

Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting - January 7, 2013

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 leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/17/12. M. Case seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
3. J. Huebner reported that he had received a memorandum from the Planning Board on the subject of the sale of the former Mapleview nursing home to the Viner brothers. J. Huebner read the letter into the record and a copy is attached to these minutes. The Viner brothers had appeared before the Planning Board on 11/13/12 to discuss their purchase offer and proposed use for the Mapleview property. In their memorandum the Planning Board said that by unanimous vote they agreed that they could not comment on the offer because the Viners did not provide enough detail in their bid proposal summary. They did not demonstrate that their project would meet all the requirements of the Maplewood RFP. The Planning Board determined that they did not have the detail necessary to hold the Special Permit Hearing covering the zoning issues the proposal presents to the Town.

They requested that the Town consider reissuing the Mapleview RFP. K. Walls, a member of the Planning Board, told the Selectmen that they were going to send the Viners a letter outlining their requests, but he was not sure if this had been done yet. J. Huebner said that he would contact the Viners and ask them to put together a detailed proposal that would address all of the requirements of the RFP. They were given the RFP when they first approached the Board with their offer to purchase the property. K. Walls said that the Planning Board meets again on 1/8. J. Huebner will ask the Viners if they can attend.

4. J. Huebner reported that the Board had received from Rose Borgnis a check for \$170.00 for a Chapel usage fee from Charles McNally.
5. J. Huebner also reported that the Board had received a bid of \$9990.00 from Campora Construction for repairs needed to the west wall of the Town Hall auditorium. The Board determined that they would have to wait for the up-coming Special Town Meeting to get approval to fund this project. They thanked Campora for their detailed bid. Ed Bond had assisted with the bid by providing drawings of the structural work needed and by getting commitments from Pioneer Plumbing and LaPier Electric for the minor work to be done to prepare the wall for reconstruction.
6. J. Huebner read a letter from William Cameron, Superintendent of the Central Berkshire Regional School District inviting the Chairs of Select Boards and Finance Committees to attend the annual joint meeting of the Seven Town Advisory Committee and the CBRSD Coordinating Council on Tuesday, January 22 at 7:00 pm in the Nessacus Library to discuss the school budget. J. Huebner also reported receiving a copy of a letter to Superintendent Cameron and members of the School Committee from the town of Dalton Select Board and Town Manager. J. Huebner read much of it into the record. It is a discussion of the steady increase in Dalton's educational expenses since 2000 and the state's declining aid. It projects a sharp increase in vocational education. The Town of Dalton requested that due to these factors their increase in operations

assessment, including transportation, not be more than 2% in Fiscal 2014. A copy of the letter and an accompanying chart is attached to these minutes.

7. J. Huebner updated the Board on the effort to place a weight restriction on Blotz Road. He reported that Dalton will put signage at the beginning of the Road. Hinsdale will do the same on Rt. 8. Hinsdale and Dalton will do enforcement within their boundaries. Washington will put signage on our speed limit signs. Enforcement in Town is an issue. We can ask state police to take on this task. The 3 Towns will not hold a public hearing. The Town of Washington will have to notify its major haulers using Blotz Road. The list of these haulers would include: White Wolf, David Duquette, Ernie Lampron and Tom Delaney. It was also mentioned that County Concrete and Billings are heavy users of the road. The weight limit will probably be determined by the Dalton culvert assessment. The state sets the limit.
8. J. Huebner reported a request by Phil Clark that various Town committees using Town Hall be able to access the Town's wireless signal during meetings. D. Parnell told the Board that to do so the password would have to be shared. In the following discussion a number of people mentioned problems this would raise with abuse of the privilege. It was suggested that perhaps we should have an agreement for all users. J. Huebner said that he would consult Frank Kennedy on this question as Frank is our webmaster.
9. J. Huebner told the Board that he had received a proposal from E2SOL for a ground-mounted solar array to be installed behind Town Hall or perhaps at another location that the Board might suggest. The array would be rated for 22,000KW. E2SOL would give us a 20% discount on electricity for Town buildings. The Town wants a fixed rate. A rate of 13.2 cents was offered. They will construct and maintain the system which will be comprised of about 100 panels. The Board will study the proposal in detail and ask the company to do a presentation.
10. D. Fish told the Board that he has been trying to clarify the Town's receipt of various FEMA payments. We have not been paid yet for Hurricane Irene. Nor has there been any payment for the 2008 ice storm. We did get some money for an earlier storm. D. Fish believes that we are owed \$32,000 by FEMA at present. Dan asked him to make these calls and research the funding. J. Huebner questioned whether we had been paid for the Oct. 31, 2011 snow storm. He asked D. Fish to request an accounting from FEMA for all they have disbursed since 2008.
11. J. Huebner told the meeting that he had no news to report on either CSX or Westfield Wild & Scenic. He has not yet discussed the tax status of Mapleview with Town Counsel.
12. The Board will request \$1,000.00 annually for Becket Beach use. We will ask for this at either the Special Town Meeting or at the Annual Town Meeting.
13. J. Huebner asked C. Briggs if she had contacted MIIA yet on re-appraising the contents of Town Hall. She said that she had not and wondered if that was a good idea now that the auditorium is half full of furniture. She questioned whether that might result in a higher appraisal than we have currently. J. Huebner agreed that the situation is unclear and told her to take the re-appraisal off her list for now. He did tell her that she must take the state's Conflict of Interest seminar as that is important for her work as Treasurer.

14. D. Fish told the Board that he needs \$750.00 for sick time in his budget. Winter roads funds are down to \$31,000.00 presently. D. Spencer advised D. Fish that we should budget more money going forward for the Highway Department.

15. D. Parnell told the Board that free cash is not certified yet. He will do the Schedule A this week. We still are off by about \$22,000.00. He is hoping that it will come to light as he does the Schedule A. If not, we will sequester about \$22,000.00. His estimate of free cash is about \$100,000.00. We can't do anything until it's certified by the state. This should take another week or two. Regarding the CIC grant, J. Huebner said that he had emailed all of our state representatives for support to get approval of the funding for municipal software development. D. Parnell said that a problem has arisen because the state is looking for data security and the towns want software development. The project lead, Rebecca Krause, told D. Parnell that the dispute should be resolved soon when the state understands that the Springfield Data center will take over secure hosting.

D. Parnell told the Board that he will get a 6 months' statement on payroll to them for STM consideration. Medical cost is an issue. D. Spencer said that the Town owes Verizon about \$ 7,000.00. We need about \$3,000 to fix the Chapel floor. We owe Campora Construction \$ 50,000.00. West Wall repairs are \$ 9990.00. The total is about \$70,000.00. D. Parnell added that we need \$ 7,000.00 for medical. This brings the total close to \$80,000.00. He hopes to avoid borrowing money. We would incur a \$2500.00 up-front fee. We won't have much to go into stabilization. J. Huebner said that we will set the STM warrant next week.

16. The Board signed permits for the Delaneys' Summit Hill swimming pool and Bucksteep's liquor license. J. Huebner told the Board he had heard that P. Mikaniewicz had some questions about Bucksteep's operations after his inspection. The Board can rescind the permit if the needed changes are not made. J. Hostetter said that P. Mikaniewicz is scheduled to re-inspect the cleaning and venting in 30 days.

17. J. Huebner told the Board that he will ask COA members to come in to discuss their grievances. Several have resigned recently and he would like to know the reasons for this.

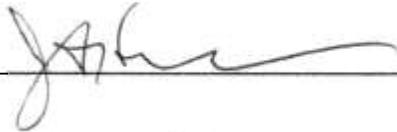
18. V. Breen addressed the Board about access to the emergency radio. It is presently locked in his office. He suggested that it could be put into the closet next to his office. J. Huebner asked him to get several keys made to the closet. It was discussed and agreed that the Highway Department and the Select Board should have access to the emergency radio. D. Spencer mentioned that the generator will keep it going during an outage. J. Huebner asked V. Breen about reimbursement for veterans' expenses and the process for getting these funds. V. Breen responded that we are reimbursed 75% by Veterans' Services. He is working on settling issues of payment left from our previous Treasurer.

19. J. Huebner reviewed the following action items and correspondence:

- a. D. Spencer will arrange to have Shaun Lennon come by his workshop to look at wood for the proposed Selectmens' table.
- b. The MMA will have its Annual Meeting on 1/25/13 in Boston at the Hynes Convention Center. Currently, no one on the Board is able to attend.

- c. Background material on the Hazmat Grant application will go to Phil Clark.
- d. WMECO has issued new rates. We will not contest them.
- e. Elder Services has asked for a donation. The Finance Committee will consider this request.
- f. The Department of Telecommunications and Cable of Mass. sent information on its Lifeline Program. This program makes phone and wireless service available to low income consumers. A brochure on this program will be posted at Town Hall.
- g. MIIA is seeking nominees for their Boards. The Selectmen will take this under advisement as nominee names are due by January 14.

20. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm. S. Lennon seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.

Accepted:  Date: 

Accepted: 

Accepted: 

Minutes written by J. Nelson.