

Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – June 17, 2013

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 of June 10, 2013. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.
3. M. Case showed the Board a thank you note from Ms. Alexandra Keator who expressed her gratitude for the Emma C. Bailey Scholarship awarded at the recent Waconnah Regional High School graduation. It was noted that Ms. Keator was valedictorian of her class.
4. J. Huebner reported that he met with the representative from CSX today. He was presented with a check of \$12,000 for Upper Valley Road damage from the railroad. The meeting was cordial despite the Town's long wait for damage compensation. J. Huebner expressed the Town's approval of CSX's current flooding remediation methods.
5. J. Huebner read a notice received by the Board from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission of public meetings to be held regarding the location of passenger rail stations for proposed passenger rail service between New York City and the Berkshires. A meeting in Lenox will be held on June 26 at 6:30 at the Town Hall and on June 10 at 6:30 at Monument Mountain high School. He reported that he had followed up with Becket on the Telecommunications issue and that he had no new developments to report on Cross Place Road bridge repairs from Westfield Wild and Scenic. The Eden Glen project had not been funded and he will follow up with P. Clark on this.
6. Mr. Leonard Bennett addressed the Board about the property located at 781 So. Washington State Road. He is considering buying the property and asked about the process for confirming the viability of septic installation. He had already conferred with building inspector Paul Greene about the engineering plan for the property. P. Green had confirmed that the septic plan was acceptable as it is on the opposite side of the house from the well and was professionally drawn up. The Board confirmed that P. Greene's approval was necessary and authoritative. Mr. Bennett asked for contact information for the Town Health Agent in order to get further information about the septic installation. J. Nelson supplied this information.
7. J. Huebner asked Chief Breen if he had gotten keys made for the Board and Paul Mikaniewicz to the hall closet where the emergency radio is kept. Chief Breen replied that he had a set made a while ago and has misplaced them. He will have another set made if he can't find the originals. Chief Breen told the Board that Washington will have 1 Voc Ed student. He will attend McCann. Becket expects to have 3 students, however, only one of those has been confirmed. That student will also attend McCann. The Board asked him about the trade-in value of the Cruiser. Chief Breen replied that we will lose 20-30% of its value in a trade. It is a 2011 vehicle. He recommends that we take a loan and purchase a good used school van. He has been looking around for one. It will have to be four wheel drive. The Board asked him to get pricing in to the Finance Committee for next Monday, 6/24 on the likely cost of the school van and for the trade-

in value of the police cruiser. The Board also asked him if his police certifications are up to date with the state. Chief Breen replied in the affirmative. The Board asked him for a copy of his certifications from the police academy.

8. E. Bond told the Board that he has seen no slowing in the speed of drivers on Frost Road, nor has he seen any ongoing state police presence there. He offered his driveway as a pull out for the police, but no one showed up. D. Fish confirmed E. Bond's report of high speed continuing on the road. Lt. Blackmere of the state police called J. Huebner last week. They had a good conversation. He will call Lt. Blackmere again about patrolling Frost Road. D. Fish will order new "Children" signs to be placed on Lover's Lane near where old town garage was. There are a number of children in that area. S. Connor told the Board that we also need a "Lover's Lane" sign, as that is frequently stolen.
9. Regarding the last work needed on the Town Hall doors and windows project, E. Bond told the board that he has been in frequent communication with Campora Construction (the contractor) and that he expects the project to be completed this week with the installation of the final door.
10. Referring to a letter received from Mr. Blessing about the dangerous potholes on Washington Mountain Road, J. Huebner asked D. Fish about filling the holes with blacktop instead of the sand DOT had recommended. D. Fish replied that he would very much like to do that and also pave around the area of the holes. This would greatly increase the life of the pothole fill. The Board directed him to fill holes with black top and do skim coat where it makes sense. He mentioned that he can purchase a paver from E. Lampron for \$5000. The Board directed him to look into doing that. He will ask C. Stevens for money for the asphalt. J. Huebner reviewed the paperwork for USDA. Both D. fish and J. Huebner signed the FEMA authorization before the Town Clerk who added her seal.
11. C. Briggs told the Board that we will save \$680 by going to bi-weekly payroll. She will get some additional quotes on this. We can't make the change until the end of the calendar year. She still needs to complete some forms for Mass Unemployment. She needs quick response signatures for this. J. Huebner signed the form. The Board agreed to renew with Cabot insurance.
12. J. Huebner read a notice from B. Simmons claiming that the Town needed to pay her \$129 to replace a pair of shoes ruined by tar from chip sealed pavement.
13. M.Lampro gave the Board an update on the Transfer Station. She is following up on Phil Clark's recommendations for improvements to operations. She has a copy of Phil's recommendations. She has completed J. Pytko's performance evaluation and her own.
14. J. Huebner asked D. Parnell about the timing on switching from Vadar to Softwrite for our accounting software. D. Parnell said that he had put it on the back burner through this year. Will start using it in FY 2015. Both C. Briggs and D. Parnell will be out next week.
15. Jodi Hostetter updated the Board on the administrative assistants' activities. Work on confirming re-appointments for town positions is well underway. Preparations are nearly complete for the Public Health presentation in the auditorium on 6/26. She said that she has had no response from R. Borgnis of the COA to her request to use their tables and chairs for the Public Health Nurses' presentation about the dangers of Mosquito and Tick borne diseases. She

expressed her frustration at the delay in Rose’s response as we are trying to finalize plans for the auditorium set up. The Board discussed leadership of the Council on Aging. All agreed that Rose has done a good job. However, there has been friction among COA personnel. They agreed to hold off on appointments to COA for now. J Huebner made a motion to also hold off on reappointments for all employees who have not filled out their performance review forms. M. Case seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

16. J. Huebner reported receiving a water system request form from the USDA as we did in 2010. He asked J. Hostetter to get a copy from the files and to fill out the form .

17. The Board conducted a performance review with D. Fish. He told the Board that his main challenge is paperwork. He always wants to get out and get the work done, not sit at the desk. However he is getting better at the paperwork. J. Huebner asked him to work harder on interpersonal skills and team building. The Board said that he does good work on the equipment and garage. He has put together a good hard working crew. J. Huebner made a motion to re-appoint D. Fish for one year. S. Lennon seconded, and approval was unanimous.

18. J. Huebner prepared another letter to Mr. Davey at DOT sent on June 17 in response to his letter to the Town regarding reduced Chapter 90 funding. The letter, signed by all Board members, repeated for the third time that the Town will not be able to maintain Washington Mountain Road in a safe condition without adequate funding and asked for that funding immediately. M. Case mentioned that we had been informed that we would not be able to close Washington Mountain Road unilaterally, nor could we change the speed limit or the weight limit. Discussion followed about whether we should start the process of involving Dalton and Becket in getting the speed and weight limits lowered.

19. At 8:55 J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson

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