

Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – July 22, 2013

1. J. Huebner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. 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 July 15, 2013. M. Case seconded the motion and the vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.
3. P. Blake reported to the Board on his activities as Town Veterans' Agent. He has attended several training sessions and will attend additional sessions in the fall. He told the Board that he met recently with a resident veteran who appears eligible for a Ch. 115 pension. P. Blake has been given software by the VA to determine if an individual is eligible for a pension. He went through the process with this individual last week. Much documentation is needed for the application and there are strict protections against fraud. If the pension application is approved, the Town will pay the resident \$549.00 per month. The state will return 70% of this cost to the Town.

P. Blake said that the state is proposing to reorganize veterans' services organizations into three districts. In western Mass. 3 cities are vying to be the center. They are Northampton, North Adams and Great Barrington. Each town will be assigned to a district. The town Veterans' Agents will support all cases within their towns. We would have to provide a pension for any qualifying Washington veteran residing at Soldier On or the VA hospital in Leeds or at Soldier On in Pittsfield
4. The Board approved a permit for the Sons and Daughters for their annual get-together at the Old Town Hall. E. Bond is looking into replacing window shades in the building and getting it cleaned before the event in September.
5. J. Huebner asked Chief Breen about the color of the school bus the Town is proposing to buy. He told the Board it will be blue unless we request another color. J. Huebner asked him to find out if we can get the vehicle yellow from the factory. He asked Chief Breen to provide his police training certification to C. Briggs for the personnel files. The Town is required to have this on file. He told the Board that he will provide his current certificate and will continue to take training updates in the fall as usual. J. Huebner asked him about getting keys to the hall radio closet for the Emergency Managers. Chief Breen will do this. He mentioned that the COA also has keys to this closet.
6. A resident appeared for the second time before the Board to inquire about reimbursement for damage to his truck's paint from the chip seal tarring and subsequent sanding of Summit Hill Road. He submitted an insurance claim as instructed the last time he appeared before the Board. He submitted 2 quotes for the repairs to the Town, but was concerned that he had not received any follow up on this. The Board will check into the status of his claim with the Administrative Assistant and Treasurer.

He told the Board that he had just met with the Administrative Assistant and gave her copies of the 2 estimates. J. Hostetter told the Board that she had received nothing in the mail from this resident, nor had he left any voice messages. She had taken many phone complaints from other residents.

At D. Fish's request the contractor who did the chip sealing has inspected Town roads and told him that all that can be done to fix the road surface has been done. D. Fish was instructed by Mass DOT last fall when the double chip sealing was done that he should sweep right after the stone was put down. This is what he did. The Board asked him to contact Mass DOT again, explain the result of following their instructions and to see what they advise. The problem has to be either with the materials or with the procedure. D. Fish noted that shady roads with low traffic volume such as Johnson Hill have fared better than sunny, busy roads like Summit Hill. J. Huebner asked him to talk to other towns around the county who have done chip sealing about their experience. We need to pass the damage claims through to the contractor's insurance. J. Huebner asked D. Fish about the contractors for the Town's tree work. D. Fish said that we are getting better work from the new crew. He believes we are getting better value. They are also able to do bucket truck work over wires, which we can't do. There is still no word of the NOI.

7. P. Clarke asked the Board to sign the Waste Ban Compliance Plan. J. Huebner provided his signature. J. Huebner asked him if he could do any engineering that might be required for a road closure on Washington Mountain Road if we get to that point. He replied that he could.
8. J. Huebner suspended the selectmen's meeting at 7:36 pm in order to hold a brief Special Town Meeting. The Town Clerk took minutes at the STM. D. Spencer presided. The STM was adjourned at 7:45pm. The Selectmen's Meeting continued at 7:46 pm.
9. J. Hostetter told the Board that she has been working with our Public Health Agent to assist Mr. Leonard with septic documentation. He has applied for a permit for septic construction and for well drilling. Our well permit fee is \$50.00. Regarding the car show Summit Hill Campground has scheduled for July 27, J. Huebner asked her to send a note from the Board to T. Delaney warning him that he should ask attendees and exhibitors to use Middlefield Road to access his property, instead of Summit Hill Road. This way they will avoid all contact with the chip sealed tar. J. Hostetter asked the Board if the Town Hall piano could be used for piano lessons for Town children. The Board agreed that this was an appropriate use for the instrument. She will follow up on the USDA paperwork and believes it is complete. The Board of Health contact list is also done.
10. F. Kennedy told the Board that he and others object to the recent lot of used furniture brought from Williams College to the Town Hall. He felt strongly that we don't need any of it. He believed that much of the furniture is moldy and that this creates an unhealthy atmosphere for any asthma and allergy sufferers who use or visit the building. He also

said that the two large conference tables are too heavy for other groups who use the auditorium to move. The Selectmen asked the administrative assistants to contact Jeff Sawtelle in Pittsfield to purchase rollers to be installed under the large tables so that they can easily be moved. Chief Breen pointed out that the furniture in the hallway created a safety hazard and should be moved back into the auditorium. It was originally delivered to the auditorium and no one knew who had moved it out into the hall. F. Kennedy also objected to the Board using for its meetings the blue chairs purchased by the COA . These are not rugged chairs like the brown metal ones usually used and were not chosen for frequent use.

11. J. Huebner reported that we are not likely to get funds from HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Plan) to address the most hazardous sections of Washington Mountain Road. Those DOT funds for very hazardous roadways will probably go to Pittsfield. He and D. Fish signed MEMA documents to be reimbursed for money spent cleaning up after the blizzard this February. J. Huebner reported that we have received an invitation from the National Association of Boards of Health to their convention. He asked the administrative assistant to find out if we pay dues to this organization. He has had no word on the weight restrictions for Washington Mountain Road or Blotz Road from Hinsdale or Dalton. Dalton and Becket have not communicated any updates on our sharing the Dalton 911 service.
12. V. Breen suggested we remove the men’s room urinal. The Board agreed and will ask E. Bond to take care of this.
13. J. Huebner will call Glen Grogan and request an audit of the COA.
14. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm. S. Lennon seconded the motion and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson