

## Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – June 24, 2013

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. 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 of June 17, 2013. M. Case seconded the motion and the vote to accept was unanimous.
3. V. Breen gave the Board \$880 for the Veterans' Fund. This was full reimbursement from the VA for what was owed the Town. He also submitted to the Board printed Information on vans and buses to replace the existing school vehicle. We had a quote on a Toyota Sienna and Ford Expedition. Ford price was \$ 33,055. The Board agreed that this was a fair price for a suitable vehicle and are interested in pursuing this. All agreed that the value of the existing school bus is very low.
4. Lillian Fox complained about not posting names of people appointed and elected. Many residents do not go on line to get such information. The Board agreed that the list should be posted in the next Tracks. She would also like to see it posted at Town Hall.
5. Derek Rogers, a local contractor, addressed the Board about tar and sand damage to the paint on his truck from the recent chip sealing. The damage happened on Summit Hill this Sunday. He tried cleaning it, but the sand is very abrasive and has done permanent damage to the truck. He believes that the paint is ruined. He wants it repaired. He called D. Fish about this and was told by Dave that he had had many similar complaints about damage from the tar. A contractor was hired to do the chip seal work last fall. The contractor told D. Fish to put down sand to control damage from the tar. D. Fish had directed callers to file an insurance claim with the Town Treasurer. The Board will ask our insurance company to follow up with the contractor. They also asked D. Fish to follow up with the contractor.
6. The Board asked D. Fish for an update on Highway Department activities. He reported that the wood pile made up of tree cutting scrap is finally disappearing from the Town ball field. Residents are taking it. He is working on the potholes and drainage on Washington Mountain Road. He is also working still on the NOI. He expects to have the paperwork finished soon. J. Huebner told him that he had received complaints about his using a chain saw from his neighbors. D. Fish said that he will abide by the Town's noise requirements. J. Huebner asked him to work at getting the paver which was discussed at last week's meeting. D. Fish said that he will negotiate with C. Willis of White Wolf for the paver. The Board asked him to consider paving the transfer station entrance. The Board also told him that they would like M.Lampro to be listed as transfer station operator. D. Fish had no objection to this. He mentioned that Covanta had told him we have an outstanding bill unpaid. This bill amounts to about \$8000 from last winter.

7. J. Huebner reported that the Board had received notice of a Westfield Wild and Scenic meeting to be held on 6/27. Washington hopes to receive some funding for engineering services from them. The Town did submit an application for this.
8. The Board also received information on the Mass. Public Library Directors' Construction Program. This will be forwarded to Becket. M. Case mentioned news that there had been misappropriation of funds at the Becket Athenaeum in the amount of \$1500-1600 by the former library head.
9. J. Huebner made a motion to accept the Selectmen's' monthly letter for publication in the Tracks. M. Case seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
10. E. Bond told the Board that the contractor still hasn't received the last door to complete work on the auditorium. He has withheld 50% of their payment pending completion. The exterior work has been completed
11. J. Huebner asked S. Nelson why MBI continues to push for a meeting. S. Nelson said this probably has to do with MBI's effort to complete the middle mile. He will meet with them along with one Board member to settle any outstanding questions. He mentioned that MBI will receive \$40M from a Mass. bond bill to finish the last mile. Wired West appears to be their partner of choice to get this work completed. He testified at a State House hearing earlier in the week in support of this.
12. At 7:30 pm the Board suspended their regular meeting to hold a Special Town Meeting. Minutes of that meeting were taken by the Town Clerk, A. Mikaniewicz.
13. At 8:07 pm the selectmen resumed their regular meeting.
14. J. Huebner reported that the grant application for Eden Glen repairs had been denied. We have been placed on the waiting list. He had talked to Phil Clark about other funding sources. P. Clark to look into this.
15. J. Huebner reported no change in the situation regarding 911 communications. He had not spoken with Dalton or Becket about this.
16. Regarding the speeding on Frost Road, M. Case said that state police have increased patrols of Washington Mountain Road with cruisers at the town line with Becket. He said that they would not likely spend much time on Frost Road as that does not have enough traffic flow to justify an on-going presence. M. Case suggested that the best way to utilize the state police would be to get residents to write down the license plate numbers of Frost Road speeders, give that information to Victor and have him phone it in to the Cheshire barracks.

17. The Board signed forms from the Town Accountant. Town Clerk expenses were high due to the many elections we have had this year.
18. D. Spencer raised the subject of moving forward with purchase of the Ford Expedition which V. Breen had described earlier in the meeting. We will have to schedule another Special Town meeting to approve borrowing on the vehicle. The date of July 22 is the earliest we can do this. J. Huebner made a motion to purchase the 2013 Ford Expedition as described by V. Breen for the sum of \$33,055. M. Case seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. M. Case made a motion to approve borrowing the money to pay for the vehicle. J. Huebner seconded and this motion also passed unanimously. The Board asked V. Breen to put a hold on the vehicle with his contact at the dealership and to explain to them that the Town will go forward with purchase after an STM to approve sale on July 22.
19. J. Huebner signed off on the transfers of funds to do with Highway funding. D. Fish must sign off also.
20. J. Huebner discussed raising the weight limit on Washington Mountain Road. We would have to get approval from the state on this and would also have to get buy-in from Dalton and Becket. The Board was strongly supportive of this effort.
21. The Board accepted a performance appraisal from J. Nelson. The vote to re-appoint was unanimous.
22. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter about status of the USDA form. J. Hostetter told the Board that it was nearly done. She has the list of employees ready. She is ready to send the survey off as soon as she can get the attachments referred to in the form. J. Huebner provided those attachments. J. Huebner told her that we will have another special town meeting on July 22 and that she will have to get another warrant together on July 8 so that it can be posted in a timely manner. He reminded her that there will be no Selectmen's meeting next week in observance of the July 4 holiday.
23. J. Huebner asked her to contact Craig Willis at White Wolf to confirm his rate to continue hauling the Transfer Station trash and recyclables. He asked her to express the Board's hope that he will continue our current rate for the upcoming year and agree to lock that in for the Town for a couple more years. J. Hostetter reported that M. Lampro believed the transfer station was running smoothly with the new payment process.
24. J. Huebner gave her the STM-approved transfers for D. Fish to sign and asked her to contact him.
25. J. Hostetter told the Board that she is reorganizing the Board of Health files by street address rather than by name of property owner, as they are now organized. This is a big

project, but necessary as it is nearly impossible to respond to inquiries from the public under the present scheme.

26. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter about the recent exchange of emails she had with COA Chair R. Borgnis over her request to use the COA tables and chairs for the Board of Health presentation on June 26. This presentation was free to all Town residents and covered the important topic of how to best avoid tick and mosquito borne diseases over the summer. Light refreshments were served and that was the reason use of COA assets was requested. R. Borgnis was very slow in responding to J. Hostetter’s repeated requests. Because of the delay and the fast approaching event, J. Hostetter called the state COA office to inquire whether the COA could refuse to share furniture with another Town group under such conditions. She was told by the state that the Town should set guidelines for the COA and specify that reasonable useage of the COA purchased items for a Town sponsored event should not be refused. Though R. Borgnis did finally agree to the use of COA furnishings for the event, the Board expressed its disappointment with her conduct. They mentioned her similar lack of cooperation with the “Morning Coffee” effort. They mentioned that they had had complaints about her being difficult to work with. For these reasons they decided not to take up her re-appointment as the COA Chair at this point.

27. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47. M. Case seconded the motion and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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

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

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

Minutes written by J. Nelson

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