

Town of Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – April 23, 2012

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. J. Huebner and S. Lennon was present.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. J. Huebner motioned to approve the minutes of April 16, 2012 as written. S. Lennon seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
4. J. Huebner informed the Board that there were two representatives from the Cheshire State Police barracks here to discuss police protection for the Town adding that Police Chief will eventually retire and that his role in the near future may consist of administrative duties only. The Board asked questions regarding regular patrolling, calls to service, and the number of Troopers at the barracks. Trooper Gerro stated that the Cheshire State Police consider Washington one of their towns, the State Police react to every call for service and that the hilltowns are their highest priority. Trooper Gerro then explained that there are two sectors. Sector one is the northern part and sector two is Hinsdale, Washington and Peru adding that he regularly patrols Route 8, School House Road, the highway garage and campground each shift. Trooper Gerro confirmed that both the Cheshire State Police and Lee State Police have received eight new Troopers and that the Lee barrack's is the backup for the town. The Board asked if any of the residents present had any questions, thanked the Troopers for attending the meeting and expressed that Board wants a good and open relationship with State Police and that they are welcome in the Town anytime. M Case added that if any Trooper is in the area on a Monday night, they are invited to stop by to give an update. Trooper Gerro stated that he will relay the Board's sentiments to Lieutenant William Blackburn, who is available for question from 8:00 to 4:00 Monday through Friday then assured the Board that the State Police are here and are available to any call to service.
5. Ken Walls reported on his Upper Valley Road site visit stating that he was there last Monday, someone had cleared out the beaver dam and that the beavers have already re-build the dam adding that there is no water on the road. The Board discussed along with K. Walls the type of repairs or fixes that need to be done for a long term solution with mention to adding a deceiver, removing the screen and replacing the culvert pipe. J. Huebner will continue to communicate with CSX.
6. J. Huebner informed the Board that there is a regional health discussion taking place on Friday, May 4th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in Pittsfield.
7. J. Huebner informed the Board that MASS Broadband is hosting an informational workshop on the Introduction to MASS Broadband Community Anchor Institutions on May 8th from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Town Plaza in Pittsfield. J. Nelson reported that S. Nelson will be attending.
8. C. Briggs reported on the loan for the Police cruiser stating that Clark Rowell with UniBank Fiscal Advisory Services, Inc. is happy to help out, that he needs a copy of the vote, how long ago the vote was taken and the desired terms of the loan adding that the rate would be 3% for five year and 1% for a one year or lower term. C. Briggs informed the Board that UniBank offered to handle the bidding process for a fee of \$500.00. The Board discussed what the term should be with P. Borgnis, R. Spencer, C. Briggs and D. Parnell deciding that it should be a four year loan. P. Borgnis informed C. Briggs that the Town Clerk has the certified copy of the May 2010 ATM vote.
9. J. Huebner confirmed that payroll is working properly and that Chief Breen is going to receive a check for Animal Control pay.
10. J. Huebner thanked D. Parnell for his efforts in getting the free cash certified for the past two year adding that \$173,000.00 free cash has been certified. D. Parnell added that an additional \$50,000.00 will be freed up once the balances are rolled forward and the loan for the cruiser in written. D. Parnell informed the Board

that the building maintenance account is close to running over with all the improvements to the Town Hall adding that he will provide them with the balance for both the Building Maintenance and Building Repair account.

11. J. Huebner informed E. Bond of the Emergency Manager's requested that all the electrical outlet cover be reinstalled. E. Bond informed the Board that there was a problem with the paint on the covers then gave an update of the upcoming work schedule. E. Bond informed the Board that the Assessor's and Clerks office will be difficult to paint as many things need to be moved. The discussion on painting offices was tabled until next week. E. Bond to work with the Assessors and Clerk. E. Bond that asked the Board if someone else could open up the Town Hall on Thursday as he will be out of town. The Board asked D. Fish to open and close up the Town Hall on Thursday for the community service workers.
12. E. Bond discussed the problems with the hot water heater stating that he consulted RJ Peltier and it was determined that the high efficiency hot water heater does not fire properly with the current water flow. He is going to follow up with Climate and RJ Peltier for a solution. R. Borgnis stated that she was able to get hot water to clean the dishes after the COA dinner using E. Bonds suggestion but was not able to get hot water the next day the remaining cleaning was done.
13. The Board asked D. Fish if M. Newton has done any training. D. Fish reported that he had not but was informed that both he and the truck are available.
14. E. Bond asked the Board would be willing to allow Pugzee's Farm to hiring Whitewolf Excavation to do work on Beech Road adding that a curb cut permit has been issued. The Board discussed with D. Fish, E. Bond, and R. Spencer the topic with section of the road, the cost to the town with the determination that the request is to work the 750 feet no discontinued and that materials and labor to fix the road would be a donation. Further discussion was tabled until next week's Capital Asset Meeting.
15. J. Hostetter asked when the submission cut off is for the Annual Town Meeting. After discussion it was determined there should be no new financial items and any other items could be handled at the Special Town as the Warrant needs to be posted no later than May 5th and the submission to the Tracks deadline is the 28th of the month.
16. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter is a letter has been drafted notifying V. Bird of D. Fish's course completion. J. Hostetter replied that she had not but will draft it up this week.
17. The Board and Finance Committee discussed salary increases for paid elected and appointed positions with the determination that there should be a five percent raise to salary accounts as salaries have been frozen for the past four years. There was discussion on the Assistant to the Tax Collector with the B. Phillips confirming that it is a salary position and the Board deciding to increase the Tax Collector salary to the requested amount rather than five percent. There was discussion on the Police Department's request for additional salary to hire a second officer and if it should be added to the warrant with Chief Breen expressing that if the citizens have requested it then they should be able to vote on it despite the Board's position and J. Huebner commenting that it is the Board's responsibility to sift through all requests to determine what articles make the warrant. The discussion was tabled for the scheduled 8:00 bid opening.
18. J. Huebner introduced the Tris Metclaff the architect who created the specification for the siding RFP. J. Huebner then informed the Board that there was on bid submission. J. Huebner opened at 8:04 the bid from Restorations, Inc. out of Hinsdale in the amount of \$165,004.00 with the following alternates: subtract \$62,808.00 for alternate number one, subtract \$2,332.00 for alternate number two, subtract \$16,992.00 for alternate number three, subtract \$8,757.00 for alternate number four, subtract 1,857.00 for alternate number five, and add \$2,992.00 for alternate number six. The Board discussed the bid submission with R. Spencer, E. Bond and Eric Taylor, President of Restorations, INC. E. Taylor stated that the bid price was high do the strict time constraints, having to add additional workers using the prevailing wage of \$48.50 per hour. There was additional discussion on energy savings and how to fund the balance as there is not enough grant

remaining to cover the cost with all the subtractions with the determination that the Town cannot financially afford the project due to the risk that the residents would not vote for the additional funds and work would have to be halted leaving the job unfinished. There was discussion on the problems with the current grant with the decision that any future grant would be used to replace windows and doors. There was discussion on Green Communities Grants. S. Lennon motioned not to accept the bid submitted by Restorations, Inc. to side the Town Hall envelope. J. Huebner seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. E. Bond reminded the Board that current maintenance may over draw on accounts. J. Huebner suggested having a Special Town Meeting on the seventh of May to address the building repairs and maintenance with E. Bond stating that there will be enough if expenses were reclassified as repairs rather than maintenance. A decision was tabled until the balances were adjusted.

19. The Board discussed with Chief Breen the Bus Driver's vacation pay with Chief Breen stating that the bus driver does not get paid for the summer vacation but does get paid for all school holidays, snow days and four vacation days adding that it was in lieu of other hours work but not billed for and that the Town of Becket pays for two thirds of those days. After discussion J. Huebner motioned to pay V. Breen specifically as long as he drives the school bus gets paid for four vacation days during Christmas and four vacation days in the spring. M. Case seconded and the motioned and the motion passed unanimously.
20. Warrant discussion in item 17 was continued with P. Borgnis suggesting letting the residents express their opinion by a non-binding referendum vote on an election form rather than putting the increase into the budget now and having the residents vote during the Annual Town Meeting. The Board and Chief Breen agreed that it was a good idea. After discussion the Board asked Chief Breen to write up a non-binding referendum for the November election and research with the Town Clerk any additional cost related to adding it to the ballot. R. Spencer asked that all the information be provided including tax implications. Chief Breen expressed that he just wanted it in the record that he had made the request so that the residents know that he is reacting to their concerns.
21. There was discussion on the Stretch Code and Solar Bylaw Warrant Articles with R. Borgnis confirming with the Board that both articles will appear on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and J. Huebner, S. Lennon and J. Hostetter working together to write up a pro and con list for publication in the Tracks.
22. R. Spencer asked for clarification on the Health Agent Expense Account. J. Huebner stated that the line item for Health Agent Expense can be removed, there will be an addition of \$2,000.00 for the Berkshire Public Health Alliance to act as the Town's Health Agent and an addition of \$750.00 for a Public Nurse. J. Huebner added that there should be an article on adoption of MGL 40 Section 22F.
23. J. Huebner informed the Board that some of the Becket Fire Fighters expressed interest in some of the shelving in the Mapleview Nursing Home confirming with R. Borgnis that anything remaining in the building that is not nailed down could be sold. R. Borgnis informed the Board that there are a couple of electric beds, night stands and shelves remaining that could not be shipped to Haiti.
24. J. Huebner updated the Board on the alternate energy sources for the Town stating that the gentlemen with the solar array who offered to sell the town their credits have determined that the Town does not use enough energy adding that a discussion on this topic will take place during next week's Capital Asset meeting.
25. The Board asked Chief Breen for a Narrow Band update. Chief Breen relayed the Highway Superintendents request for a new tower on the Town Garage for the cost of \$735.00. There was discussion on the Highway Department's current equipment list, actual need and amount budgeted with S. Lennon and Chief Breen volunteering to work together on obtaining estimates to become compliant. R. Spencer suggested looking into using Dalton instead of the County Sheriff Office. Chief Breen and J. Huebner stated that the coverage is not there.
26. J. Huebner entered into the record receipt of \$707.10 from Waste Management for Recyclable material delivered to the MRF for the first half of fiscal year 2012 along with a report of the Town's statistics. J.

Hostetter will give the report to M. Lampro.

27. J. Huebner read correspondence from Cain Hibbard & Myers PC informing the Board that they represent Pugzee's Farm and that Beech Road frontage not discontinued by Town Meeting in 1995 is critical access for the Pugzee's Farm land as development of a network of roads within the property utilizing only the Washington Mountain Road frontage is difficult due to the presence of wetlands adding that if discontinuance is voted for it would create a severe hardship on Pugzee's Farm LLC. The topic will be added to the Capital Asset Meeting agenda.
28. Department of Environmental Protection notification of the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) Municipal Grant application opportunity. Deadline for application is June 13, 2012. J. Huebner stated that this topic will be discussed during a future meeting.
29. J. Huebner informed the Board of the date and time of this year's Selectmen's dinner. After discussion the Board determined that four people will be attending the Berkshire County Selectmen's Association dinner meeting on Wednesday May 23, dinner at 7:00. Put in for four people. J. Huebner motioned to approve up to fifty dollar to purchase a donation to the raffle from the Selectmen's expense account. M. Case seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
30. J. Huebner read the US Census Bureau request for the Town's help with second component of the 2012 Survey of Public Employment and Payroll. J. Huebner will review the document.
31. J. Huebner entered into the record receipt of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts President's report for 2011 then asked if anyone want to review it.
32. M. Burke asked if the Board was allowing the Treasurer to work wireless from home. The Board stated that she does not have access to the full system yet but will investigate the legalities of permitting it in the future.
33. J. Huebner entered into the record the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program has sent a report on the bio-diversity of the town. J. Huebner will review the document.
34. J. Huebner entered into the record receipt of a Public Hearing Notice from WMECO for the approval of the annual storm recovery adjustment factor.
35. J. Huebner acknowledged the Operational Services Division notification of the MASSbuys EXPO on Wednesday, May 2nd at the DCU Center in Worcester from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM.
36. J. Huebner acknowledged receipt of the Inspector General's Procurement bulletin and stated that he will review the document.
37. J. Huebner entered into the record the BRPC correspondence regarding An Act Relative to Speed Limits in which the speed limit of any road designated as a local road would be reduced to twenty five miles an hour as the Board decided no action will be taken.
38. J. Huebner read correspondence from Doninion regarding locking in the Town's rate. Discussion will take place during the Capital Asset Meeting scheduled for next week.
39. J. Huebner entered into the record receipt of a copy of MEMA's Certificate of Achievement presented to Central Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Commission.
40. J. Huebner entered into the record receipt of the Department of Environmental Protection announcement of launch of Re-TRAC Connect; a web based recycling and solid waste tracking system used by the state and local governments across the county to report their annual recycling and Solid Waste Data to MassDEP.

41. J. Huebner read the Commonwealth of Massachusetts notification of the Chapter 90 state wide local transportation aid funding totaling two million for FY13.
42. J. Huebner read the Town of Dalton's correspondence informing the Town that the Board of Selectmen voted to write a letter of support of the Playing Fields and Parks Study Committee soliciting neighboring towns as to the use of such Town parks and fields.
43. J. Huebner acknowledged receipt of correspondence regarding the Interchange Highway Work Zone Speed Enforcement Local Technical Assistance Program.
44. J. Huebner entered into the record MIIA's notification of a \$98.00 credit earned against the Property & Casualty insurance and a \$495.00 credit earned against the Workers' Compensation insurance.
45. J. Huebner acknowledge a request to post the Hilltown CDC's flyer advertising a free first time homebuyer workshop on June 2, 9 & 16 2012 from 9:00 – 12:30 PM at the Meekins Library, Williamsburg.
46. J. Huebner entered into the record the Department of Environmental Protection notification of that the MassDEP has recently negotiated with the MRF operator, Waste Management Recycle America to allow for the delivery of a single stream recycling and to exercise their option to extend their Operating Contract for an additional five years adding that this agreement is available to any western Massachusetts municipality interested in converting to a single stream collection.
47. J. Huebner entered into the record the CBRSD draft list of vocational students for 2012-2013, including all those who have notified the office my March 31st. List does not mean students will be accepted. There were three students listed.
48. J. Huebner motioned to adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 8:10 PM. M. Case seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved: _____

Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Submitted by J. Hostetter