

Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – December 10, 2012

1. Shaun Lennon, Clerk of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm. Attending for the Board were S. Lennon and M. Case.
2. After leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, S. Lennon made a motion to accept the minutes of 12/3/12. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.
3. In attendance from the Town Historical commission were Barbara and Ralph Simmons and Chair, Gail Ellis. Barbara Simmons reported to the Board that the Commission had discovered several items which had previously been stored in the hall cabinet below the town history display case were missing. These items were 4 or 5 Town History books and a paper bag containing several bicentennial medallions and chains which they had seen in the cabinet as recently as ten days ago. B. Simmons told the Board that the cabinet, despite her efforts to keep it locked, was often found unlocked.

S.Lennon said that on the day of the furniture move from Williams College, he saw that the historical cabinet was open. He removed all of the cabinet's contents, which consisted of commemorative plates, tiles of the Chapel, and some postcards. He placed all of these items in the drawer of the new desk which he put in place of the cabinet. He removed the old cabinet and it was taken to the land fill. He had not seen any of the items described as missing. Inconclusive discussion followed on the subject of who beside B. Simmons had a key to the cabinet. No other key-holders could be identified to shed light on what had happened to the missing items. After a brief discussion on re-printing the Town history book, in which D. Spencer offered to take the book to Staples for a quote on the cost of making a print-ready PDF scan, Chief Breen escorted the members of the Historical Commission to his office to discuss what next actions might be taken in the matter of the missing items. D. Spencer also mentioned that \$2,000 could be transferred from the reserve account to cover the cost of re-printing the Town History. There was discussion of possibly putting the PDF file of the book on the internet.

4. S. Lennon asked D. Fish for an update on Mattau Road. D. Fish reported that he had gone to Peru to discuss the maintenance of the road with the highway department there. He was told that Peru planned to put a surface on the road and that Hinsdale will be responsible for plowing it. D. Fish is satisfied that the potential road maintenance problem has been settled to the benefit of Washington. The problem of access brought up by M. Jarvie to the Board on 12/3 is also solved by these actions by Peru and Hinsdale. . D. Fish also reported that he has successfully installed the new culvert pipe on Upper Valley Road. S. Lennon asked him if there was any news on the Cross Place culvert from Westfield Wild and Scenic. D. Fish had not had any, nor was there any update on when the Town might have a decision on the Eden Glen grant application submitted to FEMA by P. Clark of Horizon Consulting.
5. M. Case reported that he had contacted the Kennedys about their resignation from the COA, received by the Board on 12/3. They told him that they want to back off involvement with the COA for now and devote their efforts solely to the computer classes and the Saturday morning coffee and conversation get-togethers.

6. S. Lennon asked for an update on the Blotz Road weight restriction project. D. Fish said that he had not heard anything new. There was general discussion about whether there would be resistance from some of the big trucking companies who have no choice but to use Blotz Rd. currently as there is a road closing due to a culvert problem elsewhere in Hinsdale. There could possibly be charges of restraint of trade.
7. S. Lennon asked D. Fish if there was a reply from CSX to our claim for damages to Upper Valley Road from flooding. D. Fish said that he had not heard from CSX on this. He did mention that he believes that the CSX Lower Valley Road grade crossing is unsafe. He would like to see a square approach to the crossing instead of the angled road that is there now. It is awkward for a motorist to bend his neck sufficiently to see trains approaching from the south. There is not even a crossing gate. The State would put up a gate, not CSX.
8. S. Nelson addressed the Board to request that they sign a document supporting Wired West's potentially offering ISP services to the Town Hall, which is a designated Community Anchor Institution (CAI). He stressed that this was not a commitment and involves no cost to the Town. The document is an expression of interest in using the service from Wired West if it was available. Peru has already signed this same support document. To make the service available to member towns Wired West will have to both demonstrate support to investors and also have a suitable CAI service contract. The support document will enable Wired West to apply to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) for a Technical Assistance grant to develop this contract. M. Case made a motion that the Board sign the BRPC Request for Technical Assistance form in support of Wired West. S. Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Board signed the document and returned it to S. Nelson.
9. S. Lennon called for an update on the Mapleview sale. J. Nelson told the Board that a question had come up about the current status of back taxes on the property and that J. Huebner had contacted Town Counsel J. Pollard about this issue, as it could potentially create a problem with the sale of the property. The Tax collector's office had provided the Administrative Assistant with a copy of our "Judgment in Tax Lien Case" regarding Mapleview from the state Land Court, Department of the Trial Court. J. Hostetter scanned and emailed this document to Town Counsel for his review.
10. S. Lennon asked J. Hostetter for an update on the Annual Reports. She replied that they are about ready and will be completed as soon as she gets final numbers from D. Parnell.
11. S. Lennon asked C. Briggs for an update on the borrowing for doors and windows. C. Briggs replied that she is working on the application. She will borrow the total amount of \$50,000 now and pay the progress payment of \$ 29,940, invoice by Campora, from the loan She had received a copy of the Personnel Handbook from J. Nelson and is reviewing that. She has been working closely with D. Parnell to get accounts closed out so that Free Cash can be certified.
12. S. Lennon asked D. Spencer if he had looked over his hardwood supply for boards suitable for the Selectmen's tables. D. Spencer told the Board that he has maple, cherry and maybe ash too. He will look again for the widest boards. S. Lennon said that the Sheriff's staff will supervise the carpentry if we go ahead with it.

13. D. Spencer told the Board that D. Parnell had emailed him to say that the Town would need to transfer additional funds in the range of \$4,000-\$5,000 at the STM to cover Employee Medical billing for September to December. The new DPW employee has elected family coverage and the cost is higher than expected. D. Spencer will include this in the growing list of items for the STM. These currently include: Verizon pole charges plus interest, Town Hall west wall repairs (est. \$10,000 – 12,000), Chapel floor repairs (est. \$2896), Re-printing of Town History (est. \$2000).

14. S. Lennon made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

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