

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, March 17, 2021
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees

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

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

Others: Bob Gross, MLP Manager; Adele Levine, Becket Arts Center; Jake Tonlino, Tonlino & Sons Crushed Stone, LLC **Remote participation:** Destin Heilman; Robert Benton; James Schaefer; Jenn Beatty, Becket Arts Center; Kathy Dickinson; Mary Manning, Becket Arts Center; Larisa Shpitalnik

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. Broadband Update and Select Board to discuss and possibly vote on policies and decisions relating to the Broadband Project

MLP Manager Bob Gross discussed the Policy Regarding Network Extensions and an affiliated letter which will be sent to homeowners that do not want the town to do work on their property. ML moved to adopt the Policy Regarding Network Extensions and to approve the affiliated letter to homeowners who do not want the town to do work on their property. CS 2nd: unanimous.

Bob updated the Select Board on Broadband Ad Hoc Group's discussions relating to policy re: Business/Residential determination and discussions with WiredWest/WCF's Suspension (Reactivation) and Cancellation of Service policies which include Broadband and Telephone components

4. Approval of the 3/3/21 Meeting Minutes

CS moved to approve the 3/3/21 meeting minutes: ML 2nd: unanimous.

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

There were no public input items.

6. Destin Heilman and Robert Benton's proposal to review the regulation of engine braking in the Town of Becket and a proposal to review the speed limit on Algeria and Bonny Rigg Hill Roads

Rob Benton and Destin Heilman asked the Select Board to help arrive at solutions to mitigate truck noise and speeding on Bonny Rigg Hill and Algeria Roads. They discussed a proposal they sent to the Select Board and they described their distress about the impact the truck noise has on their quality of life as well as their concern about pedestrian/bicyclist safety. Town Administrator, former Highway Superintendent Chris Bouchard, Police Chief and Jake Tonlino also participated in the discussion. BE indicated that he had shared Rob and Destin's proposal with his son Jake Elovirta, who retired as Chief of Truck Safety and Enforcement in VT and is now employed by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance as its Director of Enforcement Programs. During discussion, BE passed along Jake Elovirta's comments that may be considered.

Chief McDonough explained that enforcement is complicated. He also indicated that the town does not have the staffing to concentrate its patrol in one area. Moreover, getting a violation to stick in court is oftentimes not easy. Courts often dismiss many violations for a variety of technical reasons.

Rob and Destin indicated that they had reached out to William Stone Quarry and Tonlino and Sons to ask if they would ask their drivers to lay off the compression brakes.

Jake Tonlino indicated that he does not favor an ordinance restricting brake use. He agrees that some truckers are inconsiderate and do not have proper mufflers. CS agreed that some truckers use compression brakes when they are not needed.

BE stated that he wonders if the town could be held liable if it were to enact an ordinance that restricts compression brakes.

Rob Benton explained that for many it is necessary to walk or ride a bicycle on Algeria and Bonny Rigg Hill Roads as part of the route to access Seneca Lake.

BE brought up that pedestrians should walk single file against traffic: on many occasions he has seen these safety rules disobeyed on Algeria and Bonny Rigg Hill Roads. Rob said he will get the word out about this.

During discussion, it was pointed out that the speed limit is not the only consideration when electing to use compression brakes. For instance, Yokum Pond Road (curvy and very steep grade) is only 30-35 MPH and most definitely warrants use of compression brakes.

The Select Board agreed to the following actions:

- The Police Department will contact the State Truck Team to learn about enforcement related to truck noise/brakes matters and enforcement.
- When warmer weather permits (placement of cruisers off the roads), the Police Department will schedule times to monitor the speed on Bonny Rigg Hill and Algeria Roads.

- The Town Administrator will request MassDOT District 1 to conduct a speed limit survey on Bonny Rigg and Algerie Roads
- The Town Administrator will look into Complete Streets

Jake Tonlino will post signage asking his truckers to be mindful about speed and noise since his business is located within a neighborhood.

7. Select Board to discuss and possibly vote on the use of ESSER II funds to offset local required contribution to CBRSD.

CS moved to approve use of \$52,833 ESSER II funds to offset local required contribution to the Central Berkshire Regional School District, ML 2nd: unanimous. During discussion, BC pointed out that for FY23, the town's required contribution will artificially appear to be a much higher percentage than it is for FY22.

8. Vote to discuss and possibly vote on change of bag sticker fee from \$1 to \$1.50.

BC conveyed the Finance Committee's recommendation to increase the bag sticker fee in order for the town to recoup some of its rising expenses affiliated with operating the Transfer Station.

Discussion included an idea to switch to a bag purchasing system (ML's suggestion), costs of operating the Transfer Station and percentage that the Town subsidizes, bag sticker costs in other communities, and accepting credit/debit cards at the Transfer Station (CS's idea) and compliance (Transfer Station Attendants have a reputation for checking Permits). The consensus of the SB was it would be better to round up to an even dollar amount (no change). CS moved to change the Transfer Station bag sticker fee to \$2.00 (bag stickers purchased prior to July 1st, 2021 will be accepted – it will okay to place only one bag sticker on each bag) effective 7/1/2021: ML 2nd: unanimous.

9. Becket Arts Center to request permission from the Select Board to install insulation and window inserts at the BAC Building

Adele Levine, Co-President of the Becket Arts Center, asked the Select Board to authorize the BAC to implement an energy-efficiency program for the BAC Building (owned by the Town of Becket). ML moved to grant permission to the Becket Arts Center to install insulation and window inserts at the Becket Arts Center Building: CS 2nd: unanimous.

10. Discussion and possible vote on Central Berkshire Regional School Committee Chairperson's invitation for the Select Board to appoint a Municipal Representative and a Community Member to the CBRSD Regional Agreement Amendment Committee. The invitation attached a copy of the CBRSD 7-Town's Agreement.

BE moved to appoint BC as Becket's Representative to the CBRSD Regional Agreement Amendment Committee: ML 2nd: unanimous.

The Select Board anticipates appointing a Community Member to the CBRSD Regional Amendment Committee at a future meeting. Discussion ensued re: the

SBRSD School Committee Chairperson's request to inform the Director of Finance and Operations of three discussion choices (among 12 bulleted items listed in the invitation letter). The SB agreed with BC's recommendation to respond with the following discussion points: Apportionment of Costs, Incurring Debt, and Procedures for use of budget funds.

11. Select Board to review and possibly vote on Appointment Applications:

- ♦ **Cindy Delpapa – Community Preservation Committee (effective 02/23/21 through 6/30/23)**
- ♦ **James Schaefer – Conservation Commission (effective 3/17/21 through 6/30/2022)**

CS moved to appoint Cindy Delpapa to the Community Preservation Committee (at Large Member) effective 2/23/21 through 6/30/23: ML 2nd: Vote carried with BE opposed.

The SB discussed Mr. Schaefer's appointment application. BE stated that he had an opportunity to talk to him and that the Conservation Commission Chairperson recommends appointment of James Schaefer. The SB agreed that based on his experience, he should be well qualified. BE moved to appoint James Schaefer to the Conservation Commission effective 3/17/21 through 6/30/2022: CS 2nd: unanimous.

12. Possible BOS nomination of Madelaine Elovirta to continue as the Inspector of Animals (Appointment period 5/1/21 through 4/30 2022)

ML moved to reappoint Madelaine Elovirta as the Inspector of Animals through April 30, 2022. CS seconded. Motion carried with BE recusing himself.

13. Select Board to review Departmental Reports

- ♦ **tba**

The SB received no reports for tonight's meeting.

14. Town Administrator's Report

Here is an update of several items that BC has been working on:

- Complete Streets – Tier 2 - prioritization plan. Visited various possible locations around town this morning.
- DER Grant – BETA engineering – Benton Hill. Will assist in application for final design and permitting. About 70% complete.
 - Working to have some funds recommitted to reduce town's share.
- Community One Stop – grant portal Massworks
- CDBG – Becket, Dalton, Sheffield, Stockbridge awarded
 - Repurpose funds due to acceptance of ADA grant
- RFP – Assessing services
- Lease with Camp Greylock for the Town Beach property
- ATM Warrant and Budget
- Winter Roads on budget (to date, \$28,000 remains in the budget).

- American Recovery Act passed
 - 502k to Becket in direct and county funds
 - Will see what is required
 - Broadband
 - Water and Sewer infrastructure
 - COVID-19 costs
 - Other/reporting
- Bigbelly compactor @beach needs replacing
 - Payment over 2 years
- CAI mapping – property cards online
- Grow Boys – Tanglewood Circle – HCA
- Seniors? At the 4-7-2021 meeting, the SB will discuss extending Town Hall hours and allowing the Council on Aging to meet in the Town Hall.

15. Select Board's Comments and Announcements

Per ML's recommendation, the SB directed BC to ask the Building Enforcement Officer to investigate 278 Trail Circle (Map 213, Section 97) as it relates to zoning violations including Section 23 (Vacant Properties) under the Betterment Bylaws (ARTICLE 17 of the Town of Becket Bylaws).

Per CS's request, BC will forward a copy of the Highway Superintendent's road maintenance schedule (discussed at the SB's 11/4/2020 meeting).

CS relayed the Fire Chief's request to include in an upcoming Becket Bulletin or Town Administrator's newsletter and in the News section of the website: 1) a reminder re: "Becket's emergency services would like to make residents aware that their houses should be clearly marked with their assigned house numbers per Article 17, Section 17 of the Town of Becket Bylaws and 2) information on how to order E-911 reflective street numbering signs

BE fielded ML's questions about Fin Con's discussion to consider placement of a Highway Garage facility at the Esau's Heel location.

16. Any other business to come before the Board

There were no matters discussed under this agenda item.

17. Correspondence:

- ◆ MIIA Health Benefits Trust Renewal Proposal 7/1/21 – 6/30/22
 - ◆ 2021.03.05 Zoning Board of Appeals Notices of Public Hearing for review of Special Permit applications: 1) Jacobs's Pillow Dance Festival (Map 207, Lot 16) to renovate and expand the state house and related amenities for existing Ted Shawn Theater Building; 2) Christopher and Katie Metter, 226 Sherwood Dr. (Map 215, Lot 209) to install a carport on existing driveway
- The SB reviewed the above captioned correspondence.

18. Select Board to review and sign payable warrants.

The Select Board reviewed and signed payable warrants.

19. Select Board to adjourn the Meeting

ML moved to adjourn: BE 2nd: unanimous. BE adjourned the meeting at 9:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Administrative Assistant

Signed by:



William Elovirta, Chairperson

/ April 7, 2021

Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- ✚ Agenda Item 3: 2021.03.15 MLP Manager's e-mail re: Draft Policy with attached Becket Broadband Network Extension Policy and Network Extension Refusal letter
- ✚ Agenda Item 4: 2021.03.03 Select Board Minutes
- ✚ Agenda Item 6: 2021.02.24 Destin Heilman's e-mail re: request for Agenda Item at Board of Selectmen meeting... with attached Proposal (to review regulation of engine braking/speed limit Algeria/Bonny Rigg Hill Roads)
- ✚ Agenda Item 6: 2021.03.02 BE's e-mail re: Engine Brakes issues to consider (Jake Elovirta)
- ✚ Agenda Item 7: 2021.03.04 Greg Boino (CBRSD Director of Finance) e-mail re: Use of ESSER II Funds to Offset Required Local Contribution - Becket
- ✚ Agenda Item 16: 2021.03.17 Michael Lavery e-mail re: Derelict Property with two attachments
- ✚ Agenda Item 9: 2021.03.15 Adele Levine's e-mail re: Becket Arts Center's Weatherization Proposal with attached cost of window treatments, CET/Eversource Energy Efficiency Summary
- ✚ Agenda Item 10: 2021.02.24 CBRSD School Committee Chair letter re: CBRSD Regional Agreement Amendment Committee
- ✚ Agenda Item 11: CPC Appointment Application - Cindy Delpapa
- ✚ Agenda Item 11: Cons Com Appointment Application - James Schaefer
- ✚ Agenda Item 12: 2021.03.05 Mass. DAR Division of Animal Health letter re: Animal Inspector Nomination
- ✚ Agenda Item 14: 2021.03.17 Town Administrator's Report
- ✚ Correspondence: See documents listed under Agenda Item 17