

Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting - 5/6/12

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, M. Case and S. Lennon.
2. After leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. J. Huebner made a motion to accept the minutes from April 29, 2013. M. Case seconded the motion and the vote to accept was unanimous.
3. E. Bond, Town Meeting Moderator, addressed the Board and asked if he would have a list of Town officials to be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting on May 11. E. Bond reported on the status of repairs to the auditorium west wall. The contractors are waiting for one last door and will install that when it comes. He has spoken to the painter about stain for the exterior portion of the west wall. The painter has the stain on hand and will provide it to the Town so that E. Bond can finish the job quickly. E. Bond is trying to get the situation with new doors and locks sorted out. He has keys to all of the new exterior doors. Questions have been asked about which of the doors will be locked and when. J. Huebner said that security of the building is Chief Breen's job. E. Bond stated that he is satisfied with the current plan to have the auditorium exit doors lock automatically behind anyone who leaves the building that way. The Board supported this arrangement. The Board asked E. Bond to have the Custodian clean the mold out of the refrigerator. E. Bond will ask J. Hostetter to schedule with the Custodian.
4. D. Spencer addressed the Board with several questions about items appearing on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. He mentioned we should not exempt the Assessor's Assistant from the raise. He mentioned that there will be amendments addressed at the meeting. He will keep track of the changes during the meeting.
5. J. Huebner invited resident Jim Golby to address the Board with his business. He stated that he wanted to register a formal complaint with the Town. He and his family live in the red house on the left going uphill at the top of the steep curve on Frost Road. The house and yard are very close to the road. He complained that cars and trucks speed past his home at 50 or even 60 miles per hour regularly. He has 4 young children. He has on a couple of occasions contacted the owners of some of the speeding trucks. The trucks slowed down for awhile and then again resumed driving too fast. Adding to the hazardous conditions, the school bus stops at the crest of the hill near his home where cars speeding uphill cannot see it until they are practically on top of it.

He reported that that morning while he was at work and his wife was at home, a truck ran over his cat and would likely have hit his young son who was chasing after the cat, had his wife not grabbed the child in time. The driver did not even slow down. He asked that the Town place "Children Slow" signs both downhill and uphill closer to his house. He suggested that a "School bus stop" sign be moved closer also. D. Fish agreed to do this work immediately. The Board requested that Chief Breen place the electronic speed check sign on the downhill side of the resident's home on Frost Road. He will do so. The Board will send a letter to the State Police describing the morning's incident and asking them to monitor this area for speeding vehicles for the next month or so. The resident will talk to the school bus driver about stopping a few feet further up the road. The Board thanked him for bringing this hazardous situation to the Town's attention and expressed sympathy for the loss of his pet.

6. Lisa Guthrie spoke to the Board on the subject of policy guidelines for Tracks. She said that she had never been given any guidance on this. The Board felt it time to define guidelines with respect to political advertising and statements. Their decision was to declare a policy of no electioneering at all by any candidates. J. Huebner had consulted the Mass. Ethics Commission and the Attorney General's office and was advised that it was illegal for a government sponsored publication to print political announcements of any kind. Candidates for public office cannot use publically funded media to campaign. That includes a newsletter like Tracks. L. Guthrie thanked the Board for the clarification. The Board asked her to write up a brief paragraph about this policy and insert it in Tracks. The Board thanked her for her excellent service to the Town and assured her that no criticism of her efforts or Michele Beemer's was implied.
7. J. Huebner asked D. Fish for his update on highway activities. He told the Board that he had organized a cooperative effort to get the worst section of the Town Hall parking lot behind the building re-paved and to save the Town some money by doing it this way. The highway crew will clear the layer of blacktop and break it up. Lane will pick up and remove the broken asphalt for free. The highway crew will then grade the lot. Tom Delaney will pave the cleared section. Cost to the Town will be about \$6000- \$7000. D. Fish said that a man from the FCC had come up to check his radio equipment. It work s better now. D. Fish is continuing to take trees down around Town. He is also getting the snow plows retired for the season. He mentioned that the DCR is putting a section of forest out to bid on Watson Road. D. Spencer said that we need to collect fees and get a copy of the cutting plan. The forester will do an inventory. The Town receives a percentage of the money made from the board footage, not the stumps. D. Fish continues working on drainage on Washington Mt. road. He needs some permits for placing stones in water elsewhere. He will talk to the Conservation Commission about this. He has done all of the paperwork for FEMA for Irene and another smaller storm. He is in touch with FEMA on the process of obtaining the funding. Allison has notarized the application. He put in an application for Westfield Wild and Scenic's free bridge inspections.
8. Chief Breen reported that he had installed the emergency radio in the hall closet as requested. The Board thanked him for this. He asked if he could have the old antenna on the Highway Garage roof for personal use. D. Fish said that he does not use this old antenna. It does not provide the service that he needs. Chief Breen said that it is an AM/FM radio antenna. It has been in place for 25 years. He said he will see if we can get someone to remove it for free. Chief Breen is doing the annual Town animal census. He will purchase new American flags at Century Uniform. They are better quality and will last longer.
9. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter about the transfer station license renewal. Ken Walls said Phil Clark took the paperwork to file for the transfer station license application. J. Hostetter told the Board that she had received a call from the Board of Health mini-grant program, but the message was cut off before she could learn the outcome. J. Nelson will follow up on this with the state. J. Hostetter told the Board that she has given the names of non-resident Town employees to L. Guthrie and asked her to add them to the Tracks' mailing list.
10. K. Walls told the Board that he had inspected the site for the pool at Pugzie Farm. P. Greene called him on this. He reported that it conforms to Town conservation restrictions. He also reported a dam breached on Watson Road. It looks like a tractor did it. An abutter told him that

he knows who did it. However, he refused to provide the name. K. Walls said that RJ Pelletier brought the land and now is trying to sell it.

11. J. Huebner reviewed correspondence and a few other brief items:

- a. There will be a Whole Community Summit at UMASS for homeland security providers. P. Mikaniewicz has been notified.
- b. There was an MPO meeting last week in Pittsfield. J. Huebner attended. He spoke regarding Washington Mountain Road paving and repairs. He learned that changing the road's designation to Minor Arterial status would cost the town more in the level of repairs required. So we will stay rural.
- c. MEMA will let us know in July if we are to get money for hazard mitigation regarding the brook and flood control in Eden Glen. P. Clark to follow up on this.
- d. We learned that Rose Borgnis has been in the hospital and so was unable to respond to the Board's request for an update on the situation regarding the memorial plaque for the Chapel which has been paid for and not installed. J. Hostetter will send her a card from the Board.
- e. J Huebner received a letter from DOR. Pittsfield owes the Town Payment in Lieu of Taxes in the amount of \$85,559.13 for Fiscal 2013. This is in payment for land owned by the city in the Town and used for water supply purposes. He asked that a copy be given to D. Spencer and D. Parnell.
- f. He received a quarterly report from Berkshire Regional Health Alliance reporting public health nurse activity for Q1 2013.
- g. Also received was a notice that Electric Vehicle Incentive Workshops will be held in several towns.
- h. C. Briggs emailed that the proposed date for the Mapleview auction is June 1. She has hired an auctioneer. M. Case made a motion that the Town ask for a minimum bid of \$5000. J. Huebner seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.
- i. Vanguard Solar Energy is looking at the land behind Town Hall to put up a solar array. They are also looking in neighboring towns to put together a combined package that may make sense economically. They will need at least 55kW of demand.
- j. J. Huebner reported receiving Mountain Road traffic accident data from Dalton from Chief Breen.
- k. He also received a letter from DOT confirming that they had received our inquiry regarding traffic accident data for the Mountain Road and also requesting traffic flow data.

12. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson