

## Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – June 3, 2013

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were J. Huebner, Shaun Lennon and M. Case.
2. After leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, J. Huebner made a motion to approve the minutes from May 20, 2013. M. Case seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.
3. J. Huebner requested a copy of the minutes from 5/13/13 for a vote to officially redact them. J. Nelson to supply the copy next Monday, June 10.
4. Noting that Shaun Lennon was re-elected at the May 18 Town Election, M. Case made a motion to nominate S. Lennon as Clerk of the Select Board. J. Huebner seconded the nomination and made a motion to vote on the nomination. M. Case seconded. The vote was taken and S. Lennon was re-installed Clerk of the Washington Select Board. M. Case also nominated J. Huebner as Chair of the Washington Board of Selectmen. S. Lennon seconded and J. Huebner was unanimously re-installed as Board Chair.
5. J. Huebner read a notice received from the Mass. Municipal Association with instructions on submitting Town information for their annual Directory. They will email the Town Clerk for our election results and also request an update to our file in their data base.
6. J. Huebner also noted that the Town had received a request from the Berkshire Regional Transportation Authority to nominate a representative for the Town. D. Fish mentioned that his Uncle had worked for the BRTA for many years and was now retired and might be interested.
7. M. Lampro approached the Board and gave them several septic pumping reports from C. Willis at White Wolf. She reported that she has been working closely with Phil Clark to get the Transfer Station Renewal Authorization completed.
8. P. Blake, Veterans' Agent for the Town, reported to the Board that there had been an interment at the cemetery recently. This was the interment of Michael McHugh. Mr. McHugh had a stone placed there some time ago. D. Grillon, Town Sexton supervised the work on the interment and asked the Board how he would get reimbursed. The Board signed a reimbursement form for D. Grillon and asked him to submit it to the Accounting Officer.
9. Carol Kennedy told the Board that the truck traffic on the Mountain Road had greatly increased. She asked what can be done about it. D. Grillon agreed with her about the truck traffic. He noted that there are many tankers. F. Kennedy noted that the Town has put a weight limit on Blotz Road to try to reduce truck traffic and wondered if that could be done on the Mountain Road. J. Huebner said that the signage for the Blotz Road weights had been delayed by personnel changes resulting from the Hinsdale Town elections. He will stay on top of this.
10. J. Huebner raised the question of possible military training at Pugzee Farm for discussion. The Kennedys and others had reported seeing a group of eight to ten young men in fatigues jogging in formation down the Mountain Road and were concerned about expansion of the military

activity at Pugzees farm off private property and onto Town roads. They wondered what would come next. F. Kennedy asked if the Town's objection to military/police activity in Town would jeopardize our ability to get federal funding for roads work. M. Case indicated that it might have that effect. He also said that M. Shapira, owner of Pugzees Farm, told him that he had given permission for Pittsfield Police to train their SWAT team on his property. J. Huebner asked M. Wiley, Planning Board Chair, if she would ask Mr. Shapira, as an abutter, to clarify the nature of the activity on his property. She declined to do so.

11. J. Huebner read notice from the state that they had placed a valuation of \$10,407.30 on October Mountain State Forest. They estimated acreage at 10,119 acres. D. Grillon commented that this was a significant improvement from the time when he served on the Board. Valuation at that time was reduced to \$0 by the state.
12. J. Huebner read a letter from Will Rogers deploring the wretched and dangerous state of the Mountain Road. He noted that the Road had been in disastrous condition for many years. He urged us to get help from the state or federal government.
13. J. Huebner followed this eloquent letter with one received on May 9 from Secretary of Transportation Davey. The letter confirmed that we are again on the list for Federal funding for repairs to the Mountain Road. However there is no program available now. We need to get on the list for a planned project. Sect. Davey told us to go back to the TIP program list for next year. Our repair estimate is so great that we probably won't get funding anyhow. The Town offered to break the project into smaller phases which would be more affordable, but at this time there are still no funds available.

J. Huebner said that the Board has been working hard to find money for road repairs. We have gathered much persuasive state data on Mountain Road accidents clearly related to the road condition. These they have presented to Secty. Davey and to the staff at the Lenox DOT Regional Headquarters. M. Case encouraged us all to keep writing to Sen. Downing and Rep. Pignatelli about the dangers of the road. They have received many letters and hope to have more in order to make a strong case. E. Bond asked D. Fish about the potholes. D. Fish told E. Bond that the state told him to just fill potholes with sand. Anything else is wasted. Lillian Fox mentioned the danger to motorcyclists from washouts of sand and gravel onto the Mountain Road near her home. J. Huebner responded that we will continue to push the urgent need for repair funding to DOT. He said that Dalton and Becket are supportive.

14. J. Huebner asked D. Fish for his update. He will be working on drainage on Washington Mt. Road next. There are many culvert pipes to be replaced. He is working on a notice of intent to place the culvert pipes. J. Huebner mentioned reports of tar getting on cars in hot weather from chip sealing. D. Fish replied that he plans to put sand back on these roads to keep the tar down. M. Case suggested we put notice in Tracks about the tar. D. Fish told the Board that we may get \$6,000 in storm money. Chapter money should be substantial. He does not have the amount yet.
15. J. Huebner asked Chief Breen about his meeting with Mr. Gibson of Becket. Chief Breen told Mr. Gibson that he is paid \$17 per hour to drive the school van. Becket probably has 2 or 3 students for next year. Washington has 1. Chief Breen will get final confirmation of these numbers. He

said that Becket's share of the transportation cost is a percentage of the total number of students using the van. J. Huebner told Chief Breen that the school van will be replaced. Chief Breen recommended that we buy a good used van. He will look for one over the summer. J. Huebner suggested we sell the police cruiser and use the money to buy the van. Chief Breen said that the cruiser is a very good crime deterrent and that the Board should consider this before deciding to take the cruiser off the road. He reported that he had to rescue a few dogs over the last few weeks. Someone had stolen all the dog food and supplies from behind the garage. He will have to replace those and will submit for reimbursement to the Town.

16. Ed Bond reminded the Board that the annual park clean-up is scheduled for this weekend. He wants to repair the boardwalk over the low land.
17. J. Huebner mentioned the outcome of the Mapleview auction. Jane Pytko of Frost Road is the new owner and will pay \$6,125 for the property.
18. C. Briggs told the Board that she wants to talk to a few additional payroll companies about doing the Town's checks bi-weekly before deciding who will get our business. She has only spoken to one so far. She is still looking for the best deal. She has signed the Town up on line with the Department of Unemployment. She still has forms to complete to make it official. J. Huebner mentioned that he had received a call from a resident who complained that his tax payment check had never been deposited. C. Briggs suggested that he speak to the Tax Collector about this. J. Huebner asked C. Briggs and D. Fish how many pre-placement employee physicals the Town had conducted last year. Neither reported that any physicals had been done. J. Huebner filled out an MIIA report to this effect. There had been no random drug testing either.
19. J. Huebner reported receiving the following notices and other correspondence:
  - a. Notice received of a HazMat course in Tolland.
  - b. Holy Cross College is offering a seminar Overview of Municipal Services
  - c. Received email from Rose Borgnis reporting that the Chapel plaque for Mrs. Barbera had been taken care of.
  - d. Westfield Wild and Scenic was asking for \$7000 to survey the Cross Place Road Bridge.
  - e. J. Huebner had spoken to Mr. Gibson in Becket about the emergency communication question.
  - f. Board was invited to the Hampshire County Selectmen's dinner at the Blue Bonnet Diner in Northampton
  - g. J. Huebner signed the Transfer Station recertification application. J. Hostetter to contact P. Clark for his signature and to mail the paperwork to the state.
  - h. Board signed the paperwork processed by the Town Clerk to accept the \$12,000 claim settlement from CFX for damage to Upper Valley Road caused by flooding.
  - i. D. Fish to complete the USDA compliance review. They will come for an inspection.
  - j. Lee Planning Board meeting notice to be posted.
  - k. Westfield Wild & Scenic minutes to be posted.
  - l. Letter received from Berkshire Regional Transportation Association inviting the Town to appoint a representative.
  - m. Reappointment list for the Town needs to be updated

- n. Grant check received from the state Dept. of Public Health in the amount of \$250 for a public seminar on mosquito and tick borne disease prevention. Grant was applied for and won for the Town by Jodi Hostetter and Jan Nelson, Administrative Assistants.
- o. Notice of mental health seminar at Froio Center, Pittsfield.
- p. MIIA requests value of recent improvements to Town Hall. E. Bond and J. Nelson to provide.

20. The Board agreed to hold a Special Town Meeting on June 24. Warrant will have to be posted 2 weeks in advance. D. Parnell will pull together all the financial information he has and provide that to the Board next Monday. D. Spencer needs to be consulted. D. Parnell said that only winter roads will have to be covered. Other items are all under \$5000. He will need to itemize accounts for carry-over. He reported a call from F. Kennedy to ask if the Town could use Quick Books or other less costly accounting software instead of the proposed Softwrite product. D. Parnell replied that Softwrite still seems our only option, but he will do more investigation. He spoke to attendees at the recent accounting course he took and no one had any alternative programs to recommend.

21. M. Case made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm. J. Huebner seconded the motion and the motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

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

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

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

Minutes written by J. Nelson

**Back to Index**