

Town of Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting - 6/11/12

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. J. Huebner and M. Case present.
2. J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes of June 4 as amended. M. Case seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. J. Huebner recognized E. Bond. E. Bond said that he had spoken to Town custodian, C. Taylor about her job. C. Taylor asked for a Brita water filter for the Kitchen. J. Huebner approved this purchase. E. Bond reviewed C. Taylor's duties with her and found that she had a good understanding of them. She mentioned that she cannot access some of the Town Hall offices to clean. E. Bond was able to let her into the Assessor's Office to clean. He told her that if she had any other concerns or problems with the cleaning to call him. She also cleans at the Chapel, the Old Town Hall and does the Town Park bathrooms. Ed will monitor her work. He filled out a positive performance review form for C. Taylor and sent it to Jodi.
4. J. Huebner asked D. Fish for an update on highway dept. plans. D. Fish said that he had spoken with Cathy Stevens about paving on Washington Mountain Road. Cathy advised that the Town would get the most mileage out of using cold in-place recycling with double chip sealing technique. She said that there is a limit on awards available under the Mass Infrastructure grant that the Town will apply for. J. Huebner said that the Town will apply for this grant over the summer between August 27 and September 10. D. Fish agreed that if the Town is awarded under this grant work couldn't start until 2013. J. Huebner read a letter he had drafted to Dalton and Becket asking them to partner in the grant with Washington to pave the entire length of Washington Mt. Rd. or if they were not interested in this, to support our application to the state. D. Fish mentioned that the Town has about \$50,000 back from the Lovers' Lane award and if we ever get the Chapter 90 funds we should have about \$400,000 available to the Highway Dept.
5. Town Accountant D. Parnell joined the meeting to review the warrant articles for the Special Town Meeting to be held on June 25 with the Board and with D. Spencer, Chair of the Finance Committee. J. Hostetter took notes of the discussion and from her notes produced the warrant attached to these minutes. The Selectmen signed the warrant as did V. Breen as Constable. V. Breen will post the minutes this night.
6. D. Parnell raised a question about former Treasurer Sandy Brazee paying herself \$1250.00 in March after her resignation effective February 28. She did not train Cathy as she had promised and was paying herself for work she did not do. J. Huebner agreed with D. Parnell that we should pursue recovering the Town's funds from Sandy. J. Huebner will draft a letter to her to this effect.

7. D. Parnell told the Board that the Town is behind with Covanta again. He called Covanta to try to get the billing sorted out, but they were unwilling or unable to help. He was told that corporate would have to get involved in changing our billing address. J. Huebner said that he spoke to counsel about the Covanta situation and was advised that the Town can get out of the Covanta contract. J. Huebner will ask M. Lampro to attend next week's meeting to review the transfer station process. Last week C. Willis told the Board that he had to take the container to Valley in Lenox. The Town will consider contracting with Valley for disposal of our trash.
8. D. Parnell inquired about the second EECBG grant award of \$26,530.00. C. Briggs said that she has found the deposit from DOER in her records. It was assigned to the general ledger because she had no information on what it was for. She had not recorded it yet. D. Parnell told the Board that the Town will return the unused balance of the EECBG grant in the amount of \$32,480.63 to DOER. He will take \$812.00 to cover the balance of the administrative cost out of Selectmen's expenses.
9. C. Briggs didn't complete form for professional performance review. Will get one from Jodi.
10. J. Huebner reviewed the open action items as follows: D. Parnell is up to date on EECBG; J. Hostetter did give him the Covanta contract; J. Huebner did speak to Karl Franz. He wants to be re-appointed. J. Huebner told him to register with Berkshire Public Health and he will be reappointed; Roy Bryan has been in touch with Phil Clark about Eden Glen; J. Hostetter has typed the letters to Dalton and Hinsdale regarding Blotz Road; D. Fish has repaired the monument on Mountain Rd.; J. Nelson did find the Mapleview CD's in the files. She will place a public notice in the Eagle to run twice before the walk-through on July 14.
11. K. Walls of the Conservation Commission reported that he had spoken to both R. Bryan and P. Clark about the Cross Place Bridge issue. Phil is interested in getting funding to repair the Cross Place bridge. D. Fish will place a sleeve in the CSX pipe near C. Willis's property on Upper Valley Road.
12. The Selectmen signed letters to Dalton and Hinsdale regarding placing a weight restriction on Blotz Road traffic. Town Counsel J. Pollard will do further research on this issue.
13. J. Huebner spoke to J. Pollard today about Pugzee's Farm and Beach Road. J. Pollard wants Cain Hibbards (Shapira's attorney) to tell Shapira that the Town wants certain engineering standards adhered to on the road. Mr. Shapira objects to that. The upgrading of the road will be subject to inspection by D. Fish. Pugzee's Farm must maintain the road in passable condition in all seasons at their expense. One of our concerns is that the 750 feet of Beach Road becomes a private road. J. Huebner asked D. Fish to get a definition of unpaved secondary road standards from Cathy Stevens for reference. D. Fish wants a width of 17 feet plus 4 feet of drainage ditches on each side. There should be 8 inches of gravel compacted on road surface. The Town

should put up a “No Through Way” sign. J. Huebner to continue to work with Cain Hibbard on this.

14. D. Fish has hired Adam Southard for part time work on the roads this summer. D. Fish is very impressed with Adam’s skills and work ethic. Would like to hire him full time. J. Huebner told D. Fish to have Adam fill out an employment application. D. Fish to review any candidates we have on file. We will have to advertise for this position and go through the hiring process. D. Spencer to assist.
15. M. Case reported that Mrs. Diehl has begun demolition of the property on Lovers Lane.
16. J. Huebner reported that he received email from CSX today regarding the ongoing flooding problems on Upper Valley Road. Finally they will take some action. Eric Shaffer of USDA wildlife has been in touch with D. Fish. CSX will install a flow control device and do additional trapping if needed.
17. J. Huebner took up the subject of the Appointment list. J.Huebner made a motion to accept it as written. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept was unanimous. Acceptance does not include J. Hostetter, D. Parnell, J. Nelson, M. Lampro and her assistants, C. Briggs, K. Avasle. The Board must do performance reviews before these employees can be re-appointed.
18. J. Huebner reminded J. Hostetter that, for the record, acceptance of appointees’ offers must be confirmed.
19. M. Case will contact Ben Downing’s office to confirm arrangements for his coffee hour at Town Hall on June 18.
20. The Board did J. Nelson’s performance review. J. Huebner made a motion to confirm her for re-appointment. M. Case seconded and the vote to confirm was unanimous.
21. The Board completed D. Fish’s performance review. M. Case made a motion to re-appoint him. J. Huebner seconded and the vote to re-appoint D. Fish was unanimous.
22. Chief Breen signed 3 copies of the Special Town Meeting Warrant and departed to post them. The original was given to the Town Clerk.
23. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous at 9:12 PM.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson