

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, September 20, 2023
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees

Select Board (SB): Chris Swindlehurst (CS), *Vice-Chair*; Jeff Piemont (JP), *Clerk*

Absent: William Elovirta (BE), *Chair*

Staff: Katherine A. Warden (KW), Town Administrator; Beverly Gilbert (BG), Administrative Assistant;

Others: A.J. Pietrantone, Deputy Director – Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival

Remote: Laurie Friedman and Lei Anne Ellis

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

CS called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He indicated the SB was recording the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

CS led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

A.J. Pietrantone, Deputy Director – Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, expressed appreciation for the town’s cooperation and support which contributed to a successful summer season at Jacob’s Pillow.

4. Approval of the 9/6/2023 and 9/7/2023 Minutes

CS moved to approve the 9/6/2023 and 9/7/2023 minutes. JP 2nd: Motion carried.

5. Select Board to vote on Appointment Application: Bob Gross to serve on the Bylaw Review Committee effective through 6/30/2026

CS moved to appoint Bob Gross to the Bylaw Review Committee effective 9/20/23 through 6/30/26. JP 2nd: Motion carried. The SB expressed that they appreciate Bob Gross’s willingness to volunteer in various capacities to assist the town.

6. Select Board to review Departmental Reports

The SB received the following reports: Police Dept. Statistics through 8/31/2023, and Highway Department’s activity 8/1/2023 through 8/25/2023.

7. Town Administrator’s Report

KW reported on the following:

- Esau Heel’s Trail – KW has spoken with KP Law who is researching the land taking. At this time we do not need to survey the entire parcel: just the land we want to set aside for the Town’s future needs (i.e. municipal buildings, etc.). KW will continue to keep the SB apprised so that the SB can arrange to include an article on the next town meeting re: designating the trail to Parks & Recreation.
- Lightning Rod project – KW received a quote for \$13,272 and applied/received a \$10,000 grant through MIIA. Broadband and the Town will each pay \$1,636.

- MassDOT is ready to fix the water/ice issue at the intersection of Route 20 and Wells Rd. KW awaits Sherwood Forest Road District Committee's response: SFRD needs to sign two right of entry documents. MassDOT will create swales on both sides of Wells Road to prevent water and ice accumulation at that intersection
- KW started Course 2 of the MCPPO Certification. Some days she will have a "Do not disturb" sign on her door so that she may take the modules.
- CS and JP advised they will attend the MMA Legislative Breakfast at Town Hall on Oct 13th.

8. Select Board's Comments and Announcements

JP indicated that due to continued conflicts between SB meetings and WiredWest meetings, he is no longer able to attend WiredWest meetings, so he has resigned as the town's WiredWest Alternate Delegate. JP understands that Broadband Ad Hoc Group member Jeremy Dunn (former WiredWest Delegate) is willing to take his place (Discussion of this appointment will appear on the SB's 10/4).

CS inquired about the status of recent road projects. KW advised: 1) the town is on the list for fall line painting of McNerney Road; 2) The Highway Superintendent met with a contractor to obtain quotes for guardrails for McNerney Road; 3) Werden Road is completed. JP asked about response to questions after the 9/7 site visit. KW had forwarded the contractor's e-mail outlining that work performed on McNerney followed MassDOT specs and the Highway Superintendent may add softening of the shoulder in several areas.

CS followed up on scheduling department heads to meet quarterly with the SB. KW advised that she will target commencing this on 10/18 because the SB's 10/4 SB agenda is rather full.

CS advised that the Volunteer Fire Dept. Association will pay \$2,500 to purchase a used SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) air compressor (cost new \$50,000) in excellent condition (only has 180 hours of use), from Granby, CT to replace the Fire Dept.'s outdated compressor.

CS requested for the town to upgrade Fire Station 2's (629 Jacobs Ladder Road) electrical service to a three-phase system to include the generator and compressor. It was agreed that CS will deal directly with the electrician.

9. Any other business to come before the Board

Per BG's inquiry, CS will inform the SB if the Volunteer Fire Dept. has a community event for Halloween 2023.

BG confirmed with the SB that she may post on the website community calendar: "Trick or Treat in Becket is on Oct. 31st, 5pm till 7pm. Those wishing to receive Trick or Treaters are asked to leave an outside light on."

10. Correspondence/announcements:

None

11. Select Board to review and sign payable warrants

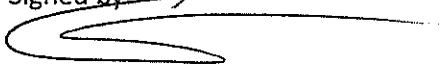
The Select board reviewed and signed the payable warrants.

12. Select Board to adjourn the meeting

JP moved to adjourn the meeting, CS 2nd: Motion carried. At 7:28pm, CS adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*

Signed by:



_____/ October 4, 2023
Chris Swindlehurst, Vice *Chairperson* Date Approved

Meeting documents:

- Agenda
- Town Administrator's Report,
- 9/6/2023 and 9/7/2023 Meeting Minutes
- Departmental reports – as listed
- Bob Gross Appointment Application