

Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – August 26, 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 accept the minutes from August 19, 2013. M. Case seconded and the minutes were accepted unanimously.
3. C. Briggs told the Board that it would cost the Town over \$600.00 to advertise the Treasurer's job in the Eagle over the weekend. It was agreed that the Town would not do this. Instead she will list the Treasurer opening on IBerkshire and with Berkshire Works where the ad will get much exposure for free. She will put the Town on the state unemployment system through the online portal.
4. D. Spencer discussed revisions to our district school budgets with the Board. Due to an error on the part of the state, Windsor will owe an additional \$10,000 approximately and Becket \$228,795. Washington's contribution would actually decrease by \$9,263. The School Committee is considering several different options for handling this dilemma and has asked for feedback from the 7 district towns. They have invited the FinComm Chairs to discuss this at the 9/12 School Committee meeting. D. Spencer will attend for Washington. M. Case will also be there as our representative to the School Committee. D. Spencer asked the Board for time at the next Select Board meeting on 9/9 to discuss the Town's position and to vote on the options. Our position will be a no lose situation. We could gain a little over \$11,000. But we also don't want the other district schools to suffer large losses. We want an explanation of how this happened.
5. The Select Board signed the permit for the Hilltown Hoot to be held at the Town Park on 9/14 and gave Abe Guthrie the permit and a package of forms for food vendors to sign and submit to the Town.
6. P. Clark gave D. Drugmond of Washington Mountain Road an update on repairs to the drainage ditch area abutting his property. Poles have arrived from WMECO. P. Clark is overseeing the remediation and is satisfied that the process is moving along. As soon as he gets survey information from DEP he will have a report for the Drugmonds to review.
7. J. Huebner reported receiving a letter from Frank DePaola of Mass DOT stating that the legislature has been working to secure additional revenue for roads, bridges and other transportation projects in an effort to reduce the backlog of regional projects waiting for TIP funding. He read the letter into the record. On July 24 the Legislature passed an Act providing additional state funding for transportation projects. Mass DOT in Lenox has been instructed to accelerate the design phase of the project for the reconstruction of

Washington Mountain Road (WMR) so that bids for construction can go out this fall. They are proposing a full reclamation. Work could begin as early as Spring 2014. The money for WMR has been appropriated, but it is part of a larger bond measure that will have to be passed by the legislature. The Board has written letters of thanks to Senator Downing, Representative Pignatelli and to Frank DePaola of DOT.

8. Chief Breen reported that as of this afternoon we have a total of 3 students to transport to Voc Ed in the Fall. One student will be from Washington and the other two will be from Becket. Becket will pay 2/3 of the cost of operating the bus. This arrangement works out well for both Towns.
9. P. Clark reported that he has prepared a re-submittal of the Frost Rd. FEMA Grant application. At his request the Board signed a copy of the application.
10. P. Clark updated the Board on the Cross Place Road Bridge situation. He and D. Fish met DOT at the site to review the structural problems. We have to consider wires and high trucks in using the Bailey bridge. He is also considering filling to level the road out before placing the bridge. The Conservation Commission will have to sign off on the fill. P. Clark will recuse himself from the vote. The bridge will be a 40 ft. span. Resident Pete Goucher generously offered the use of his property to set the bridge on before placing it over the stream. The Town may also place Jersey barriers if the temporary span is relocated from the existing roadway to allow easier construction of a new bridge. The Board asked if we need a temporary easement for now. D. Fish may get the temporary bridge up this week. P. Clark has asked the Housing and Community Development agency for a grant for the bridge repair and will follow up on this. He mentioned that he will have to file plans and calculations on the Bailey bridge with DOT. He will take pictures and send those in to DOT. D. Fish will get roughed out lumber from the mill in Hinsdale to build the bridge deck. These will be 3x 9's. He mentioned that the bridge near J. Taylor off New Lenox Road also needs new decking. He will go take a look at it. P. Clark will work on the MassWorks grant for milling Kirchner Road.
11. K. Walls told the Board that the Conservation Commission will meet tomorrow and vote on the Cross Place Road filling.
12. J. Huebner reported that the Board had received a \$500 check from the developer of lots 1-5 Lovers Lane for septic inspections. Plot plans for the 5 lots were submitted along with the check.
13. K. Avalle asked the Board if the assessors can have a classification hearing at the September 9 Board meeting at 7:30. The Board agreed. The Town will have to post notice by Friday, 9/6. DOR is coming to Washington to review the assessors' work at 10:00am on 9/16. They will review all of our assessment and tax information before certifying.

14. J. Huebner reported on recent correspondence and issues:

- a. There has been no new information on the 911 communications scheme with Dalton and Becket.
- b. There will be a Selectmen's Breakfast in Becket on 9/27 at 8:00 am. Mike and Jim attending.
- c. J.Huebner will meet with Mayor Bianchi of Pittsfield on 9/29 this week on getting approval for the Town to take 5 acres of Pittsfield watershed for Town cemetery use. D. Fish said that Mr. Du Bell has 8 acres he would sell abutting the existing cemetery.
- d. There will be a public health regionalization meeting next month which J. Huebner will attend.
- e. The Flu clinic at Town Hall will take place from 4:00 to 6:00 pm on 9/21.
- f. The Board will attend Board of Health training on 9/24 in Pittsfield.
- g. MIIA has offered to expand services for us to include Continuity Insurance to protect community from outages. The Board declined.
- h. Hampshire County Select Boards Association will have a meeting at the Blue Bonnet Diner in Northampton on 9/12. No Board member plans to attend.
- i. M. Case has been named to the executive board of the Berkshire Selectmen's Association.

15. S. Lennon said that the Town Hall Usage Committee will present the Board with a plan for further improvements to Town Hall.

16. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09. M. Case seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson