

Washington Board of Selectmen – November 26, 2012

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, S. Lennon and M. Case.
2. After the assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes of 11/19/12. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.
3. J. Huebner asked Ed Bond for an update on the doors and windows project. E. Bond pointed out the hole on the south side of the auditorium wall and explained that the installers, Campora Construction, had found extensive rot in the building wall at that point. He explored the damage with them and agreed that it is completely rotted out. He laid out a course for rebuilding the wall which the installers agreed to follow. They will bill the town for this work as an extra as provided in the bid package. They will provide E. Bond with an estimate. E. Bond said that it is a non-structural wall. They will have to move gas and electrical lines during this construction. Window and door installation will continue during this repair. E. Bond asked Chief Breen to take the flags off his office windows by Tuesday morning as they will be replacing his windows then.
4. J. Huebner asked E. Bond to review an estimate for repairs to the floor of the Chapel submitted by Chapel Committee Chair, Rose Borgnis. E. Bond read the estimate and the description of work to be done and told the Board that he considered the estimate of \$2896.00 reasonable. As the Chapel Committee does not have this money, J. Huebner said that the matter will be taken up at the next Special Town Meeting.
5. J. Huebner asked K. Walls if the Planning Board had met. K. Walls responded that they did meet last week. The two individuals who have made an offer to the Town to purchase the former Mapleview Nursing Home, Greg and Mike Viner, were there to discuss their plans for the property. They said that will use the building for their offices and they plan to put doors on the back of the building for storage. They are consultants – insurance and environmental. They presented an overview of their plan to the Planning Board. The Board listened and asked questions. They will meet again on December 11 to make a decision about the project.

One member of the Planning Commission made an objection to selling the property at such a low price. J. Hueber explained to K. Walls that the Town had conducted two complete and unsuccessful sales processes with extensive advertising and open houses at the property. Until the Viners made their \$1,000.00 offer, the Town was faced with having to pay for demolition of the building and hauling away the debris in order to sell the land as a building site. The estimate for this work was \$100,000+. The Town's main goal is to return the property to the tax rolls. The Viner's plan will not only restore the property to the tax rolls, greatly improve the appearance of the building and grounds, it may also add a few local jobs. The Viners expect to spend about \$150,000 for improvements to the property. J. Huebner asked J. Nelson to send information on the proposed sale to M. Wiley and K. Walls.

6. J. Huebner reported that he had not had a proposal from the solar farm company, E2Sol yet.

7. J. Huebner also reported receipt of a finding from the Attorney General's office on the Open Meeting Law complaint. The AG's office stated that the Board had not properly announced the executive session before clearing the meeting room. The Board should have cited the relevant Mass. statute before future executive sessions. That would be MGL 30A, 21A1.
8. J. Huebner asked the Board if either member would like to attend the MEMA ICS 400 class on emergency preparedness in North Adams. Neither S. Lennon nor M. Case would be able to attend.
9. D. Fish reported that the Highway Department will be hosting a chain saw safety class for 3 days. He has lined up an expert instructor. The classes will be held this Friday 11/30 and on Monday 12/3 and Tuesday 12/4. D. Fish said that he expects to have 11 students. M. Case asked D. Fish to unblock the North Branch Rd. trail. Dick DiOrio objected to the blocking. D. Fish said that he had done that. He also removed the stones from the DCR trail head. He has the new pipe for Upper Valley Road. Will install it soon.
10. J. Huebner made a motion to approve the FEMA/MEMA grant application to rebuild Eden Glen written by P. Clark. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed unanimously. P. Clark will have it ready to sign next week. It requires just one signature. The Town will have to bond this project. Total cost will be \$1,037,000. This includes the cost of the hydrologic study. If the grant is not awarded, P. Clark said the Town should budget about \$100,000 each year for 10 years for disaster recovery. D. Fish said that we could set aside \$15,000 per year from Chapter 90 money to cover floods.
11. J. Huebner will ask Westfield Wild and Scenic if they will be providing the town with any funds to repair the Cross Place culvert. John Boyle of the Dalton Select Board said that Dalton is ready to move ahead with the Blotz Road weight restriction. Hinsdale will also move ahead with the weight restriction as the railroad bridge is almost done.
12. S. Lennon will review the DLTA grant opportunities and took that paperwork.
13. J. Huebner made a motion that the Board accept the Monthly Selectmen's Letter for publishing in Tracks. M. Case seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
14. S. Lennon reported that plans are set to pick up the surplus furniture at Williams College on 11/27/12. D. Fish and the highway crew will drive a U-Haul van and load up the furniture pieces. J. Hostetter will accompany them to select the pieces needed at Town Hall. J. Huebner reminded them that the COA is looking for a fire curtain.
15. J. Huebner reported that he has received the application from the consultants writing the CIC municipal software grant. This application to the state is for \$500,000 for development of Phase 2 of the Cloud -Based Open Source Integrated Municipal Financial Management System: Accounting and Payroll. J. Huebner asked for discussion. Hearing none, he made a motion to approve the application. M. Case seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. D. Parnell will send the signed documents to the grant writers. J. Huener said that K. Avalle will work with the assessing and collection module. D. Parnell and C. Briggs will work on the Accounting and Treasurer's modules. Washington will be the beta site for testing the software. The consultants in Royalston will do the actual programming.

16. J. Huebner had conferred with Chief Breen and told S. Lennon that he will be getting his own badge.
17. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter about the food handling questionnaire received by the BOH. J. Hostetter reported that she had spoken with Ed Fahey about this. Both Bucksteep and Summit Hill need certification in allergy food preparation. They should be inspected every 6 months. He asked J. Hostetter to put together an agenda for the BOH meeting on 12/17 at 8:00pm. He thanked her for including BOH communications in his folder and asked her to continue doing so. Selectmen signed permit for Eugene Brunell's well. The Selectmen told D. Spencer that he does not need a permit to offer free hot chocolate and cookies to his Christmas tree customers.
18. D. Parnell told the Board that he has not yet found a bank that will issue credit cards to a municipality, but he will continue to work on that. D. Fish mentioned that he will have to use his personal credit card to secure the truck for the furniture move. D. Parnell said that he is still trying to get the accounting sorted out so that he can confirm free cash.
19. D. Spencer said that the Special Town Meeting will have to wait until we have that free cash figure. The Historical Commission is looking for about \$1800.00 to re-print the Town history books. The Chapel Commission needs \$2896 to repair the Chapel floor. Funds will have to be identified for paying the window and door installers also. The Town will likely borrow the window and door funds.
20. M. Case reported that he had contacted state Senator Ben Downing about the highway funds requested from the legislature for Washington. That \$750,000 is still pending hearing at the State House.
21. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm. M. Case seconded and the motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

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Minutes written by J. Nelson