

Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – June 4, 2012

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:03PM. Selectmen J. Huebner, M. Case and S. Lennon were present.
2. The pledge of allegiance was recited.
3. J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes of May 21, 2012 as written. M. Case seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
4. J. Huebner recognized Dick Grillon . D. Grillon stated to the Board that he would agree to accept the post of Town Sexton and that S. Lennon had agreed to be his assistant. J. Huebner made a motion to accept D. Grillon as Town Sexton and S. Lennon as assistant sexton. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously. D. Grillon reported that he will review records of Town graveyards. The Cemetery on the Hill has enough available burial space for another decade. J. Huebner thanked D. Grillon for his continued service to the Town.
5. K. Fawcett of Cross Place Road addressed the Board on the subject of beaver control. He was concerned that the highway crew spends a great deal of time cleaning out the beaver deceivers instead of working on the roads. D. Fish agreed that the beaver control work takes a good deal of the highway crew's time. He wished it were otherwise and stated that he has had trappers working at several locations around town lately and will continue to do so. P. Goucher spoke to the same subject and complained that beavers had been cutting down some of his apple trees. Chief Breen said that P. Goucher might have recourse to trap the beavers himself if he can prove that he has a working orchard being damaged. J. Huebner stressed that any Town resident having trouble with beaver damage on their private property can request a permit from the Town to remove the beavers himself.
6. C. Willis addressed the Board regarding issues with processing the Town's trash through Covanta. Covanta has told him that the Town has an unpaid balance and that they will not take any more trash from Washington until that balance is paid off. D. Parnell stated that to his knowledge all bills from Covanta have been paid and that the most recent payment was in the mail . D. Parnell suggested that as Covanta is based in New York there might be some confusion in their accounting records. He will call Covanta to try to get this straightened out. In the interim, the Board approved C. Willis's request to take the Town's trash to the Valley transfer station in Lenox. D. Parnell will check our contract with Covanta to see if there is any cost to terminate the contract before the expiration date.
7. D. Parnell reported that he had taken a new town officials course and that it had been informative.

8. D. Parnell inquired about the closeout of the EECBG account. He inquired how the BRPC administrative payment should be handled. J. Huebner told him that the total allowed by DOER for administration is 10% of grant. As the Town has already paid BRPC's invoice, the remaining administrative balance of \$213.00 can be claimed by the Town. The remaining payment of \$812 for the final effort at procurement for the Town Hall insulation project is to be transferred to the EECBG fund from the building repairs account. D. Parnell said he will write a warrant to this effect for next week's Selectmen's meeting.
9. J. Huebner recognized Roy Bryan the Town's representative to Westfield Wild and Scenic Rivers. R. Bryan said that the WWS Board has told him that if our preliminary plan is good, they are seriously interested in contributing additional funds to our effort to address the stream control situation at Eden Glen. The WWS Board had an older hydrologic study of Eden Glen which R. Bryan passed along to J. Huebner. WWS had some problems with the older plan and would like to discuss this in light of our new approach to the culvert problems at Eden Glen. J. Huebner suggested that it might be productive to set up a meeting with R. Bryan, the WWS Board, P. Clark and the Town to review the plans and discuss how WWS may get involved with our work on the stream. J. Huebner said that we will apply for funding from FEMA MEMA in fall. No work will be done this year. Many people at both state and local level have to sign off on project. If we succeed in getting the grant, FEMA won't cover 100% of the cost. If WWS could cover the balance it would be a great help to the Town. J. Huebner and R. Bryan to cooperate on setting up a meeting with the WWS Board.
10. K. Walls spoke on the ongoing beaver problem on Upper Valley Road. CSX continues to avoid dealing with the flooding problem there. CSX won't remedy the beaver problems. J. Huebner reported that they had had a meeting with CSX last Wednesday. CSX said that they would bring in the USDA to help. To date though, no one at CSX has returned J. Huebner's calls to see what action would be taken by the railroad to remedy the flooding situation. J. Huebner is ready to get Town Counsel involved with CSX to get them to remove their dam and to repair the damage done to Upper Valley Road. D. Fish said that it appeared that someone had opened up the beaver deceiver on that culvert. C. Willis asked the Town for help with the culvert in his backyard on Upper Valley Road. The walls need to be built higher. K. Walls will request a permit for this work from the Conservation Commission. D. Fish will do the work. He has the pipe on hand at the DPW. J. Huebner suggested that C. Willis attend the Conservation Commission meeting to describe his request in detail.
11. J. Huebner had spoken with Town Counsel, J. Pollard about the Treasurer having remote access to the Town's financial accounts. J. Pollard told him that there were no legal barriers to this, but that the Town must be certain of available security measures. J. Pollard also researched the possibility of the Town restricting the weight limit on Blotz/Kirchner Road. J. Huebner drafted a letter to the Towns of Hinsdale and Dalton, through which this road also passes, asking them to comment on our request for this restriction and to support us in this. There are both safety and

maintenance advantages to be gained by all three towns by placing this weight restriction on the roadway. The Administrative Assistant is to type and mail the letters appropriately.

12. J. Huebner introduced discussion of the Beech Road situation. Mr. Shapira of Pugzee's Farm has offered to take over maintenance of this road through his property. The Town is pleased with his offer. J. Huebner had Counsel review Mr. Shapira's proposal. Town Counsel will confer with Mr. Shapira's attorney, Mr. Smithers, on the details of maintenance standards. C. Willis has been awarded the contract by Mr. Shapira to do the work on the road at a cost of \$9,250. C. Willis will upgrade the road, crown the surface and add a foot of gravel. J. Huebner asked D. Grillon about the history of Beech Road as it is complicated. Apparently the Select Board had voted to discontinue the use of the entire road, but an incorrect report of this was given to the state, causing confusion about the status of the road.
13. D. Grillon asked the Board about the endangered monument on the Mountain Road at the old common on West Branch Road. The monument is falling over. D. Fish said that it is on his list to repair and he promised to get to it as soon as possible.
14. J. Huebner reported that he completed the MIAA insurance survey for a .5% discount.
15. J. Huebner reported on the Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting (MPO). The Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) plan for the next 2 years for the county has been adopted. The following towns will see a variety of transportation-related work done: Great Barrington, Dalton, Sandisfield, Adams, Williamstown and North Adams. Washington Mountain Road is still on the state's list, but is low priority.
16. R. Borgnis addressed the Board on behalf of the COA to request permission to build Bocci courts behind town hall. J. Huebner made a motion to support the installation of one or two Bocci courts in back of Town Hall. M. Case seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous. COA will provide the funds for this project.
17. J. Huebner asked J. Nelson about her work on the Mapleview rebid project. She requested guidance on some missing information. He recommended that she get CD's regarding the tank removal report from J. Hostetter or from R. Borgnis.
18. D. Spencer asked for an update on plans for the Special Town Meeting to be held on June 25. D. Parnell responded that he doesn't have the numbers finalized yet. Next week he will have them available.
19. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter about the list of new appointment requests she had included in his folder. She told him she had included all she had received to date. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter to contact the following people and ask them to fill out evaluation forms and to schedule their performance reviews with the Board: D. Parnell, C. Briggs, D. Fish, V. Breen, K. Avale, J. Nelson,

J. Hostetter, M. Lampro. B. Phillips is to review S. McGrath. E. Bond to review custodian C. Taylor.

20. M. Case asked about student transportation. We need list of students so that Chief Breen can plan his routes. He thought there would only be three students, but that is not yet final.
21. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter about the contract project. J. Hostetter is working on pulling all contracts from the files for C. Briggs. She is making a list of contract expiration dates. J. Huebner urged her to examine the Covanta contract quickly to see if there is a penalty for early cancellation.
22. J. Huebner asked C. Briggs about her HR course at UMASS. She has not checked on that yet. C. Briggs will contact Berkshire County Insurance. J. Huebner has completed the survey on Insurance for MIIA. C. Briggs has not yet gotten to the unemployment survey, but will do so shortly. C. Briggs asked that all payroll requests come to her in a timely manner so that she can get people paid promptly.
23. D. Spencer mentioned a problem that has arisen in Hinsdale about health insurance for Selectmen. One selectman is suing the Town for \$15,000 for back insurance payments. The Town is going to work on a by-law denying health insurance coverage to any employee working less than 20 hours weekly. D. Spencer to stay in touch with Hinsdale on this and advise Town on outcome.
24. J. Hostetter reported no complaints received from residents about the Board's changes to the Annual Town Meeting schedule. She raised the question of whether she should continue keeping a running balance of the Selectmen's expenses since she does not receive all of their bills. Some bills by-pass her and go to D. Parnell. D. Parnell explained that the only true balance is what's in the General Ledger. He recommends that the departments continue to keep a running balance and check that against the report he will give them by July 15.
25. D. Spencer asked again about ATM issues. He want to be sure that the warrant includes \$3,000 owed to D. Parnell and that it considers K. Avalle's request to revert to the original tax bill schedule. Also 2 reimbursements are due to White Wolf. Disposition of the unemployment fund monies must be decided. All this to be discussed next week.
26. J. Huebner reported that clean up of the Diehl property is underway. Mrs. Diehl has hired a contractor to do this work.
27. J. Huebner informed J. Nelson that the RFP for windows and door s for Town Hall must be done by July 4.

28. J. Huebner will inform Karl Franz that the Town recommends he contact the Berkshire Public Health Association for future work. The Town will no longer commit to using his services.
29. D. Fish will get material from C. Willis for the base lines in the ball field in Town Park.
30. J. Huebner approved the application from F. Kennedy to continue holding free computer instruction classes for residents in Town Hall.
31. J. Huebner announced that he will be applying for a grant under the state Mass. Works Grant program. He will apply for funds to pave Washington Mountain Road. D. Fish said that we must apply for "cold in-place re-cycle" technology at \$250,000 per mile. Total cost to be about \$1,700,000. If we include the road sections in Becket and Dalton in this, the cost rises to about \$3,000,000. J. Huebner to contact these towns to gauge their interest in a joint proposal. The application is due in 2 months, so there is time to get it right.
32. After discussion, the Board decided to continue meeting every Monday through the summer, but to try for shorter, more focused meetings.
33. The Selectmen's Meeting adjourned at 9:02PM

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

DATE: _____