

Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – March 11, 2013

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:02. 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 from March 4, 2013. M. Case seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. J. Huebner reported on his research into the work done by DOT on the Washington Mountain Road in 1987-88. He contacted Mark Moore and Peter Niles at the Lenox DOT headquarters about this matter. They conducted an internal search and could not find any documentation on what was done and how much money was spent. In response, J. Huebner drafted a letter to Richard A. Davey, Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth, protesting the removal of Washington Mountain Road from the Federal funding list and explaining that the road has needed rehabilitation for over 20 years, estimating a \$2million budget and stating that our need for funds is immediate if we are to keep the road open. After discussion of the letter by the Board, J. Huebner made a motion to approve and send the letter. S. Lennon seconded and the vote was unanimous. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes which also list the individuals to be copied on the letter.
4. Frank Kennedy asked the Board about rumored speed limit changes on Washington Mountain Road. J. Huebner replied that if any action is taken, it will be a request to lower the speed limit. The Board is in favor of placing weight limits on the road and will discuss moving ahead with this.
5. J. Huebner asked the Board if the Town would consider changing the date of the Annual Town Meeting as it occurs on the day before Mothers' Day. He had received several complaints about this timing. A. Mikaniewicz later told the Board that we probably could not make that change unless it was approved at the ATM. She will speak to Counsel about this and update the Board.
6. D. Fish presented the Board with an estimate to bring our fuel pumps into compliance. This includes overflow alarms and other safety upgrades. J. Huebner asked D. Fish to give this information to D. Spencer for inclusion in the budget. For FY2014 D. Fish is asking for an additional \$40,000 for next year's budget for winter roads. The overall increase in the highway budget from FY 2013 is estimated at 25% for a total of \$80,000.

7. C. Briggs told the Board that she was unable to reach Town Counsel on Friday to discuss the process for auctioning off the Mapleview property. She will try again on this Friday. She reported receiving the finished Personnel Handbooks from J. Hostetter. She will distribute them to all employees and get all to sign the proof of receipt form. Copies of the forms will be placed in everyone's personnel folders.

8. The Board briefly discussed the following items and recent correspondence
 - a. Received from the Town of Lee, notice of a public hearing to be held on Wednesday, March 27 at 7:30 by the Zoning Board of Appeals. To be posted on our bulletin board at Town Hall.
 - b. Ed Bond presented his certificate to the Board for having completed the state Conflict of Interest training. C. Briggs took the certificate to file.
 - c. The Board received confirmation from the minutes that Peter Blake had been approved as the new Veteran's Agent on September 17, 2012.
 - d. Secretary Richard Davey of DOT will have an open house in Lenox at 1:30 PM on March 14. J. Huebner will attend as will M. Case. S. Lennon will attend also if he can get the time off.
 - e. Received an email announcement from Representative Pignatelli's office describing the Representative's efforts in support of the transportation bond bill which funds CH. 90 for all of the state's towns and cities. The bond bill will be more than \$3 billion over 10 years. Also received email from House Speaker De Leo's office urging support for CH. 90 at \$300 million a year.
 - f. Received reminder of roundtable discussion at Lenox Town Hall with Andrea Cabral, the Secretary of Public Safety and Security. Event will be held on March 15 from 10:00- 12:00. Attendees should be Police, Fire and other public safety officers. Representative Pignatelli will host.
 - g. Western Mass. Public Health Association will present a program at the Froio Center on North St. in Pittsfield on April 24 at 5:00pm on mosquitoes and severe weather. The event is free and open to the public.
 - h. The BCBOHA will hold its annual dinner on Monday, April 22. As that is a Selectmen's Meeting night, none of the Board will attend.
 - i. The 2013 Fair Housing and Civil Rights Conference will be held on April 11 and 12 in Springfield.
 - j. J. Huebner signed the state Division of Animal Health Nomination of Inspector of Animals naming Victor Breen to continue in that role for the Town. V. Breen to sign and get the form notarized before mailing to the Department of Agricultural Resources.

- k. J. Huebner will be in contact with the Hinsdale Board concerning the Blotz Road weight limit signs as Mr. Kokindo has resigned.
- l. WMECO will hold a dinner at the Crown Plaza on 3/27 at 5:30. The subject of emergency preparedness will be presented and discussed. S. Lennon may attend.
- m. Received from MMA a Retiree Health Benefits Survey. As the Town does not provide such a program, there was no further interest.
- n. The Administrative Assistants will work on putting together an appendix for the Personnel Handbook containing job descriptions for all salaried positions.
- o. S. Lennon will call Sheriff's Office regarding significant increase in Town's 911 assessment.
- p. J. Huebner made a motion to accept the proposal of E2Sol to build a solar array in Town to generate power for town buildings at a low fixed rate. This acceptance will be conditional on receiving a sufficiently detailed proposal from the company. E2Sol will sell any excess electricity back to the grid for their own profit.

Huebner made a motion to adjourn the Selectmen's Meeting at 7:35 pm. M. Case seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson