SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7:00pm, April 21, 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

Others: Bob Gross, MLP Manager; **Remote participation**: Terri Hayden, Joan Boccino, Dean Lagrotteria, Susan Hovani, Shelby Macri (Country Journal), Chris Horton, Marc Schultz, Jonathan Kay/Marc Rofsky, Mike Spencer (Becket General Store), David Edgecomb, Gale Labelle (Board of Health Chair), Meredyth Babcock (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Coordinator), Virginia Lavery

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. **Discussion and possible vote relative to non-compliance of a condition listed on Becket General Store Inc.'s (d/b/a Becket General Store) licenses: All Alcoholic Beverages Package Store, All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant**
   BC advised that the issue relating to Becket General Store's (BGS) liquor liability insurance certificate was resolved and he gave the SB a letter of explanation from BGS's Manager Heather Anello. Mike Spencer, representative for BGS, stated that BGS never went without insurance coverage. Mike indicated that BGS's insurance company notified them that because it does not insure the marijuana industry, it would no longer offer insurance to BGS (BGS Package Store is a marijuana-related business). During the transition, the former insurance carrier would not provide a binder. The new insurance carrier provided the required certificate for liquor liability insurance. Mike apologized for not taking care of this matter sooner.

4. **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 proposed policies: 1) Draft Drop Policy and 2) Draft Drop Payment Terms and Conditions (and information that will appear on the Becket Broadband FTTH Premise Invoice). The drop payment terms and conditions will appear on the back of the Becket Broadband FTTH Premise Invoices. Bob advised that the Broadband Ad Hoc Group suggested modifying the last sentence in section 2 a. of the Drop Policy to read The router and the VOIP equipment is typically located on the first floor to have the strongest signal (instead of: The router is typically located on the first floor to

have the strongest signal). BE moved to approve the Draft Drop Policy and the Draft Drop Payment Terms and Conditions (invoice to be developed from information presented in draft invoice): CS 2nd: unanimous.

During discussion, Bob gave an example of how a true-up would work: If a drop estimate was $2,200, the owner would need to pay the town $200 ($2,200 minus the town subsidy $2,000 = $200). If the actual cost came to $1,900, the town would issue a $200 refund.

Per CS's inquiry, Bob will check with the Town of Washington as to whether it has received complaints about its VOIP (telephone) service.

After discussion with Bob and homeowners (240 High Street) Jonathan Kay/Marc Rofsky, CS moved to approve the homeowners' request to remove the middle pole at 240 High Street and replace it with underground cable, with all costs borne by the homeowners (minus the town's subsidy), ML 2nd: unanimous.

Salient points during the discussion relating to the above vote:

- The MLP Manager advised that Broadband Ad Hoc Group's recommendation is to allow the homeowners to make arrangements to have the trenching done and install conduit in the ground so that when Eversource is ready, they can place their wires: the Broadband Project can place fiber before Eversource is ready. Burke will conduct a site visit on Friday to advise on this. Burke will be in contact with Eversource for specs. Although unlikely, if there is a problem with the conduit, it will be the homeowners' responsibility. Eversource has agreed to removing the pole and switching to underground. BE inquired about Verizon. Jonathan indicated that Verizon has given its approval.
- Motivation for removal of pole: Jonathan Kay/Marc Rofsky do not want to see the wires from their home.

Bob Gross advised that testing has been finished in FSA2 and Westfield Gas & Electric will start by Monday to do their portion of the work (can take up to two weeks) and they will arrange for the six beta testers to be connected. After the beta testing occurs for a week, everyone else in FSA2 who want connections will be signed up for connections. BC indicated that due to the proximity, a line may be connected to the Town Hall from FSA2.

5. **Approval of the 4/7/21 Meeting Minutes**
CS moved to approve the 4/7/21 minutes, ML 2nd: unanimous.

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

7. **Discussion and potential vote re: Overview of process by which municipalities can submit an alternative mosquito management plan, required for a municipality to opt-out of spraying conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board.**

ML presented a slide-show handout and initiated discussion regarding the town's Mosquito Control history. Although the town opted out twice during town meetings, the state continues to list Becket as a participating member of Mosquito Control Project. Sherwood Greens voted to participate in Mosquito Control Project. ML indicated that the Board of Health voted to prohibit Mosquito control spraying due concern about PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl substances). ML expressed concern about PFAS used in spraying as well as concern that spraying can travel to other areas away from the initial spraying site.

ML moved to table this agenda item (Discussion and potential vote re: Overview of process by which municipalities can submit an alternative mosquito management plan, required for a municipality to opt-out of spraying conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board) until May 5, 2021 in order to obtain Town Counsel's input. CS 2nd: unanimous.

8. Select Board to review Departmental Reports

- **TBA**

The SB reviewed the Animal Control Officer's and Police Chief's March 2021 Reports.

9. Town Administrator's Report

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

- Meredyth Babcock, MVP Coordinator, discussed applying for the MVP Action Grant. Becket has been designated by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) as a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Community for its completion of the Community Resilience Building planning process. As an MVP Community, the Town of Becket is eligible to apply for MVP Action Grants as administered by EEA in order to pursue implementation of priority actions. Meredyth read through goals listed under the town's action plan. Meredyth recommended applying for a hydrology study (estimated by an engineering firm at $120,000). The action grant requires towns to provide 25% matching funds (Becket's portion would be approximately $30,000). The Select Board indicated its willingness for Meredyth to proceed. The grant application is due on May 7th.
- Complete Streets – Tier 2 - prioritization plan.
- CDBG – Becket, Dalton, Sheffield, Stockbridge awarded
- ADA Grant – review of all town buildings: still need to review the school, Becket Arts Center, and Mullen House.
- RFP – Assessing services 4/26
- Lease with Camp Greylock – waiting to receive draft
- Grow Boys – Tanglewood Circle – Host Community Agreement. Sent draft this morning
- Juneteenth – State holiday: BC advised that he received an advisory specifying the Commonwealth does not allow state agencies or municipalities to conduct business when Juneteenth falls on a weekday; and when Juneteenth falls on a Sunday, state agencies/municipalities are not permitted to conduct business on the following Monday. The State does not require Municipalities or State agencies to offer an

alternate day to observe Juneteenth when it falls on a Saturday. Since this year June 15th is on a Saturday, the Select Board do not need to take action on this holiday.

- Town Hall reopening? – The Select Board will revisit this matter on May 5th.
- Seniors? The Select Board agreed that the Council on Aging may resume their luncheons and bingo starting April 27th.
- Andrus (Lee, MA)– coming Friday for quote for generator
- Received warrant from Town Counsel with suggested edits (excise tax): BC will e-mail the edited version to the Select Board for review prior to sending it to the printer.
- The new compactor was installed at the Town Beach
- American Recovery Act
  - 502k to Becket in direct and county funds
  - Will see what is required

10. Select Board's Comments and Announcements

BE, member of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board, reported that MassDOT TIPs (Transportation Improvement Projects) includes a 2.5 million dollar bridge replacement project on Quarry Road for 2026.

11. Any other business to come before the Board

None.

12. Correspondence:

- **2021.04.05 Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing for review of Special Permit application: Robert Wollenberg to encroach on property lines set back at 177 Mystic Isle Way (Map 216, Lot 438)**

The Select Board reviewed the above captioned correspondence.

13. Select Board to review and sign payable warrants.

The Select Board reviewed and signed payable warrants.

14. Select Board to adjourn the Meeting

ML moved to adjourn: CS 2nd: unanimous. BE adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Administrative Assistant

Signed by:

_____ / *May 5, 2021*

William Elovirta, *Chairperson* Date Approved

Documents discussed at this meeting:

- Agenda Item 3: 2021.04.21 Chef Heather's e-mail re: Becket General
- Agenda Item 4: 2021.04.21 MLP Manager's e-mail with attachments: draft drop policy draft drop payment T & C and invoice; Leland Screen Shot

- Agenda Item 5: 2021.04.07 Select Board Minutes
- Agenda Item 7: 2021.04.21 Dr. Joan Boccino e-mail re: mosquito spraying
- Agenda Item 7: Michael Lavery's slide presentation – Town's history of Mosquito Control
- Agenda Item 7: 2021.04.08 e-mail from Michael Lavery re Mosquito Control opt-out of spraying; e-mail Re Becket MA mosquito control opt out (Sent by Fran Fortino ffortino79@gmail.com); 2021.09.18 SB Minutes - page 2 Mosquito discussion section. application-for-municipality-opt-out-of-srmcb-spraying
- Agenda Item 8: Animal Control Officer's March 2021 Report, Police Chief's memo dated 04/01/21 with attached Offense Listing 01/01/2021-3/31/2021 & Violation Breakdown 01/01/2021-3/31/2021
- Agenda Item 9: 2021.04.07 Town Administrator's Report
- Correspondence: See documents listed under Agenda Item 12