offer this summer event. They suggested for Jason to reach out to the Parks & Recreation Committee so that they are aware that this is scheduled.

9. **Discussion and potential vote re: policies relating to issuing Transfer Station and Beach permits**
KW forwarded a letter Alan Runge, Becket property (land only) owner, sent her expressing that as a tax payer, despite that his land does not have dwelling on it, he should be allowed to access the Transfer Station and Town Beach. The SB will discuss the Beach Permit policy on May 17th. Due to concerns about the potential for significant increases in solid & bulky waste (and cost increases), the SB determined that they will not veer away from the SB's August 1st, 2018 Transfer Station policy vote stating that Becket does not issue Transfer Station permits to Becket properties not containing dwellings.

10. **Select Board to discuss and potential vote to strip and scrap the old Ambulance Car**
Due to that the 2013 Ford Explorer is unsafe (rotted frame), and cannot pass inspection, the SB agreed to allow KW to remove the light bar and radios, and scrap it.

11. **Select Board to vote to approve for Ann Krawet and James Levy to swap Planning Board related positions: Ann Krawet to resign from Alternate Planning Board Representative to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and she will serve as Planning Board's Representative to the Community Preservation Committee. James Levy to resign from the Community Preservation Committee and he will serve as the**

Alternate Planning Board Representative to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.
The SB scheduled discussion of this agenda item for June 7th, after the Town Election.

12. Approval of Meeting Minutes
CS moved to approve the minutes for the April 5, 2023 and March 22, 2023 meetings, ML 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Select Board to review Departmental Reports
- **Building Inspector's March 2023**
- **TBA**

The SB reviewed the Building Inspector's March 2023 report.

14. Town Administrator's Report
- KW, on behalf of the Town, accepted a community aggregation bid (along with the other 18 communities of Berkshire County), to buy electricity from Dynegy, 24 months, standard is .13489 (This standard electric supply meets MA requirement of 62% renewable) and an optional which is .14000 (this option of electric supply is the 62% plus 38% wind). These will go into effect in January 2024.
- The Town received a META Grant for $9,361 to hire a consultant to investigate energy demand reduction strategies at public facilities.
- KW provided an attachment - the Treasurer update for the tax title accounts.
- KW continued discussion re: Text My Gov, an alert program that would send out messages via a texting platform. The start-up cost is approximately $3,500 with no set up fee. KW had reached out to other communities. They are using either using their website or Blackboard which is more limited compared to Text My Gov. KW wants a tool that we can use to notify everyone (who signs up) about many things, not just emergencies. KW stated that people are more receptive to a text then having to look up on the website. With the two road projects that will be going on this summer, Text My Gov could be invaluable to keep people updated on road access. The SB agreed to try Text My Gov
- The Sergeant's position has been posted
- Vacation Rollover (for the next fiscal year) protocol – The SB agreed to allow up to five vacation days rollover barring extenuating circumstances.

15. Select Board's Comments and Announcements
CS emailed KW information regarding a Biden for Energy Grant. (possibilities: solar field or wind turbine project).

ML provided photographs for decorative plaques for the wall at Esau's Heel Trail (CPA funding used toward this).

BE brought up a collapsed structures located at Benton Hill Road and Maple Street that he suggests bringing to the attention of the Zoning Enforcement Officer. ML advised there is sign for muffler repair near the Route 8 Pub.

16. Any other business to come before the Board
KW discussed Town Counsel's comments regarding the Annual Town Meeting Warrant:
- ML moved to remove Article 17 (CPA funding for an affordable housing project in Lenox, MA), CS 2nd. Motion carried unanimously. The SB decided to remove Article 17 due to that the Community Preservation Committee voted to not recommend this article concerning providing Community Preservation funding to support an

affordable housing project in Lenox, MA. According to MGL Chapter 44B, Section 5(b)(2), Community Preservation Act funds may only be expended if recommended by the CPA Committee.

- Under Article 4 Capital Expenditures, KW will obtain the motion from bond counsel for $350,000 borrowing for the HighwayFY24 Western Start 47x
- Article 2: KW will remove Town & School Debt Service line item 123 due to that it is listed in Article 3 (Debt Service) and should not appear twice.

CS moved to approve the ATM Warrant with changes discussed and incorporated. ML 2nd: Motion carried unanimously.

17. Correspondence:

- **2023.03.28 Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commission – David Johnson completed eight units of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commission's Fundamentals for Massachusetts Conservation Commissioners training program and received a certificate of achievement**
- **2023.03.28 Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commission – Henry Scarpo completed eight units of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commission's Fundamentals for Massachusetts Conservation Commissioners training program and received a certificate of achievement**
- **2023.03.31 Zoning Board of Appeals, notice of Public Hearing scheduled on May 2nd to review a Special Permit Application submitted by Kenneth Boudreau and Romona Mansfield 177 East Shore Road. The applicants seek relief from Section 3.4.5 of the Becket Zoning Bylaws for reconstruction of an existing nonconforming structure.**

The SB reviewed the above communications, and sent letters of commendation to David Johnson and Henry Scarpo for their accomplishment.

18. Select Board to review and sign payable warrants

The SB reviewed and signed payable warrants.

19. Select Board to adjourn the Meeting.

ML moved to adjourn, CS 2nd: Motion carried unanimously. BE adjourned the meeting at 8:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*

Signed by:

William H. Elovirta / *April 19, 2023*

William H. Elovirta, *Chair* Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- Select Board Agenda
- 2023.03.22 & 2023.04.05 Select Board Meeting Minutes
- Correspondence listed agenda item 18, and letters of commendation to David Johnson and Henry Scarpo
- Town Administrator's report
- Departmental Report(s) – agenda item 13
- Bid sheet from Franklin Regional Council of Governments IFB 2023-2069
- Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant

- photographs for decorative plaques for the wall at Esau's Heel Trail
- 2023.04.05 Letter from Alan Runge regarding Transfer Station and Beach Policies
- 2023.04.12 e-mail – Thasia Giles regarding Inquiry for Jacob's Pillow On The Road
- Employment Agreement between the Town of becket and its Chief of Police FY22024-2026
- 2023.03.27 E-mail from Planning Board Administrative Assistant regarding Switching CPC and BRPC Rep. positions