



Town of Washington

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Town Offices/Selectman

Town of Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting - August 27, 2012

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. J. Huebner and S. Lennon in attendance for the Board.
2. J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from August 20, 2012. S. Lennon seconded and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.
3. J. Huebner asked D. Parnell for an update on the credit card initiative. D. Parnell reported no progress yet.
4. J. Huebner asked J. Nelson for an update on the Mass Works Infrastructure grant application. She confirmed that using the notes J. Huebner had given her, she has almost completed the application. She discussed several sections of the application on which she had questions and received clarification from J. Huebner. She requested, as required in the application, a vote from the Board authorizing acceptance of state funding for this project should a grant be awarded. J. Huebner made a motion to this effect, S. Lennon seconded and the vote to accept state funding from Mass Works was unanimous.
5. J. Huebner recognized S. Nelson who reported on the status of the Wired West broadband effort. S. Nelson told the Board that after one year Wired West has doubled in size to be a cooperative of 42 towns, all unserved or underserved by any provider of high-speed internet service. Wired West has awarded a contract to an engineering firm to develop an estimate of what it will cost to build the network. They expect this study to be completed in early October, 2012. Wired West has started a campaign to measure the level of residents' support. This will be a mailer which will ask recipients to express their level of interest in using the network and which services they may be interested in. Wired West is asking towns to cover the cost of the mailing in their town. This will amount to about \$88.00 in Washington. If the mailer can be included in the next Tracks, there would be no charge to the Town. S. Nelson will talk to L. Guthrie to determine if this is possible. J. Huebner made a motion to provide funds needed to get the mailer to town residents by post if necessary. S. Lennon seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous. S. Nelson also mentioned that MBI has announced that there will be a delay in going live with its system due to some permitting problems. They won't be live until next October, 2013.
6. J. Huebner asked Chief Breen about the status of the Voc Ed transportation changes with Becket. Chief Breen said that he is working to codify the agreement with Becket. In discussions to date they have agreed to pay all of the Chief's salary as driver. He can use gas from their pump. Becket will have to examine the van to determine if repair cost we quoted is fair. They have not responded on the subject

of insurance for the vehicle. They have also not given us a decision on our request for \$1000 annual rental of the school van. J. Huebner asked Chief Breen to clarify Becket's decision on these two points. He also asked the Chief to inquire with Becket about Washington's fee for continued use of the Center Pond beach facilities. J. Huebner asked D. Fish to get the van ready to drive.

7. J. Huebner recognized resident Glenn Grogan who had been asked at the previous Selectmen's meeting to consider taking the post of Town Auditor. G. Grogan still had a question about whether he had been elected to the position last spring. J. Huebner asked him to confirm that with the Town Clerk. J. Huebner said that he will be appointed if not elected and that the term in office can be as long as he wishes. G. Grogan said that he will accept the position.
8. J. Huebner asked D. Fish for the Highway Department update. D. Fish reported that he did document Adam Southard's references as asked by the Board. D. Fish said that he has observed that there are tree branches on the communication wires south of the junction of Washington Mountain Road and Schultz Road. J. Huebner asked J. Nelson to draft a letter to be signed by him to Verizon requesting their prompt action to clear these branches from the lines. We can resort to the Public Service Commission if they will not respond. J. Huebner asked for the status of the accident report involving M. Newton and a Town vehicle. D. Fish said that the report had been filed with Chief Breen. Chief Breen added that he had told Mark Newton that he has to file with his own insurance company. D. Fish has had no word yet about Cross Place from Westfield Wild and Scenic. D. Fish will contact suppliers to get estimates on materials for the Infrastructure grant. He has spoken with P. Clary about cost of pipe for Upper Valley Road repair.
9. J. Huebner read the monthly Selectmen's letter for publication in Tracks. He made a motion that the Board accept the letter. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed unanimously. A suggestion made later that the letter includes mention of the September 6th primary was accepted.
10. J. Huebner reported that he sent a letter to Dalton about the weight limit on Blotz RD. He also addressed the following items:
 - Selectmens' breakfast in Williamstown, Oct. 25. S. Lennon may attend.
 - A seminar on affordable housing in small towns
 - DEP request regarding public water systems. J. Nelson to complete form and mail.
 - No information yet on FEMA and MEMA funding
 - He asked E. Bond to speak with D. Drugmond for advice about lead paint abatement on the exterior of Town Hall
 - We may be able to get assistance with the demolition of Mapleview from Mass Development, a quasi-public organization

- The free light bulb offer was only for state agencies, not the towns. WMECO may be able to help with bulbs.
- BPHA needs some further information from the Town before they can sign and return the Agreement. He will follow up with them on this.
- Septic installers permit for Scott MacKenzie. The Board signed the permit. The \$50 fee was paid by Mr. MacKenzie.
- He received a determination from the state on R. Borgnis' open meeting violation complaint. There were three alleged offenses. The Town was cleared in one, found at fault in another and no determination was possible in the third. J. Huebner will research the details and appeal to the state if that appears appropriate.

11. J. Hostetter provided the Board with her update on Administrative Assistants' activities. She agreed to attend an ABCC forum for local licensing authorities. The septic system report still is in progress as it requires a complete review of all Board of Health files. Work on the computer contracts is done. J. Huebner asked her to discuss with J. Les whether these contracts are in the Town's best interest to sign. J. Les is scheduled to come in to fix the scanner problem. J. Hostetter gave a copy of the list of employee FY 2013 raises to C. Briggs. J. Hostetter to type the STM warrant and to publish notice in the Eagle.

12. Regarding the 9/10 Special Town Meeting, J. Huebner asked D. Spencer what transfers have to be made. D. Spencer responded that he will check with D. Parnell on this, but that he doesn't think there are any to be made. There will be borrowing for the doors and windows of \$50,000. R. Borgnis requested a transfer of funds from the Chapel's stonework account to the windows account in the amount of \$3461.81. D. Spencer said that this will be done. The STM will start at 8:00 pm. Chief Breen to post warrants tonight, August 27.

13. J. Huebner made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45. S. Lennon seconded and the meeting was duly adjourned.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Accepted: _____

Accepted: _____

