

Town of Washington Selectmen Minutes

December 13, 2010

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:02. J. Huebner and R. Borgnis present. S. Lennon absent due to illness.
2. J. Huebner motioned to accept the minutes of December 6, 2010. R. Borgnis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Superintendent of Schools Jim Stankiewicz, Assistant Superintendent Rob Putman, Chairman of the School Commission Dick Lacatell and District Business Manager Marge Foster thanked the Board for the Town's past and continued support and reported on the details of a four year strategic plan handout outlining the Central Berkshire Regional School District's Mission Statement, vision, strategic goals and current critical projects. The handout including the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Guidelines are available upon request. The group also address residents Sean Connors, R. Spencer and J. Huebner questions regarding MCAS testing, the Green Grant, Regional Transportation funding and legislators lobbying for the CBRSD goals.
4. The Central Berkshire Regional School District Committee is meeting on January 4th with designated representative from Washington, Becket, Cummington, Dalton, Hinsdale, Peru and Windsor to elect one designee to represent the towns during the collective bargaining activities.
5. D. Fish reported that equipment has been left in the sled riding path in the rear of the park and needs to be moved. D. Fish informed the Board of an email from the insurance company notifying him of cancellation of his life and health insurance coverage for non payment. The Board will discuss the matter with S. Brazee. R. Borgnis forward a copy to Finance Committee. S. Brazee sent payment to stop the cancellation. D. Fish submitted a third bid for repair to the rock wall.
6. K. Walls asked for an update on the beaver trapping at Cross Place. D. Fish hasn't had any contact with the trapper. K. Walls will to visit the site. The Board provided K. Walls the written permission slip from property owner Provost. D. Fish inform K. Walls that he has verbal with pending written permission from another property owner. D. Fish reported that there is a potential problem at the intersection of Johnson Hill and Lower Valley Roads where a water surge could damage the bridge as the water level has increased due beaver activity. After the Board discussed with D. Fish and K. Walls it was determined that the current level didn't warrant an emergency permit but if the water level increases trapping will be necessary. K. Walls stated that beaver dams at Sargent and Lower Valley road have broken through and that he will monitor the area.
7. J. Huebner reported that he along with D. Fish attended the BRP meeting on December 8th. The take away from the meeting is that Washington Mountain road is back on the list for refurbishing.
8. J. Huebner reported that he received a phone call Saturday regarding the conditions of the roads. D. Fish reported that the roads contained a layer of slush that was not high enough to plow but did require motorist to slow down. He will continue to do his best to keep the roads clean.
9. K. Sharp reported that the refurbished recycle bin is back in use and that the grant offsetting the cost has been increased from 70% to 100%. The Board discussed with K. Sharp increasing security at the Transfer Station. K. Sharp reported that the proposed hours change announcement in the Tracks generated a lot of response. The hours at the Transfer Station will not be changed but will remain closed on December 25th and open on January 1st. K. Sharp submitted a bill for mileage reimbursement.
10. Roy Bryan informed the Board that he is on the Board of Trustees of the Becket Athenaeum and requested that any comments or information be pass on to him. He attended the first meeting of the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee and would like to represent the Town. J. Huebner motioned to appoint R. Bryan to the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee as Washington's representative. R. Borgnis seconded. The motioned unanimously.
11. The Board notified R. Bryan of the WRW&SAC correspondence to CSX Railroad regarding railroad ties along the Depot Brook and other segments of the Westfield River. R. Bryan had also received that correspondence. K. Walls updated R. Bryan on the action taken to date with CSX.
12. J. Huebner read and filled out with D. Fish the Massachusetts Broadband Institute request for survey information of Grant of Pole Location Process. The Board discussed with D. Fish, L. S. Nelson the Mass Broadband and Wired West project plan process. S. Nelson reported on the Special Town Meeting Warrant article and reminded the Board of the paper ballot requirement.
13. The Board discussed the Aldan Press bill for the 2009 Annual Town Report.
14. Cynthia Grippaldi request and received a copy of the Small Wind bylaw article and inquired into the time and date of the Planning Boards meeting.

15. J. Huebner informed the Board that he had completed the Boundary and Annexation Survey Contact Update Form.
16. J. Huebner entered into the record receipt of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources certificate of appointment for V. Breen as Inspector of Animals.
17. The Board discussed the responsibilities of the Board of Health vs. the Conservation Commission in regards to the property owner permission form. K. Walls reported on L. Peltier conversation with Wildlife Management regarding their preference of using beaver deceivers and performing maintenance rather than breaching the dam. Breaching permits are very rarely issued but K. Walls believes it may be necessary to for Cross Place Road.
18. The Board discussed with S. Brazee replacement value insurance coverage on the new police cruiser and insurance coverage of the stone wall. The insurance company is to send out an inspector to asses the damages.
19. J. Huebner reported that S. Brazee and D. Fish will complete their depositions on Tuesday on the 21st.
D. Fish and S. Brazee.
20. J. Huebner signed the Solar Bylaw Grant application submitted by M. Wiley and submitted the Master Plan Grant Application he filled out to be combined with M. Wiley's application. J. Hostetter write up a cover letter and combine the applications for mailing on Tuesday.
21. J. Huebner entered into the record a copy of fax sent to the Town Counsel regarding the Aulisio lawsuit.
22. S. Brazee provided the Selectmen with a record of stumpage fees received from the State. R. Borgnis consulted with the Assessors on the City of Pittsfield 8% fee and will continue to pursue a figure to generate a bill. S. Brazee asked if the Board had the paperwork on the EECBG grant. R. Borgnis will clearly identify to be paid from EECBG grant on the bill for the garage doors installation.
23. J. Huebner entered into record receipt of payments to the treasurer but no payments were attached to the inspection.
24. The Board signed the Cafeteria Food Licenses for Head Start.
25. The Board reviewed the action Items.
26. J. Huebner read the USDA required ada assessment report from P. Mikaniewicz. J. Huebner will discuss the report with him.
27. J. Huebner read The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Safety correspondence notifying the Board of the April 30th deadline for newly appointed Building Inspector P. Greene certification requirement under 780 CMR R7. The Board reviewed the certification plan and J. Huebner will discuss it with P. Greene.
28. The Board requested that J. Hostetter meet with S. Brazee regarding canceling and re-issuing the missing Board of Selectmen's Staples card.
29. The Board acknowledges receipt of Berkshire Overhead Door of Pittsfield Certificate of Liability Insurance, Buy American Statement for Invoices, copy of the company's W-9 form and OSHA cards for all employees. J. Hostetter to send a copy to BRP.
- [
30. J. Huebner read correspondence from Steven F. Patterson, the town Moderator of Richmond requesting wage information on all full and part time employees for the purpose of a salary survey. R. Borgnis informed the Board that the Town has already provided the information to Mass. Municipal Personal Association. R. Borgnis will respond and request a copy of the survey results.
31. R. Borgnis reported on the discussed during the conference call for the Public Health Partnership, in which Town Counsel participated. The following topics were discussed, the termination and withdrawal clause, financial commitment, contractual authority, legal responsibility, grant application and compliance. Another draft will be sent to the Chairmen of Select Boards and Chairmen of the Boards of Health. R. Borgnis also reported on her conversation with Emmett Schmarsow of Elder Affairs on regionalizing the Council on Aging to manage grants and share resources and coordinate services. The Board discussed having Cathy Stevens stop by to discuss the topic with the Board.
32. The Board discussed communication and correspondence between Board members.
33. J. Huebner informed the Board that he sent an email to E. Bond regarding the Special Town Meeting.

- 34. The Board discussed Special Town Meeting Articles and posting the Special Town Meeting Warrant or Articles in the Tracks depending on submission deadlines and warrant completion.
- 35. The Board discussed the posting of minutes on the web and the time involved by the volunteers Carol and Frank Kennedy.
- 36. J. Huebner motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:55. R. Borgnis seconded. Motioned passed unanimously.

Approved: _____

Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____