SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, October 18, 2023
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees

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

Staff: Beverly Gilbert (BG), Administrative Assistant Remote: Robin Mathiesen, Town Clerk

Others: Vickie DeLorenzo, Bob Alaire, Planning Board Chairperson Bob Ronzio Remote: Al Blake

1. **The Chairperson will call the Select Board meeting to order.**
   BE called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He indicated the SB was recording the meeting.

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

3. **Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person, 20 minutes total for this agenda item).**
   Bob Alaire invited the SB to attend a Stargazing Party at his home on November 4th. Becket resident/amateur astronomer Destin Heilman will moderate this event. The Becket Dark Sky Committee (not a municipal committee) is co-sponsoring this event. Mr. Alaire indicated that the committee promotes awareness of outdoor lighting impacts and offers practices to limit dangerous glare and damages to the environment.

   Vickie DeLorenzo brought up that several individuals who used the Vrbo on-line application to stay at a Becket Bed & Breakfast establishment during October were not assessed the Local Short Term Rental Excise. The SB suggested for BG to inquire about this with the Department of Revenue.

4. **SB to vote on appointment application: Vickie DeLorenzo to serve on the Bylaw Review Committee effective 10/4/2023 through 6/30/2026**
   CS moved to appoint Vickie DeLorenzo to serve on the Bylaw Review Committee effective 10/4/2023 through 6/30/2026. JP 2nd; Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Approval of the 10/4/2023 Minutes**
   The SB tabled this item until the 11/1/2023 meeting.

6. **Select Board to review Departmental Reports**
   - **Police Dept. Statistics through 9/30/2023**

   The SB reviewed the above captioned report.

7. **Select Board's Comments and Announcements**
   CS commented that he has noticed and appreciates that the Highway Department has been cleaning culverts which is a proactive measure for road maintenance.

JP complimented the Highway Department for the smooth conditions of the dirt roads, and he encourages the Highway Department to keep up the fine work.

BE reported the Town Administrator and Town Treasurer informed him that the town recently approved payables for approximately $1.5 million dollars. This includes the McNerney Road project invoices. The town awaits previously approved state funding to defray a significant portion of those expenses. Due to potential lag-time, there is a slight chance the town may need to arrange for short-term borrowing.

8. **Any other business to come before the Board**
   The SB discussed scheduling separate working meetings:
   - Esau Heel's Trail working meeting will be scheduled in November. JP will send BG and the Town Administrator a list of questions for Town Counsel. The questions relate to ownership of the parcels and potential financial exposure. Based on the answers, JP may ask the Treasurer to prepare a listing of parcels and their redemption amounts (back taxes, interest, and penalties). JP is concerned about committing resources to the trail before knowing the town's exposure. BG asked if the SB wanted this to be a joint meeting with other boards/committees. The SB clarified that this working meeting will be SB only. The Town Administrator may invite town counsel to attend the meeting by zoom.
   - Draft Street Acceptance Policies. The SB will schedule a working meeting in 2024 after the holidays.

9. **Correspondence/announcements:**
   The SB reviewed James P. Levy's letter of resignation from the Planning Board received by the Town Clerk today. Mr. Levy's term expires May 2026. Discussion ensued with the SB and Planning Board Chairperson Bob Ronzio. The SB and Planning Board are responsible for appointing a member of the Planning Board to serve until the May 2024 Annual Town Election. JP asked Mr. Ronzio if the Associate Member could serve as a regular member until the Annual Town Election. Mr. Ronzio indicated that the Associate Member conveyed to him her preference to remain an Associate Member. The SB and Planning Board Chairperson Bob Ronzio agreed the SB will post this position with 11/7/2023 for the application deadline. The Select Board and Planning Board will discuss all submissions and anticipate voting (roll call vote) on this appointment on November 15, 2023. The SB signed a letter addressed to Mr. Levy to acknowledge his resignation.

10. **Select Board to review and sign payable warrants**
    The SB reviewed and signed payable warrants.

11. **Select Board to adjourn the Meeting**
    CS moved to adjourn. JP 2nd: Motion carried unanimously. At 7:51pm, BE adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant*

Signed by:

_____ / *November 1, 2023*

William H. Elovirta, *Chairperson* Date Approved

Meeting documents:

- Agenda
- Departmental reports – as listed
- James P. Levy's letter of resignation. SB's letter to James P. Levy to acknowledge the resignation
- Notes re: Planning Board Duties
- Appointment application: Vickie DeLorenzo – Bylaw Review Committee