

Meeting of the Washington Board of Selectmen – August 19, 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 from 8/7/13. M. Case seconded the motion and the vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.
3. J. Huebner reported that the lower bridge on Cross Place Road has deteriorated significantly and the Town is working to stabilize the span while a longer term temporary solution is sought. Engineers from Westfield Wild and Scenic will inspect the bridge, advise the Town on options and lay out the ground work for further engineering. They will not do hydraulic modeling. D. Fish and P. Clark have inspected the bridge together. D. Fish went to the MA DCR facility in Lee and looked at a Bailey bridge today. This is a very sturdy and stable steel temporary bridge which would be a serviceable span until we can develop a plan for a new, permanent bridge and build it. DCR will make it available to the Town at no cost. D. Fish and P. Clark believe the Bailey bridge is missing some parts. D. Fish will go to the DCR facility at Buckley Dunton Reservoir for parts which are believed to be stored there.

P. Clark said that he thinks we should assemble the bridge on dry land in order to be sure that we have all parts in place before using a crane to place it over the stream. If the necessary parts cannot be found our fall back is to construct a temporary bridge across the span with steel I-beams and a wooden deck. D. Fish suggested that we might still use the Bailey bridge with only the side panels and put a wooden deck on top. He estimated that it will take one or two weeks to check for the parts. P. Clark will oversee the project. We have to let DCR know what we are going to do. P. Clark will give them notice. He agreed with the Board that this is close to a public health emergency and must be addressed before winter. D. Fish believed that we can get a temporary bridge in place in as little as 3 weeks. The Board asked him to make this his top priority. He has already made arrangements to put another larger steel plate over the stream on Tuesday morning. Westfield Wild and Scenic will help with a draft budget for reconstruction. The Select Board will send a Notice of Intent to the Community Development Board.

4. Chief Breen reported that the new school van will be ready the first week in October. No additional students are expected at present.
5. Dick Grillon presented the Board with old correspondence between the Town and Pittsfield regarding graveyard space promised by Pittsfield to the Town. M. Case said that he spoke with current Mayor Bianchi about this issue. Mayor Bianchi was

agreeable to our going through with taking land off Beach road on Washington Mountain Road for cemetery use. DEQE said that it will not affect the Pittsfield watershed. M. Case will follow up with Mayor Bianchi on this. He will set up a meeting to move this transaction forward.

6. Trish Drugmond asked the Board about the status of repairs to the drainage ditch near her home on Washington Mountain Road. D. Fish said that the survey crew will be there tomorrow. They will show her the area that is going to be filled. D. Fish contacted the utility on the poles. P. Clark also called them. There has been no response yet. T. Drugmond asked the Board to write a letter to the utility. The Town wants to move the pole so that we can get a deep ditch in place. D. Fish will provide her with list of trees to be cut. Jeff Bullock is going to cut the trees. P. Clark will give her a detailed report to read so that she will understand the plan before anything is done. All parties must be in agreement. Chips will be dropped off at her property. Log sized wood will also be dropped at her property. She will have choice of seed to use to stabilize the bank for erosion. She gave the seed information to P.Clark and D. Fish. P.Clark wants to get grass growing along the embankment and ditch in the next 2 weeks.
7. J. Huebner asked P. Clark about Nannery's driveway construction on Middlefield Road. P. Clark reported that they had a permit but it wasn't posted. The construction is going well.
8. K. Walls reported that DCR will do logging at the end of Watson Road. We can charge stumpage. He will follow developments.
9. All Board members signed a letter written by J. Huebner to DOT Secty. Davey pointing out the inadequacy of Chapter 90 money received by the Town this year, especially in light of the deteriorating condition of Washington Mountain Road.
10. Regarding the worker's compensation claim filed against the Town by former highway employee Tom Soules, J. Huebner said that our insurance company, MIIA, advised us to sign off on a \$20,000 settlement for Mr. Soules. He claimed a back injury occurred last June. MIIA told J. Huebner that T. Soules had a very aggressive and litigious lawyer and that they would definitely go to court and sue the Town for much more. In light of this advice, J. Huebner signed the Consent of Employer to Lump Sum Settlement. The claim will be paid by MIIA. There will be no charge to the Town.
11. J. Huebner reported receipt of \$706.80 for metal re-cycling from the state.
12. J. Hostetter asked the Board about the metal folding chairs cart. She said that it had disappeared from the utility room. It held all of the metal chairs and made it possible to move them quickly and easily from the utility room. They are now stacked up separately making it difficult to get at the electrical boxes for servicing if the chairs have to be taken out one by one. She wondered if it was a fire hazard. J. Huebner asked if we

are going to use the metal chairs anymore. S. Lennon said that they can be stored in the loft above the utility closet

13. J. Hostetter told the Board that the Annual Reports are moving ahead. Job descriptions are coming in. She still needs Dan's and Cathy's. She needs to follow up with the state Ethics Board. J. Hostetter said that we also need to do annual reviews of Dan and of Cindy. Ed Bond should do Cindy's. We should get that paperwork from E. Bond or from C. Briggs if she already has it.
14. D. Fish reported that there have been no new chip sealing complaints.
15. Town Auditor G. Grogan gave the Board the inventory he had developed from COA records. He will review the figures with Jeff Sawtelle. There is a \$785.63 balance in the COA account currently. There are still some numbers to be researched and perhaps corrected. Any surplus balance from the grant has to be returned to the state. The COA spent money on new appliances June first. The amount was \$800 approximately. Funds for these purchases were appropriated within the fiscal year. Jeff Sawtelle will speak to the state about this situation. G. Grogan will give the finished audit to Jeff Sawtelle. The COA computer is locked in the library closet.
16. At the request of C. Rodhouse the Board asked the Assessors' Department to join the meeting. C. Rodhouse complained to the Board that she is very unhappy with the current situation in the Department. After returning from her 14 week sick leave she came back to doing clerical work. K. Avalle said that 95% of assessing work is clerical work. C. Rodhouse said that she is no longer happy working here. She wants something to change. J. Huebner told C. Rodhouse that it is up to her to take charge of the office. She is the Chief Assessor. She makes the decisions about who does what.

She also mentioned that she was angry about the Town not paying for her hotel during the course she took recently. It was a one hour drive each way. J. Huebner told her it is the Town's policy to reimburse for mileage and for the course cost only. K. Avalle confirmed that these expenses had been covered.

C. Rodhouse said that she was not using the skills she had developed by taking these courses. She wants to do real estate assessing, not motor vehicles or chapter land. She wants to learn more about using the DOR system. K. Avalle told the Board that C. Rodhouse has been doing a good job with motor vehicles and that is a job which brings a lot of important revenue in to the Town coffers through excise taxes. In this job C. Rodhouse liaises successfully with the Tax Collectors.

J. Huebner asked K. Avalle to teach C. Rodhouse about the real estate side of assessing. M. Jarvie will be out for 8 weeks for double knee surgery starting next week. There is much to be done by the assessors in the next 2 months. J. Huebner asked the department members to show respect for each other. He asked them to take 2 months

to try to get along and be productive as a team. He urged them to be professional. C. Rodhouse said that she will give it a try.

17. J. Huebner mentioned that there will be a flu shot clinic at Town Hall on Sat. Sept. 21 from 4pm – 6pm. An Emergency Planning course will be given on 9/7 at BCC. The highway crew should take it as well as the Board. M. Case mentioned that he is fully certified in emergency procedures. There will be a legislative breakfast on 9/ 27 in Becket. J. Huebner will attend.

18. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm. S. Lennon seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson