

Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting — January 28, 2013

1. Board Clerk S. Lennon called the meeting to order at 7:06. 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 approve the minutes from 1/14, as no meeting was held on 1/21. M. Case seconded and the motion to approve was unanimous.
3. M. Case reported that he had met with Anthony Baro and the E2Sol group today to discuss their proposed solar installation in Town. The group walked the Town Hall Property and weighed its merits as a possible site for a solar array. E2Sol told M. Case that they could use the Town Hall roof to generate more power than the town needs. They suggested that we could sell the excess power to the schools. E2Sol would like to know about any other Town-owned sites for installing the solar panels. The Board will get this information to them. E2Sol will revise their proposal to maximize the Town's solar options and explain their benefits. They will get the proposal back to us next week.
4. F. Kennedy and his wife Carol addressed the Board about a rumor circulating in Town. The Kennedys and other residents are concerned about the possible existence of a snipers' range or boot camp built by Ayal Shapira at Pugzee's farm behind his property on Washington Mt. Road. The Kennedys and the Wileys complained that abutters should have been informed about this development and they were not. They have seen military-looking vehicles on the property and have heard firing.

Chief Breen said that he has discussed this with Mr. Shapira and that there is no snipers' range there. This is a rumor that has been blown out of proportion. Mr. Shapira has offered use of the area to the local National Guard and to area police units. No civilians are allowed in that part of his property. It is not open to the public. It is opened by invitation only. The law allows them to set up targets and shoot as part of training. E. Bond added that veterans from Soldier-On in Pittsfield come up to work on the farm portion of the property. The area out back was set up as an obstacle course for exercise. Pugzee's Farm has permission to maintain Beach Road and keep it open. The Town does not plow. M. Wiley and her husband also spoke to the Board about this use of the property for military/police training. As abutters they should have been informed. They are not happy about the gun fire. M. Case reminded them that as no Town by-laws are being violated, nothing can be done. Chief Breen mentioned that we do have a noise nuisance by-law.

5. M. Case mentioned that P. Mikaniewicz of the Becket Fire Department will use racks from Mapleview for the Department.
6. Chief Breen mentioned that he has found a lost dog and has placed an advertisement in the Eagle in an attempt to locate the owner. The dog seems to be half beagle and half husky. He will bring the dog down to the Sonsini shelter in a week or so if no one claims him. Chief Breen also mentioned that he will be purchasing self-protection handbooks for the residents. The

Board recommended that he check the Homeland Security web site for free booklets on this subject.

7. M. Case made a motion that the Board approve the February Selectmen's Letter to be published in the Tracks. S. Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
8. D. Spencer reported that the Town will need \$1700.00 to pay for a large generator and lights set. P. Mikaniewicz got a grant to cover part of the cost, but the \$1700.00 will have to come from the Town. This is another item for the Special Town Meeting. This is an important safety item for use in fighting fires, at Park events like the Pumpkin Walk, for car accidents at night etc. There was discussion about where this equipment would be stored. The old salt shed was suggested as was the Highway Garage. It has a telescoping pole and is about the same size as the solar powered speed warning apparatus which Chief Breen uses. The Board questioned whether it is Town Property or Fire Department property. D. Spencer will talk to P. Mikaniewicz about this.
9. The Board discussed the installation of the doors and windows with E. Bond. They asked him to get the contractor to install a handle and lock on the double doors at the end of the hallway near the Tax Collector's office. Many residents use that entrance and there have been complaints. E. Bond will talk to Campora Construction about this work.
10. The Board asked C. Briggs about the Personnel Handbook project. She reported that she had spoken with the Administrative Assistant about this work. She will give J. Hostetter her Staples credit card tonight so that she can get copies made on three-hole punched paper, purchase binders and assemble the handbooks. The Treasurer will distribute the handbooks and have each employee sign proof of receipt. The Board referred C. Briggs to the Mass.Gov web site for information about the ethics course she must take. C. Briggs mentioned that she needs to get the custodian's phone number to request her hours. E. Bond gave her this information.
11. The Board asked Chief Breen about progress on the Blotz Road signage. He told the Board that the information is not yet available. He will meet with D. Fish on the placement of signs in Washington on Rt.8. The Board deferred review of the draft letter to truckers until we have all information in hand.
12. The Board asked Chief Breen if he had keys to the Hall closet made yet. The emergency radio is to be stored in that closet with access by a limited number of Town officials. Chief Breen said that he had not done this yet. We have a conflict with F. Kennedy storing the projection equipment in that closet also. He will speak with Frank. S. Lennon will talk to state police about getting a second radio. Chief Breen agreed that we need a spare. M. Case suggested that we use a lock box in the closet to store the radios. Keys will go to: V. Breen, S. Lennon, M. Case. J. Huebner and P. Mikaniewicz.
13. D.Parnell told the Board that he has reconciled the Town accounts and is ready to submit the Schedule A to the state for certification. He still estimates about \$100,000 free cash. He is concerned about the lack of funds to cover health insurance. This must be dealt with at the STM. He reported no progress on the CIC software development grant. The state budget shortfall seems to have stalled that project for now anyway.

14. D. Spencer told the Board that we still have not set the STM date. He is working to get a complete list of warrant items for the meeting. His list of items for STM includes the 5% raises for the Transfer Station staff, D. Parnell and the custodian; Verizon pole bill; auditorium west wall repair; chapel floor; employee medical billing; funding for use of Becket Beach and now the emergency lighting equipment. D. Spencer has talked to Staples about putting the Town History Book on disc. The Town must first fill out a copyright release form which he wants J. Huebner to sign next week. D. Spencer has been working with G. Ellis of the historic commission on this project. No heirs to the author have been found. The History was never copyrighted. Staples, however, wants the release form signed anyway.
15. S. Lennon made a motion to adjourn at 8:13. M. Case seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Minutes written by J. Nelson