

Town of Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – May 20, 2013

1. M. Case called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Attending for the Board were S. Lennon and M. Case.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Frank Kennedy expressed his and his wife's concern regarding the direction in which the military activity at Pugzee's Farm is heading citing the recent training exercise of ten men in cadence jogging down Washington Mountain Road. Mr. Kennedy entered into the record that they are concerned about the military activity exceeding the boundaries of Pugzee's farm that it is unnerving the possibility of the presence of men in full gear, tanks, helicopters or military encampment adding when does it cross the line of residential /agricultural. The Board reminded Mr. Kennedy that there is currently nothing in the bylaws to prohibit the recent activity that that the residents have voted against two by-laws twice and prohibiting military activity on town property could affect federal funds. Ken Walls suggested that F. Kennedy attend the next Planning Board meeting scheduled for June 11th to discuss his concerns. Both Mike Case and Shaun Lennon stated that as citizens that they are not concerned about the activity that occurred. M. Case added that there is an area over October Mountain designated a Vector Airway; it's displayed on every aviation map that all westerly flights follow this airway.
4. M. Case motioned to accept the minutes from May 13, 2013. S. Lennon seconded and he motion passed unanimously.
5. Mike Case motioned to table the Chairman and Clerk vote until the next meeting when there is a full board. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
6. Ken Walls informed the Board that he performed a site visit to the pond on Watson Road reporting that the beaver activity has resumed, the dam was rebuilt and the water level has risen adding that the area looks good.
7. The Town Clerk swore in re-elected Selectmen Shaun Lennon.
8. J. Hostetter expressed her concern for the geese at the pond located near Woody's explaining that during a conversation with a fellow resident she was told that members of a group of people hanging out in Woody's parking lot appeared to be holding ducks hanging from rope and the geese have not been seen there since. J. Hostetter told the Board that she looks at the pond during every passing and has not seen the geese either. The Board asked J. Hostetter to discuss the matter with Chief Breen.
9. Catherine Briggs reported that the Public Hearing Notice for the Maplevue Auction has been posted at the Town Hall and Transfer Station and it will appear in The Berkshire Eagle, Transcript, Country Journal and The Berkshire Record this weekend.
10. C. Briggs reported that the Bi-Weekly payroll will go into effect in July and the unemployment enrollment has not begun yet but soon will. The Board asked C. Briggs if she has a Conflict of Interest certification from everyone who is required to take that course. Cathy will check her records.
11. M. Case provided an update on the Dalton Communication action item stating that he is not optimistic it's going to happen. He spoke to Sheriff Grady, the communication towers are owned by the Sheriff's Department and they will not allow use by another communication service.

12. M. Case provided an update on the Washington Mountain Road action item reporting nothing new resulted from the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) meeting last Tuesday but he did make his presence and Washington's resolve known.
13. The Board tabled discussion on the St. Andrews Chapel plaque action item until J. Huebner was present as he was working on that item. J. Hostetter volunteered to email the Chapel Commission asking for an update.
14. S. Lennon informed the Board that he would like to get the Town Hall Usage Committee together again to discuss fiscal year 2014 projects mentioning utilizing the inmate work program again and updating the kitchen. M. Case commented that the refrigerator and dishwasher belong to the COA and if the Town replaces those items the responsibility for cleaning will become the custodians adding that J. Hostetter cleaned the refrigerator for the COA. There was discussion on researching possible grant opportunities for the Town Hall.
15. J. Hostetter provided an update on the job description action item reporting that some of the description emailed have been reviewed and returned that a second request is needed for the non-responders. Further warrant article research is need for the Treasurer's job and she will work with Ed Bond on updating the custodian's job description to incorporate all the changes made to the Town Hall.
16. M. Case recapped the communication that occurred between the Town and CSX regarding the Upper Valley Road claim. The Board discussed CSX second offer of \$12,000.00, which is considerable less than what the Town was seeking. CSX explained their figure decision was based on the lack of documentation on the condition of the road prior to the flooding. M. Case commented that the Board would have liked to discuss the amount with the Highway Superintendent, specifically what could be done with the \$12,000.00 but D. Fish was not present. M. Case motioned to except CSX's offer of \$12,000.00. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed.
17. M. Case motioned to approve the Selectmen letter to the Tracks. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed.
18. Chief Breen informed the Board that he has purchased two American Flags for the Town. Chief Breen also informed the Board that a resident used the 911 emergency services to report to the State Police that the electronic radar trailer parked on Frost Rd was not working properly. After discussion Chief Breen informed the Board that the electronic radar trailer has since been removed for repairs and it does not appear anyone had tampered with it.
19. M. Case informed Chief Breen that J. Hostetter has a concern to discuss. J. Hostetter reiterated concerns mentioned in item 8. Chief Breen stated that he would look into it commenting that the group could have been using decoy ducks to train their dogs which would have scarred the ducks causing them to hide or relocated to another pond.
20. S. Lennon commented that he would like to get two more post for Flags for the auditorium. One for the state flag and another for the federal flag. S. Lennon will check with the metal shop at Taconic High School.
21. M. Case informed Chief Breen of a resident's complaint regarding the military joggers on Washington Mountain Road. There was a brief discussion.

22. J. Hostetter updated the Board on the Annual Report action item reporting that she is awaiting the Clerks submission and that FY2013 requests will be sent out the beginning of June.
23. Washington MTN – Dave Fish is working on drainage NOI
24. M. Case entered into the record that there will be no meeting next week in observance of Memorial Day.
25. Chief Breen reported that Veterans grave sites in the Town cemeteries have been decorated in honor of their service for Memorial Day.
26. M. Wiley gave the Planning Board’s approval on Article 1 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant draft defining the Telecommunication By-law.
27. M. Case motioned to suspend the meeting at 7:38 until the Accounting Officer Dan Parnell was available. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed.
28. M. Case motioned to re-adjourn the meeting at 7:41. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed.
29. C. Briggs reported that the Town Clerk has assumed responsibility of the Conflict of Interest tracking.
30. Mike Case motioned to go back into session at 7:53. S. Lennon seconded. Motioned passed.
31. D. Parnell express his concerns regarding the potential cash flow problem explaining that now that prior year books have been balanced, free cash has been defined and being used. There was discussion on having an external audit to eliminate huge upfront fees for loans and financing capital projects, paying for them over time. There was additional discussion on the changing the real estate tax billing to quarterly, free cash timeline , transferring free cash to stabilization at the end of the year and the tax rate. M. Case commented that the Town Auditor would be a great candidate to move the external audit project forward. Dan Parnell will ask him to attend a Selectboard meeting. The Board agreed that there needs to be further discussion.
32. M. Case motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM. S. Lennon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Hostetter

[Return to Index](#)