SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, March 3, 2021
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees

Select Board (SB): William Elovirta (BE), *Chairperson*; Chris Swindlehurst (CS), *Clerk*
Remote participation: Michael Lavery (ML), *Vice Chairperson;*

Staff: William Caldwell (BC), *Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert (BG), Administrative Assistant

Others: Bob Gross, MLP Manager, Lukas Horn
Remote participation: Michael Marcus, Eila May Bell (Parks & Recreation Committee)

1. **Call to order**
   BE called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He indicated that the SB was recording the meeting.

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

3. **Select Board to entertain Town Beach Discussion with Parks & Recreation Committee and with the owners of Camp Greylock**
   Lukas Horn and Michael Marcus, owners of Camp Greylock, discussed the Town Beach property with the SB and it was agreed that there will be a lease agreement between Camp Greylock and the Town of Becket.

4. **Broadband Update and Select Board to discuss and possibly vote on policies and decisions relating to the Broadband Project**
   MLP Manager Bob Gross explained the items within an Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement/Service Drop Installation Contract between City of Westfield Gas & Electric Light Department and Town of Becket Massachusetts Municipal Light Plant: This document relates to consultations for the drops.

   Bob Gross discussed Broadband Project Policies.

   BE moved to adopt the revised policy entitled The Process for Monitoring and Colleting Drop Costs in Excess of the $2,000 Town Subsidy During the Construction Period [this vote excluded the following language in the last paragraph "and will be included in the next monthly bill"]. CS 2nd: unanimous.

   CS moved to adopt the FTTH (Fiber to the Home) Installation Guidelines – Underground drops: ML 2nd: unanimous.

   The Select Board tabled voting on Policy Regarding Network Extensions.

5. **Approval of the February 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes**
CS moved to approve the 2/17/2021 meeting minutes: ML 2nd: unanimous.

6. **Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person, 20 minutes total for this agenda item).**
There were no public input matters discussed.

7. **Police Chief McDonough to discuss department staffing.**
Police Chief McDonough discussed recently passed legislation's financial and staffing impact on the Police Department. He explained that his FY22 budget submission will include a recommendation to increase the number of full-time Police Officers. ML moved to send Senator Hinds and Representative Pignatelli a letter conveying the Select Board's concerns regarding recently passed police reform legislation, CS 2nd: unanimous.

8. **Select Board to consider approving the Town Administrator's recommendation to appoint Daniel McClellan Probationary Part-time/Reserve Officer effective March 3, 2021 through June 30, 2022.**
Police Chief McDonough introduced Daniel McClellan and spoke in support of employing him on Becket's Police force. Mr. McClellan graduated with a BA in Criminal Justice from Westfield State University, he completed the WMCOPA reserve academy in July 2020, and is employed as a part-time police officer in the Town of Tolland. CS moved to approve the Town Administrator's recommendation to appoint Daniel McClellan Probationary Part-time/Reserve Officer effective March 3, 2021 through June 30, 2020 (BG indicated the agenda erroneously listed 2022): MS 2nd: unanimous.

9. **Select Board to acknowledgement Cindy Delpapa's resignation from the Conservation Commission effective February 23, 2021.**
After acknowledging Ms. Cindy Delpapa's resignation from the Conservation Commission effective February 23, 2021, the Select Board signed a letter of appreciation to Ms. Delpapa.

10. **Select Board to review and possibly vote on Appointment Application:**
    - **George E. Roberts - Conservation Commission (effective March 3, 2021 through June 30, 2022)**

    ML moved to appoint George E. Roberts to the Conservation Commission effective March 3, 2021 through June 30, 2022: CS 2nd: unanimous.

11. **Select Board to review Departmental Reports**
    - **Highway Superintendent – February 2021**

    The Select Board also received the reports from the Building Inspector, Animal Control Officer and Police Department. BC indicated that Truck 6 is down and will require a full engine rebuild (estimated cost $20,000) and the town spent $20,000 to repair Truck 4.

12. Town Administrator's Report
CS provided an update of several items that he has been working on:
- Complete Streets – Tier 2: prioritization plan
- DER Grant – BETA engineering – Benton Hill. Will assist in application for final design and permitting.
- Annual Reports: All reports have been submitted.
- MVP Grant – To become more competitive, Becket and Chester will likely submit a joint application.
- Green Communities Grant – Streetlight conversion (will wait for fall). BC is researching companies that may partner with the town to conduct a wind study. The current Green Communities grant has not officially closed out.
- Community One Stop – grant portal – CS will apply for MassWorks grant Complete Streets to assist McNerney Road re-pavement
- CDBG – Becket, Dalton, Sheffield, Stockbridge Grant has been approved (Dalton financial lead) – The ADA portion receives funding from the Mass. Office of Disability. The grant will need to be amended for the ADA segment.
- Budget decisions (gave selectmen budget sheet):
  - Transfer Station – Thursdays
    - $6,000 savings if the town does not operate on Thursdays
    - Maintain 3 people per day (instead of 2) – The Select Board agreed to continue operating the Transfer Station year-round on Tuesdays and Saturdays only.
  - Ambulance – paramedic level. Was initially discussed @ Finance. Ambulance budget would increase by $25,000. Could be offset by adding additional ambulance revenue and small input from stabilization
  - Police Reform – full-time officer. Budgeted increase already in proposed budget due to injured officer.
  - BC will increase the proposed Health Insurance budget due to match increases in the proposed budget items that include an increase in the number of full-time public safety personnel
  - CSBRD School operating budget - 4.6 percent increase
  - Potential regional efforts (ambulance) – possibly with the Town of Otis.

13. **Select Board's Comments and Announcements**
CS stated that at last night's Fire Dept.'s meeting, there was mention that the town had previously on occasion allowed the Cub Scouts use of the town's tax exempt identification number to accept donations. BE mentioned that based on former town Counselor Sally Bell's recommendation, the town set up its tax exempt identification number to include the Fire Department. CS stated that due to that allowing outside charitable entities use of the town's tax exempt identification number can expose the town to lawsuits, the town should not entertain this practice.

ML: On March 17th, the Community Preservation Committee will conduct a public hearing and one of the items will include his application for funding Esau's Heel Trail. The CPC has not yet elected a new chair.

14. **Any other business to come before the Board**
No discussion occurred under this agenda item.

15. **Correspondence:**
   - **20201.02.22 MassDOT (signed by Gov. and Lt. Gov.): pending final passage of the bond authorization, Becket's Chapt. 90 apportionment for FY2021 is $235,934.00**

The Select Board reviewed the above captioned correspondence.

16. **Select Board to review and sign payable warrants.**
The Select Board reviewed and signed the payable warrants.

17. **Select Board to adjourn the Meeting**
CS moved to adjourn, ML 2nd: unanimous. At 8:36pm, BE adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Administrative Assistant

Signed by:

_____ / *March 17, 2021*
William Elovirta, *Chairperson* Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:
- 2021.03.03 Town Administrator's Report
- 2021.02.17 Select Board Minutes
- 2021.02.24 David Johnson e-mail to BC forwarding Cindy Delpapa's e-mail resigning from the Conservation Commission
- 2021.03.03 Select Board's letter of appreciation to Cindy Delpapa
- 2021.02.25 letter from Police Chief McDonough to BC to recommend appointment of Daniel McClellan
- 2021.03.03 Police Reform Letter to Sen. Hinds and Rep. Pignatelli
- Correspondence (See agenda item 15)
- 2021.02.24 Appointment Application George Roberts - Conservation Commission
- Departmental Reports: ACO January & February 2021 reports; BC Sheriff's Office Call Analysis for 2021; PD Violation Breakdown 1-1-2021 through 2-28-21; Highway Dept. February 2021 report Town of Becket; Building Inspector's February 2021 Report
- Broadband Documents: 1) Policy Regarding Network Extensions 2) Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement/Service Drop Installation Contract between City of Westfield Gas & Electric Light Department and Town of Becket Massachusetts Municipal Light Plant 3) The Process for Monitoring and Colleting Drop Costs in Excess of the $2,000 Town Subsidy During the Construction Period 4) FTTH (Fiber to the Home) Installation Guidelines – Underground drops