

Washington Board of Selectmen's Meeting – November 18, 2013

1. M. Case called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attending for the Board were M. Case and S. Lennon. J. Huebner will return on 11/25.
2. After leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, M. Case made a motion to accept the minutes of November 4, 2013. S. Lennon seconded the motion and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.
3. For the record, M. Case stated that R. Borgnis was videotaping the meeting.
4. T. Drugmand addressed the Board with a complaint about their meeting on Oct. 28. She felt that the minutes from that meeting reflected negatively on the Drugmands. After commenting that she was satisfied with the more recent minutes from Nov. 4, she asked if she could in the future receive copies of the minutes before they were approved by the Board. She asked if the Board actually reviews the minutes before approving. J. Nelson explained that after she types up her notes from the meeting, she sends a draft electronically to the Board and asks for their corrections and/or changes. They review the minutes at this time. After receiving their replies, she makes any requested edits and finalizes the minutes to present for signing at the next Board meeting. The Board stated that they were not sure that they could release any minutes before approval and Board signature. M. Case said that the Board would consult Town Counsel for clarity on this issue. P. Drugmand said that she was pleased that the Nov. 4 minutes made it clear that the Town would stand by its commitment to pay Mr. Bolduc for tree removal and Mr. Jourdain for his services as forester. She had expected, however, that the minutes would also state that the town would pay for new trees for her property. M. Case said that the Board had spoken with the Town's insurer about this and had filed a claim.
5. K. Walls of the Conservation Commission told the Board that he attended a meeting with state officials and engineers on Washington Mountain Road (WMR) last Thursday. They looked at all of the culverts on WMR. He was told that there is a 90% chance that all will go forward with the reconstruction of the road. The engineers gave him a set of plans for the culvert work. He showed these to the Board. Discussion followed on how the road closing would be handled during work on the two major culverts – one near Bucksteep and Frost Road, and the other the by the old red schoolhouse. The state will close down one side of the road during this work in order to finish as quickly as possible and avoid delaying the larger road work plan. They will work on only one of the two major culverts at a time. The state may close the road to through traffic at that time. They estimate this culvert work will take from four to six weeks. With these culvert improvements there should be no more backup of the water from Savory Brook or elsewhere. All other smaller culverts on WMR will be replaced in the course of the reconstruction work. Many of these are in the state forest property. The state plans to install middle of the road reflectors and rumble strips. K. Walls said that another meeting with the engineers will be held and that he plans to attend and report back to the Board.
6. Consulting Assessor K.Avalle told the Board that Mary Jarvie should receive a stipend as the Chief Assessor of Record for the Town. She believed that about \$30/month would be appropriate. She will send the Board a note to request this formally.

7. D. Fish told the Board that he and P. Clark are working on the culvert maintenance plan required by the state. He had been notified by CSX of a problem with water backing up on the Summit Hill overpass. He will stay in touch with them on this issue.
8. D. Parnell reported to the Board that consultant Rebecca Krause will be going ahead with applying for the CIC municipal accounting software grant again. He has received a draft of the application and is reviewing it. He will need the Chair's signature to proceed. He also reported transferring funds into the Cultural Council account. He was able to give Chief Breen the check for the new school van last week. M. Case mentioned that next Monday, 11/25, sealed bids for the old school van will be due to the Board and will be opened at that time.
9. G. Grogan reported to the Board that he had not received any additional ICS certifications. He will consult with D. Parnell on the effort to finalize the Town's transition to the state unemployment plan. He can get into the system, but is still unsure about the Town's status.
10. The Board asked Chief Breen about the delivery schedule for the new school van. He told the Board that he spoke with the dealer last week and was told that it will be here by the 28th. It is on a train from the Ford plant. Beyond that the dealer had no further information to offer. Chief Breen continues to use the police cruiser to transport our students. He reported that he was unable to attend the Selectmen's dinner last week. He had purchased a holiday food gift box as the Select Board's raffle contribution to the dinner. M. Case suggested that he give the gift box to Jeff Sawtell to raffle at the COA dinner this Friday evening. Chief Breen said that he will contact J. Sawtell and get the gift to him.
11. M. Lampro informed the Board that both Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Wednesday this year. She would like to close the Transfer Station on those days. The Board agreed that this was a good idea and asked her to put a notice to this effect in the Tracks.
12. J. Hostetter told the Board that she had copied the entire contents of the Town of Washington Zoning, General Planning, and Health binder from the library at the Berkshire County Trial Court. S. Lennon had borrowed the book for the Town's use. J. Hostetter returned the volume to him. She had updated the book with all information she had available on our by-laws at this time. She will use the copied material as a reference as she continues to support the work of A. Mikaniewicz and M. Wiley who are gathering all Town by-laws. J. Hostetter also reported to the Board that she has been taking lessons from Jon Les on managing the Town's web site. She is now able to post material to the site and do some basic design work. She will post notice of the closing of the Transfer Station on Christmas and New Year's Days. She is still waiting for two job descriptions.
13. M. Case commented on the following issues and on receiving the following correspondence over the past week:
 - a. Minutes from Head Start Board of Directors
 - b. Minutes from meeting of the Hampshire County Selectmen's Board
 - c. Letter from Access Plus Communications offering emergency response service. We have good coverage already from the Berkshire County Sheriff's system.

- d. Notice of a meeting of Westfield Wild and Scenic on 11/21 at Notchview Reservation in Windsor.
- e. Information on the 2014 District Local Technical Grant from BRPC.
- f. Letter for Building Inspector Paul Greene copied to J. Huebner on classes for building code certification.
- g. No news on the Blotz Road weight limits from Dalton or Hinsdale, or on the 5 acres from Pittsfield for Town cemetery use.
- h. Receipt of \$323.00 from Apkin & Son Inc. for Transfer Station recycling of light gauge steel.

14. M. Case made a motion to adjourn the Select Board Meeting at 7:58 pm. S. Lennon seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson