

## Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting — January 14, 2013

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00. J. Huebner, S. Lennon and M. Case attending for the Board.
2. After leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes of 1/7/2013. M. Case seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.
3. K. Walls addressed the Board to inform them of a suspicious incident that occurred on the evening of 1/12 at his property. About 7:00 pm a dark-colored truck with a row of lights mounted above the cab drove up his driveway and parked there with motor running for some time. When he went outside to inquire about the visitor's business there, the driver gunned the engine and departed hastily. V. Breen also reported a suspicious incident on Saturday night. At about 1:00 a.m. he awoke to the sound of pounding on his door. He did not respond. Chief Breen mentioned that Washington has not had any break-ins for a couple of years and he hoped that these incidents didn't indicate trouble of that sort ahead.
4. K. Walls mentioned that the Planning Board was considering coming in to the next Selectmen's meeting to discuss the Mapleview situation. They are of the opinion that the Town should initiate another round of advertisement for a buyer using the existing RFP.
5. J. Huebner reported receiving a Permit Application from Rose Borgnis, Chair of the COA to hold pot luck dinners in the auditorium followed by a movie. These free events would be held on the third Friday of each month from 5:30 to 10:00 pm. The events would start on January 30 and run through November 15 of 2013. J. Huebner made a motion to grant the permit, M. Case seconded and the vote to approve the permit application was unanimous.
6. J. Huebner initiated a discussion with Phil Clark of the flood damage to Upper Valley Road caused by CSX. J. Huebner asked him to write a letter to CSX describing the present condition of Upper Valley Road and requesting that CSX repair the road to restore it to its pre-flooding condition. P. Clark said that this would be a reasonable request. It would be a lower-end repair in terms of cost. J. Huebner asked him to estimate the cost of such a repair. P. Clark responded that \$50,000 - \$75,000 would be the lower end of the cost range. J. Huebner asked P. Clark to add this to the letter to CSX. P. Clark asked the Board if the Town wants him to do work on Eden Glen in advance of the FEMA grant decision. J. Huebner told him that we cannot start work until the grant is awarded. The Board will have to go to the voters for additional funds beyond the grant award.
7. J. Huebner stated that he still has had no response from our Westfield Wild and Scenic representative on their interest in providing some funds for the repair of the Cross Place

Road culvert and/or to the Eden Glen project. He mentioned receiving a notice from Westfield Wild and Scenic about a meeting in Becket at the Town Hall at 6:30 on 1/17. He asked the administrative assistant to post this notice.

8. J. Huebner recognized a representative from Bucksteep manor who asked the Board for the name of our new Health Inspector. She had last dealt with Valerie Bird and understood that there had been a change. J. Huebner told her that the new inspector is Ed Fahey of the Berkshire Public Health Alliance and that our alternate is Scott Kraznick, also through BPHA. She told the Board that she wants to meet with E. Fahey and asked for contact information. J. Huebner told her that the administrative assistant would follow up and give her that information. She acknowledged that our fire chief Paul Mikaniewicz had done an inspection at Bucksteep which indicated some problems with ventilation that the Manor is addressing.
9. J. Huebner initiated a discussion of WIFI access at Town Hall with Frank Kennedy, the Town's webmaster. J. Huebner had asked him to attend the Selectmen's meeting to lend his expertise to this discussion. P. Clark had asked a week ago if the Town would permit committees use of the WIFI signal at Town Hall during their meetings. F. Kennedy said that he can set this up, but that only he can enter the password into users' computers. The password must remain confidential. No one else should have access to it. J. Huebner asked if the Town should have a usage policy for the WIFI signal. F. Kennedy said that the Town can block access to certain sites if we want to make that our policy. He added that there is no security problem here.

J. Huebner asked F. Kennedy to write up a piece for Tracks on committees' use of WIFI at their meetings at Town Hall. Additionally, he should explain that the WIFI signal would be available to residents during times that he teaches his computer classes in the auditorium on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 12:00. J. Huebner requested that the Selectmen and Jon Les, our computer technician, review the Tracks piece before it goes to Lisa Guthrie for publication.

J. Huebner also asked F. Kennedy about his and C. Kennedy's resignation from the Council on Aging. F. Kennedy replied that they simply decided it was time for them to move on. He said there was no friction on the COA team. He will continue to work with the COA on movie projection. His wife, C. Kennedy will not continue. J. Huebner asked if he knew anyone else who would be interested in working with the COA and asked him to put a mention of the COA opening in Tracks in addition to the WIFI informational piece.

10. M. Jarvie joined the meeting and asked if the Selectmen would meet with the Planning Board . The Planning Board would like the Town Clerk, Ed Bond and Paul Greene included in the meeting. The Planning Board would like to discuss the list of local businesses requested by the Board. Among other questions, they would like to know what the Board's definition of small businesses is. She also asked that if we are requesting that

small businesses register with the Planning Board, would we charge \$5.00 annually for a permit? J. Huebner replied that this would be an appropriate fee. The Town isn't interested so much in making money from this project, but rather to learn what small businesses are operating in Town and what their needs/interests are.

11. M. Jarvie asked what the Board's thoughts are currently on Maplevue. J. Huebner replied that he had asked the Viners to write a detailed proposal for the Board responding to all the requirements mentioned in the RFP. They have not done so yet. M. Jarvie responded that the Planning Board does not want to go forward unless a new procurement process is begun. J. Huebner replied that he had spoken to Town Counsel about the legal requirements in this case. J. Pollard told him that we can only dispose of this property by auction. We must advertise the auction. We can set a reserve and that does not have to be made public. J. Huebner will let the Viners know about this recent development.
12. J. Huebner asked D. Fish for an update on Highway Department activity. D. Fish reported that he had done his research on MEMA payments to the Town and had shared that with the Accounting Officer. During the past week he has had many of the Town's trucks break down. 3 of 4 trucks have been out of service for some time period. All are fixed now. We do need to replace some equipment, but only if the highway crew can't repair it. He wants to be sure he chooses the right truck to replace. Right now he can keep what he has running. The most likely candidate for replacement is the '04 dump truck. The 1997 truck works fine.

Additionally this week, he got the overhead door opener replaced. Craig Willis of White Wolf told him he will sell his paver for \$5,000. D. Fish knows that it is a good paver and would be of great use in maintaining Town roads. He also mentioned that he appreciates the riding lawn mowers the Town acquired as surplus from the school department. He has more mowers than he needs, but will use engines and parts. The Board asked the administrative assistant to write a letter to the school district thanking them for the surplus lawn equipment received by the Town.

13. Discussing the Blotz Road weight restriction, J. Huebner said that Dalton has posted a sign with the limitation spelled out. We need to know what the sign says. V. Breen offered to check out this sign for the Board. He will get the information. Dalton will post a sign on Washington Mountain Road. Hinsdale posted on Rt. 8. We will contact those who use the road regularly to notify them of the change of weight Limits. DOT has set the weight limits. V. Breen mentioned that no one has scales. He would stop the trucks and ask what their truck is registered for and advise them of the limit. J. Huebner said that he could make these stops. We need to get our signs up along Route 8. V. Breen asked if he could have office hours next Monday, 1/21, which is the Martin Luther King national holiday. The Board told him that he could do so.
14. V. Breen read a bulletin from the Dept. of Justice Criminal Services agency. According to Mass. General Law he cannot divulge names of gun owners in Town except to law officers

for legitimate investigative purposes. He also mentioned that Peter Blake, the new veterans' services agent has taken over from him as of tonight.

15. J. Huebner reminded C. Briggs must monitor that all employees take the Mass. Conflict of Interest Training and the Ethics Training. He also asked her the status of Personnel Handbook distribution. She told him that she had met with the administrative assistants on this, and that they would have three-hole-punched copies made at Staples and assemble them in binders for distribution to Town employees. They will get a quote on production and request funds for the job from the Town in advance. She will collect proof of handbook receipt from each employee.
16. D. Parnell gave an updated account status spreadsheet to the Board and to D. Spencer for use in planning the upcoming Special Town Meeting. It details all Town accounts, the appropriation amount, spending to date for each and the current balance in the account. A copy is attached to these minutes.
17. J. Hubner reported on an ethics discussion at Berkshire Public Health Alliance. He had asked A. Mikaniewicz how the Town had handled Ed Bond. A. Mikaniewicz asked J. Huebner about the impact of the Special Town Employee statute on this and other Town employees. J. Huebner replied that due to Washington's status as a very small town the statute allows for residents to hold several positions. He will bring in the guidelines for A. Mikaniewicz to review.
18. V. Breen told the Board that we should have no keys for the side or back doors. Only the front doors. There is a problem with the alarm system now and he is getting that repaired.
19. Discussing the Special Town Meeting, D. Spencer said that he was worried about under-budgeting for winter roads. Dan is getting closer to free cash certification. He estimates that \$100K will be available. All agreed that we will make the final payment for the windows and doors from Town funds rather than borrow.
20. J. Huebner briefly addressed the following items:
  - a. Verizon abatement for poles and wires. The Town has notified Verizon of our decision to fully abate the poles along with interest upon approval after the Special Town Meeting in February.
  - b. He received a letter of support from Paul Mark for the CIC software grant.
  - c. BRPC will hold a general meeting on 1/17 at 7:00 pm. That notice will be posted.
  - d. J. Huebner made a motion to sign the MIIA 2 year guarantee Proposal. M. Case seconded and the vote to sign was unanimous.
  - e. J. Huebner asked that an announcement of changes to the solid waste rules be passed along to Michelle Lampro.

- f. He mentioned that he had received a letter of introduction sent to the Board by JPV Consulting of South Egremont offering construction management services.
- g. J. Huebner signed the Mass. Cultural Council Contract.

21. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. M. Case seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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