

Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – July 15, 2013

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 6:58 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 from July 8, 2013. M. Case seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. J. Huebner reported that he had contacted Mr. Walto of Dalton and asked him to speak with Mr. Gibson, the new Town Manager of Becket, about participating in the 911 service provided by Dalton. Washington will not be able to use Dalton's service unless Becket also participates.
4. M. Case reported that he had tried to attend a TAC meeting in Pittsfield. Unfortunately that meeting had been re-scheduled. However he was able to speak at some length with Clete Cus who heads up the transportation department at Berkshire Regional Planning. They discussed our efforts to secure funds to repair Washington Mountain Road. He told Clete that we are willing to provide the labor if the state will fund materials to fix the road. He learned that Dalton has been taken off the TIP List and will not be reinstated until 2015.
5. J. Huebner said that he had discussed with Mark Moore lowering the weight limit on Washington Mountain Road in an attempt to minimize further damage from large trucks. Mr. Moore advised him to try to get the weight limit lowered first on Blotz Road and to follow that with Washington Mt. Road. Trying both at once would cut off 2 routes and that might not be acceptable to DOT or to the haulers who use those roads regularly.
6. D. Fish reported that we still have received no highway money from Chapter 9. We probably have \$40,000 left in the highway account now. A discussion followed about what amount of funding we should request from DOT to repair Washington Mountain Road. D. Fish said that the paving should last for over 5 years. He would like to put down 3/4 inches of asphalt on the road. He could do 2 miles for \$125,000. It was confirmed that we would ask DOT for \$500,000 for this work. D. Fish will repair the worst spots first when we get some funding. He has still not received the NOI. He plans to do more work on Washington Mountain Road this week. He will do drainage work there. He is waiting for mower parts. He has begun training his crew on using the paver. He will try out the paver with a small amount of asphalt. He cleaned out behind the swap shop at the Transfer Station, removing the old truck bodies. He will own responsibility for the transfer station. J. Huebner reminded him to call Jeff Jourdain, the forester in Becket, about removing old trees on Town right of ways.

7. The Board signed a form from the Board of Health and asked J. Hostetter to update the contact information and send to Scott Krzanik.
8. Dr. Carlos Schlusky of 139 Johnson Hill Road addressed the Board and requested a beaver trapping permit. The Board directed him to J. Hostetter for this permit. He has a problem with beaver flooding a portion of his property.
9. Marilyn Wiley, Chair of the Planning Board, told the Selectmen that they have been having trouble getting a quorum to make planning decisions. She asked that the Board appoint R. Borgnis to the position of Alternate Planning Board member in order to solve this problem. J. Huebner told her that he had consulted Town Counsel about this request and that he was told the Selectmen cannot appoint anyone to the Planning Board because its members are elected. The Selectmen have no authority to make changes in an elected Board. Only in the case of a clear emergency can the Selectmen step in. It was generally agreed that this was not an emergency. The Planning Board just has to sign paperwork acknowledging that they have been notified that A. Shapira of Pugzees Farm is dividing his land into 3 lots. The Planning Board is only acknowledging that they have been notified. J. Huebner said that the best course of action would be to get L. Peltier to attend next week's meeting and give them a quorum. M. Jarvie confirmed that L. Peltier will not be attending.

J. Huebner stated that he had also consulted with the state Ethics Commission regarding the Rule of Necessity. That Rule is explained in Advisory 05-05 and states that when members of a Board have a conflict of interest with a matter before the Board, they must disqualify themselves from any votes on that matter. This applies in the case of Pugzees to both C. Willis and M. Wiley. The Advisory also states, however, that when this disqualification renders the Board unable to act due to lack of a quorum, the disqualified members can use the Rule of Necessity to participate and allow the Board to act. J. Huebner urged C. Willis's and M. Wiley to put on record their relationships with A. Shapira, and to go ahead and sign off on Mr. Shapira's prints.

10. Members of the Finance Committee and the Selectmen signed transfer forms to correct short - falls from the last Special Town Meeting, which was based on estimates. D. Fish will have to sign off on some of these items as several have to do with his budget. D. Spencer mentioned additional expenses related to the school van purchase. The model year 2014 Ford Expedition is priced at \$33,055. The Town will fund \$35,000 to cover the additional expenses. He noted that state law requires that it be painted yellow. It is now blue. This change has to be on the quote. The bus also needs lettering identifying it as a school bus. He asked if we should lease or buy the vehicle. The discussion that followed led to the conclusion that there was little advantage in leasing. We will still have the down payment to make. As a municipality we get a low finance rate. We have a good deal on the purchase price. It's a state contract. We expect to appropriate the money next week. D. Spencer noted that the warrant item can be amended at the meeting to cover purchase or lease.

11. J. Huebner reported that White Wolf has agreed to give us the same pricing for Transfer Station hauling services for the next year. He made a motion to accept this contract. M. Case seconded the motion and the vote to accept was unanimous. J. Huebner signed the contract for the Town.
12. M. Case asked the Board if the Town bids out tree work. J. Huebner responded that D. Fish is in charge of that. M. Case suggested that if we can get an annual contract for the work it would save us some money and would give us advance knowledge of what each take-down will cost.
13. S. Lennon told the Board that as of Thursday we will be able to get the second conference table from Williams College. He asked if any of the town offices need additional furniture at this time. No requests had been reported.
14. C. Briggs asked the Board to clarify the raise approved for D. Fish earlier this year. To confirm prior action, J. Huebner made a motion to give him a \$1.00 raise for FY 2014. S. Lennon seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. D. Parnell told the Board that the ATM warrant misstated his salary. In light of this oversight, his salary should be \$ 12,852.00. J. Huebner made a motion to make this adjustment. M. Case seconded and the vote was unanimous. At the next STM the Town will appropriate the adjusted pay for D. Parnell.
15. D. Parnell told the Board that has he talked to our auditor, Mr. Grogan. D. Parnell confirmed that the new COA appliances had not been delivered. J. Huebner will request that an audit be done of the COA.
16. The Board reported receiving 2 emails from C. Kennedy requesting new shades for the Old Town Hall and a cleanup of the interior. J. Nelson to speak with E. Bond about this work.
17. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter about progress on the annual reports. She told him that she is still waiting for a couple of summary reports she has requested in order to complete the job. There was no progress yet on the Town job descriptions. J. Nelson to speak with E. Bond about improvements to the Ladies' Room at Town Hall. Calls to the re-appointments list are nearly complete. J. Huebner asked J. Hostetter to follow up on whether Summit Hill has a permit for the planned car show. He confirmed that P. Blake is both Veterans' Agent and custodian of Veterans' graves for the town.
18. K. Avalor, Consultant Assessor, told the Board that she has inserted a Public Notice in the Berkshire Eagle about the availability of the updated assessed property values list. It is open for review. The Public Notice will be published on July 18. Residents can call to make an appointment with the assessors to discuss. She has printed out all of the

assessments and that information is available for residents on Monday evenings at the Town Hall during the assessors' business hours.

19. J. Huebner reported the following items and mentioned correspondence received by the Board:

- a. Town of Lee Notice of a Public Hearing for June 25 regarding special permit for property at 331 Bradley Street. To be Posted.
- b. An educational meeting on September 19 in Devens, MA about medical marijuana dispensaries.
- c. MHOA public health annual conference on Cape Cod in the fall on the subject of food protection.
- d. A brochure on call center services offered by tri-county United Way.
- e. An inquiry from Crescendo Capital about a cell tower on Town property.

20. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson

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