

Town of Washington Selectmen's Meeting - 10/21/2013

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 accept the minutes of October 7, 2013. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.
3. D. Spencer requested that the Board include a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools on their agenda for November 4 or 18. The Board agreed to this request and J. Huebner said that he had received a letter from the Superintendent to this effect.
4. All Board members signed a letter to Comer Contracting regarding the chip sealing of our Town roads. The letter registered our complaints about the faulty quality of the work and the materials used. The letter quoted Mass DOT's opinion in support of our complaint. The letter asserted that the Town expects that Comer will remedy the situation to an acceptable performance standard as soon as is practicable and will also reimburse the Town for \$7300 for labor and materials in putting down the sand per their recommendation. They were informed that the Town has forwarded complaints received to our insurance company. Town Counsel was copied on this letter.
5. J. Huebner provided his ICS 1000 certificate to the Treasurer and reminded other Board members that they must do likewise.
6. J. Huebner asked D. Fish for his update on Highway Department activity. He asked D. Fish to attend the Federal Highway Emergency Management Program. Discussion followed on Westfield Wild and Scenic's involvement in the Cross Place Road bridge situation. We were unsure if in recent correspondence they were referring to the culvert or the bridge. J. Huebner was copied on this communication. D. Fish believed it has been straightened out. DOT did an official inspection of the Bailey bridge. Discussion followed over the tree work done by Bolduc on the Drugmand property as part of the remediation effort. Bolduc did tree work and cut up the wood to stove length. The question of whether the Town can deduct the value of that wood from the cost of purchasing replacement trees was considered. D. Fish mentioned that he may use the winter roads budget to cover the costs of Drugmand's remediation. D. Fish reported that he had contacted the forester and was told not to cut the rotted trees as electrical wires would be involved. He received an email from P. Clark about the culvert NOI's.
7. Regarding the 10/17 presentation by DOT on Washington Mountain Road (WMR), J. Huebner reported that the state will spend 8.8 million dollars to completely rebuild the road for the 6.2 miles from Becket to the Dalton border. This includes replacing culverts on Savery Brook. The culvert work will require approvals from DCR, the Corps of Engineers and other organizations before that work can begin. They hope to do the culverts at the same time as the road paving. The project may not see completion until 2015. It will be put out to bid this year. The DOT representative confirmed that it has been funded. There will be a site meeting Thursday at 11:00 at Frost and WMR to look at the culverts.

8. J. Huebner recorded that the Board had received checks in the amount of \$75.00 and \$50.00 for propane and pellet stove permits.
9. The Board signed the Pumpkin Walk permit.
10. J. Huebner told the Board that he had heard from Mr. Collingwood of the Pittsfield Mayor's office regarding the transfer of cemetery land. He had passed our request on to the city's attorney and will keep us updated on status.
11. J. Huebner mentioned that he had a letter published in the Eagle today confirming our support for limiting heavy truck traffic on Blotz Road. He and John Boyle are trying to get a meeting scheduled with representatives of the 3 towns involved, Hinsdale, Dalton and Washington, to reach consensus.
12. At 7:30 pm the Board suspended the Selectmen's meeting to hold a Capital Assets/Finance Committee meeting. The Selectmen's meeting was resumed at 8:32.
13. D. Parnell joined the meeting and recommended that the money to cover the Drugmand project costs should come out of the Road and Bridge account, not Winter Roads. He believed that the Drugmands should not get both new trees and firewood from the old trees. D. Fish said that 24 trees were taken out at a cost of \$2300. We never saw a report from the Forester on how many trees were to be removed. The Board told D. Parnell that he can serve legally as Town Auditor. J. Huebner had checked MGL on this issue. D. Parnell asked to see a job description. J. Huebner had found one in MGL and will provide that to D. Parnell. He would carefully structure the auditing process so that no revenues are overlooked. Some research into committees will be involved in setting this up as such records do not seem to be available. He would prefer to be paid hourly for this work. No decision was made at this time. He informed the Board that he will be away for a month. The Board decided that we will need to hire a temp over this period. On the subject of accounting software, J. Huebner said that he will look into using the software offered by HCOG.
14. J. Hostetter told the Board that she has started training on managing the web site with John Les, per their request. He has done some updating of the web site already. She reported that Climate heating was at Town Hall fixing the boiler on Saturday. E. Bond supervised these repairs as well as attending to bee extermination in the Tax Collectors' office. He finished the painting in the auditorium. She confirmed that there is a serious leak from the roof into the hallway by the side door. She will contact the roofers on this. The Board approved purchase of another sandwich board for advertising Town events, white board supplies and magnetic letters for the Transfer Station and also approved purchase of a mail sorter by the administrative assistant. The Simmons have requested front of the building railings from the driveway up onto the paved walkway. J. Huebner made a motion to raise the electric inspection fee from \$ 45 to \$ 50. M. Case seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
15. G. Grogan submitted paperwork on the school van bond to the Board for signature. Allison Mikaniewicz witnessed and added the Town seal. J.Huebner asked about the status of our effort to join the state unemployment program. G. Grogan said that he needs to do more work on this through the internet. After the new van is in service, the old school van will be advertised

locally in the Tracks and people can submit sealed bids to the Select Board. It will be advertised as "parts only." For information people should call Chief Breen.

16. J. Huebner mentioned the following items and received correspondence:

- a. WMECO has petitioned for more money to cover storm damage
- b. S. Lennon will try to cover the Nov. 7 Selectmen's Dinner. J. Huebner and M. Case cannot attend.
- c. J. Huebner filled out a survey on Town infrastructure.
- d. Westfield Wild and Scenic minutes received from 9/25 meeting. They meet again on 10/24 in Chester. To be posted.
- e. On October 30 there will be a community forum on drug abuse at the Froio Center in Pittsfield.
- f. There will be a BCBOHA dinner on 11/14.

17. J. Huebner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02pm. M. Case seconded and the motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson