

Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – July 8, 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 24, 2013. M. Case seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. J. Huebner reported that the Town was turned down for the Eden Glen repair funding. However our evaluation score brought us very close to being funded. P. Clark will continue talking to FEMA about this. He believes we have a good chance to get some money during the next phase.
4. J. Huebner read the Selectmen's 2013 Report into the record. See copy attached. He made a motion to adopt the Report. M. Case seconded and the Report was unanimously accepted.
5. J. Huebner reported receiving a note from E. Bond on the status of the auditorium west wall repairs. The contractor, Campora Construction, has now completed the work. The last door was installed today and all debris removed. E. Bond will finish the interior. Pioneer Plumbing will fix the noisy heater pipes.
6. Laura Kitross, Chair of BRHA and The Berkshire County Boards of Health attended the recent presentation on Tick and Mosquito borne diseases presented in the auditorium by our Board of Health nurses. She had not visited Washington before and commented to J. Huebner on how attractive the Town Hall and auditorium are. About a dozen residents attended the very informative presentation paid for by a grant won by the Town Administrative Assistants.
7. S. Lennon told the Board that the Town will be getting another fine piece of furniture from Williams College. This will be a very solid conference table identical to the one we received earlier from the college as a result of S. Lennon's efforts and his status as an employee there.
8. J. Huebner asked D. Fish for an update on activity at the Highway Department. D. Fish confirmed that he is still receiving complaints about the tar from last fall's chip sealing getting on people's vehicles. He will meet with C. Stevens of DOT tomorrow to review the materials used on the roads, including the sand the contractor told him to lay down to contain the oil. He spoke to All State Asphalt regarding the tar damage. They wondered if maybe we removed the stone too soon. He was told by DOT to remove the crushed rock on the day after the chip sealing was laid down. He hopes to get an opinion

from C. Stevens. NOI still under way. We now have our FCC license for our radio operations. Most of the scrap wood has been taken from the ball field. Residents are free to take any wood cut by the crew and left on side of road. He suggested we put a notice to this effect in Tracks. Regarding the paver, he is getting 2 verbal quotes. White Wolf is holding on to it. Chapter 90 money has not been released to us yet. Our funding has been reduced to \$125,000. He will spend it on Washington Mountain Road paving near the houses there. Our funding will cover just 3 miles of paving. J. Huebner said he will contact DOT again to tell them that we have our own paver and will do the labor if we can get money from the state to cover the asphalt cost. He will also speak to DOT about setting a weight limit on Washington Mt. Road. After discussion it was agreed that the limit should be set at 26,000 lbs. The other towns affected (Dalton, Becket and Hinsdale) would not agree to a lower limit. With this limit cement trucks and Log haulers would be barred from the road. J. Huebner made a motion that we adopt a 26,000 lb. wgt limit on Washington Mountain and Blotz Roads. This would apply only to through traffic. S. Lennon seconded and the motion passed unanimously. He will tell Becket, Hinsdale and Dalton about our decision. He will also send a letter to DOT Secty. Davey requesting \$500,000 for asphalt.

9. D. Fish told the Board that the highway department does not want to go off the weekly payroll schedule. Crew member Tom Johnson and his wife were in attendance and said that this would be a hardship for their family. J. Huebner said that it would not be done until end of the calendar year. He suggested that perhaps a lump sum or carry over could be arranged at the start of bi-weekly pay to tide people over.
10. Peter Blake offered the Board some potentially revenue-generating ideas about the harvesting of mature deciduous trees growing on Town land and right of ways. He suggested we have a forester mark the mature deciduous trees in the right of ways. Then a lumber contractor comes in and takes the trees down that no one else wants and pays the Town for the lumber. This can generate money for free cash. It also protects power lines. The Board felt we might want to consult with counsel on this. He also mentioned that we might be able to charge user fees to those who own conservation land in Town. J. Huebner mentioned that Pittsfield pays us for their use of our land. We would need to identify all eligible parcels. Jeff Jourdain of Becket is the recommended forester. D. Fish to contact him to discuss the harvesting idea above.
11. Peter Blake asked if we have Town Reports for 2011,2012 and 2013 . J. Huebner told him that there was a change of administration over this period and that the reports are nearly completed now. P. Blake said that he would like to see our emergency response overview in the annual report. J. Huebner suggested he speak with our emergency response manager P. Mikaniewicz for details of the plan. P. Mikaniewicz, V. Breen and J. Huebner are on the emergency response committee. He said that we do not currently have capability to shelter a significant number of town residents in emergency. The Town Hall is not set up to be an official evacuation center. It hasn't the necessary plumbing capacity, cooking facilities or cots and other furnishings. V. Breen says grants

for this level of preparedness have dried up. The last major purchase we were able to make was the generator. J. Pytko asked the Board about emergency communications. The Board mentioned that reverse 911 service is set up and available for the Town to use right now. J. Huebner suggested that we could publish information on our current emergency capabilities in the Tracks so that people would know what is available. V. Breen and P. Mikaniewicz to meet with P. Blake to decide what to put in Tracks. J. Hostetter told the Board that she is just about finished with putting together the 2011, 2012 and 2013 Annual Reports. She is waiting for reports from one Town officer to finish off the work. J. Huebner told her that we need to include a report from our emergency managers in the 2013 Annual Report.

12. D. Spencer told the Board that we need to draft the warrant tonight to approve and appropriate funds for purchase of the new School bus. The amount need will be up to \$35,000 to be financed with a 5 year loan. Another Special Town meeting will be held for this purpose on July 22. The warrant will be signed and posted tonight. J. Hostetter will prepare the warrant as directed by the Board.
13. The Town received a complaint on the tar situation from Gail Jones for Summit Hill Campground. They are planning to have a car show on the property. The Board asked J. Hostetter to see if they need a permit for this. G. Jones said that there are many damaged cars at the campground. They may seek legal action. The Board agreed that we must assure the Delaneys that we are working with the state and the contractor on this problem. The Delaneys have the option of telling their customers that they can come up through Hinsdale to the campground and avoid the tarred road entirely. J. Huebner asked that D. Fish be told about the problem at the campground.
14. J. Huebner reported receiving a contract for this year from the BRHA and our public health nurses. J. Hostetter provided the contract and J. Huebner signed it.
15. V. Breen told the Board that we were able to get a 2014 model year Ford Expedition from the dealer for the same price as the 2013. They will hold the vehicle for the Town as requested. He informed Becket that we are buying a new vehicle. Our purchase is contingent on Becket continuing to use us for Voc Ed transport of students. J. Huebner expects to get a MOU from Becket regarding all of our shared services. He asked Becket to consider joining with Dalton on 911. We can't do it alone. Ken Walto told us that we need Becket's cooperation to shift our 911 coverage from the Sheriff to Dalton dispatch. V. Breen mentioned that he needs the number of Becket Voc Ed students to plan routes.
16. J. Huebner made a motion to move the 8/5 Selectmen's meeting to 8/7 to accommodate a request for a meeting from MBI and Axia about high speed internet service at Town Hall. S. Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. J. Huebner will put a notice about this change in the Tracks.

17. J. Huebner reported on receipt of the following: Three notices from the Lee Planning Board regarding scheduled meetings on 7/22 and 7/24. To be Posted.; a request from the BRPC to appoint a new alternate delegate. J. Nelson accepted the appointment.; An MMA invoice in the amount of \$458 for one year's membership.; an invoice for \$1007 for our public health nursing agreement.; a form from the state department on Housing and Community Development. He will send the form over to Paul Greene to fill out.; He signed the form to confirm M. Case as our representative to the BRTA Advisory Board.
18. J. Nelson confirmed that the Ladies' Room sink needs some work, especially a new faucet set. A paper towel dispenser would also be appreciated. J. Heubner asked her to contact E. Bond about this.
19. D. Parnell told the Board that he needs to meet with the Finance Committee next week to finish the transfers. D. Spencer asked that this meeting be from 7:00 to 7:30.
20. D. Parnell pointed out that a couple of new kitchen appliances have been bought by the COA. These are a refrigerator and dishwasher. J. Huebner asked D. Parnell to hold those checks until he can confirm the purchases with R. Borgnis.
21. The Board asked J. Hostetter to give the Becket Post Office her phone number and ask to be called when registered or certified mail needing signature comes in for the Town. She should tell the Post Office that she is the official contact.
22. J. Huebner reported that he had signed a beaver trapping permit for West Branch Rd. It should be numbered 20. He asked J. Hostetter to make this correction and to contact the recipient and have them change the number on the issued permit.
23. The Board reviewed Karen Avalue's performance appraisal. M. Case made a motion to reappoint her. S. Lennon seconded the motion and she was unanimously reappointed as Consulting Appraiser.
24. Mr. Leonard Bennett told the Board that he has purchased the house at 781 S. Washington State Road. He wants to put in a new well closer to the house and wanted to be sure to follow the correct procedures. The Board told him that he needs to get the Conservation Commission over to the property and that he needs a clear plan of the new location. They advised him to meet with his engineer and have him clearly mark the new position on the plans. The Health agent will also need to inspect and issue a permit for the well.
25. The Board reviewed J. Hostetter's performance appraisal. J. Huebner made a motion to reappoint her as Administrative Assistant. M. Case seconded and she was reappointed unanimously.

26. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05. S. Lennon seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson

[Return to Index](#)