



Town of Washington

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Town Offices/Selectman

Town of Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – November 21, 2011

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. J. Huebner, S. Lennon and M. Case present.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. J. Huebner motioned to approve the minutes of November 17, 2011 as written. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
4. The Board briefly discussed the purchase of tables and dishes by the Council on Aging commenting that it is paid by grant money and that it would be prudent to keep an inventory of Town assets. The Board asked J. Hostetter to create that file.
5. R. Spencer recapped an email that he had sent to the Cultural Council regarding the deficit in their account. The email expressed that the Council is responsible for maintaining their own budget and that it was not the fault of the Accounting Officer or Treasurer, who are trying to help.
6. J. Huebner read the November 14, 2011 correspondence from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts informing R. Borgnis that a review of her Open Meeting Law complaint filed October 3, 2011 presumed that the action taken by the public body was sufficient and that the file will be closed unless a request for further review is received.
7. Cingular Wireless Settlement letter to Town Counsel for advice.
8. J. Huebner motioned to purchase a gift for the November 3, 2011 Berkshire County Selectmen's Association dinner. M. Case seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
9. Steve Nelson reported on his meeting at the Town Hall with a representative from Gannett Fleming, an engineering firm out of Philadelphia that has been contracted by MBI to connect community anchor. It was determined that the fiber optic cable will enter the building at the same location as the electricity. The modem will be physically connected to the outer wall of the electrical panel room off the auditorium. The modem has five ports that can be used to either hard wire or create a hot spot exclusively for the Town Hall. S. Nelson recommended that one port be used to hardwire the Police Chief's office for security purposes. S. Nelson then reported on the Public meeting held in Great Barrington where it was announced that grant calls for them to finish by June 30, 2013. The MBI network requires external access service racks, but the location of those will not be determined until an inventory of utility poles has been done adding that perhaps not all towns will require a rack. S. Nelson also reported that WiredWest's inventory of poles on all roads within all towns is well underway with most of the inventory being done by satellite photography but because of the dense tree cover a visual confirmation may need to be done. There was discussion on WiredWest time line with S. Nelson stating that assuming the financing will be in order the plan is to follow right behind MBI with work on the last mile hookup done as soon as MBI goes live. Wiredwest has money to do market study, so they can understand how many people will use the service to determine a reasonable price adding that pricing rumors are not accurate.

10. D. Fish reported that the FEMA paperwork has been signed and the Town will hopefully receive 26,000 to offset the \$26,000.00 spent by the Town to repair damages resulting from Hurricane Irene. D. Fish also requested, if the application is approved, that a portion if not all of the reimbursement replenish the Road and Bridge account as it was approximately 70% of the budget. After discussion the Board informed D. Fish that all FEMA/MEMA funds are posted to a specific account and that a transfer of funds from that account to the Road and Bridge account requires a vote during a Special Town Meeting. R. Spencer suggested that D. Fish prepare the paperwork early by calculating what he expects to spend in April, May and June.
11. The Board discussed with R. Borgnis the COA's request for sign off on a FY2012 Formula Grant/Allocation - Statement of Authorization. R. Borgnis explained that the Board is the authorized agent and that their signature is required before grant money already received could be sent. M. Case motioned to approve the request. J. Huebner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The Board congratulated R. Borgnis on a successful brunch and asked her to give an update on the COA future goals. R. Borgnis informed the Board that the COA's next meeting is scheduled for November 25, 2011 and that she would be better prepared to report to the Board after that.
12. The Board discussed along with R. Spencer the City of Pittsfield response to the Town public record request regarding stumpage revenue. Bruce Collingswood informed the Board that the revenue from the 10-2 cutting plan was included in an earlier report and that the Town has already billed and received the stumpage fees. R. Spencer recalled that the billing done by R. Borgnis did reference plans 11-1 and 11-2. The Board determined that all revenue owed by the City of Pittsfield has been collected and asked J. Hostetter to send B. Collingswood a thank you letter.
13. J. Huebner motioned to appoint Frank Kennedy and Carol Kennedy to the Council on Aging. M. Case seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Board asked R. Borgnis if the COA would like Selectboard representation or additional members. R. Borgnis stated that she did speak to M. Case who is unable, at this time, to devote the time needed but that he offered to help when he could and previous members who felt that they did a lot of work without appreciation might again show interest after a few more events. The Board offered the assistance of the administrative assistant and the backup administrative assistant.
14. After review J. Huebner motioned to approve the 2012 liquor licenses application for Bucksteep Manor. M. Case seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. J. Hostetter reported that D. Sacco stated that he will make sure that all taxes are current.
15. J. Huebner read a Notice of Filing and Request For Comments issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding the Department of Public Utilities petition to recover approximately four million in storm costs by amortizing the amount over a five year period. The Company's proposed rate adjustment would result in an average increase of 0.024 cents per kilowatt hour. Notice was posted at the Town Hall
16. J. Huebner read a Notice of Public Hearing issued by the Town of Lee. The Zoning Board of Appeals is holding a public hearing on an appeal of the decision of the Planning Board, dated April 24, 2011 for the denial of a sign

permit for O'Connell Oil Associates for property located at 241 Main Street. Notice was posted at the Town Hall.

17. J. Huebner informed the Board of an invitation from MIIA to attend their annual business luncheon in Boston. The Selectboard will not be attending.
18. S. Lennon reported that he meets with Taconic Vocational High School a couple of weeks ago to discuss the boiler room and ADA ramp railing work and that they have the two drawings. S. Lennon also stated that he scheduled a site visit for last Friday and that both he and E Bond were present but the instructor could not make it. There was discussion on possibly having M. Newton do the work as he has experience and currently works for the Highway Department. The Board decided to continue working with Taconic. S. Lennon will contact them on Tuesday.
19. J. Huebner recapped a conversation from last week's meeting in which Mr. Brown from Foresite questioned the Board on an Annual Town Meeting warrant article that said that the Town was going to abandon a portion of Beach Road from point A to point B and that apparently there is a difference between discontinuing and abandoning and that there was some discrepancy as to whether the Town did the right thing, which does not matter as the warrant was not filed properly. After the Board, M. Wiley and R. Spencer discussed abandoned vs. discontinued and discontinued maintenance it was determined that the topic should be voted on during an Annual Town Meeting rather than during a Special Town Meeting and that the Town has to make sure it has the correct wording. M. Wiley stated that she has correspondence pertaining to the last time Beach Road was on the warrant.
20. J. Huebner recapped a telephone conversation he had regarding CSX with Maurice O'Connell the Government Affairs Representative for New England. In that conversation J. Huebner recapped the difficulties the Town has had in dealing with CSX. M. O'Connell promised to talk to CSX's Chief Engineer regarding the drainage through mile post 138 and drainage of Hinsdale Flats. J. Huebner also reported that M. O'Connell called back after contacting CSX and reported that CSX is thinking about creating a more broad drainage plan. J. Huebner will have more to report at next Monday's meeting.
21. J. Huebner recapped an email received by the Board in which J. Hostetter reported on the conversation she had with T. Hickey regarding the Town's contract problem with Covanta. The contract application was again not process but T. Hickey promised he would expedite the application process of obtaining signatures from the Area Manager, Regional Manager and the Vice President at the corporate office. J. Hostetter will follow up with another telephone call.
22. J. Huebner provided J. Hostetter with excerpts from the Chapter 30B manual regarding retention of records.
23. The Board discussed when the Superintendent of Schools will be attending the Selectmen's meeting.
24. J. Huebner entered into the record receipt of \$55.00 collected from recyclables for the Chapel Commission.
25. J. Heubner entered into the record documentation provide from Mass Broad

26. J. Huebner informed the Board of the Town Hall Usage Committee meeting with BBC to draw up a plan for office space, meeting space and equipment.
27. J. Huebner acknowledges receipt of the BRPC minutes from the November 17, 2011 meeting.
28. The Board reviewed the vacuum cleaner recommendations from Ed at Brigham. After discussion J. Heubner motioned to purchase C1805 for \$390.00. M. Case seconded and the motioned passed unanimously. The Board asked J. Hostetter to order the vacuum and ask for a three year warranty.
29. J. Huebner reported that the Berkshire Public Health Alliance is going to apply for the Community Innovation Grant and that he has been voted Chairman of the Governing Body of the Berkshire Public Health Alliance.
30. J. Huebner entered into record receipt of \$75.00 from the Plumbing Inspector.
31. J. Huebner motioned to adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 8:05. S. Lennon seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approved: _____

Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Submitted by J. Hostetter