

Town of Washington Selectmen's Meeting – December 9, 2013

1. S. Lennon called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. He noted for the record that Rose Borgnis was videotaping the meeting. Attending for the Board were S. Lennon and M. Case.
2. After leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, S. Lennon made a motion to accept the minutes of December 2, 2013. M. Case seconded and the vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.
3. M. Case reported that the Board had received an announcement of the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Annual Business Meeting at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston on January 25. Neither M. Case nor S. Lennon can attend on that date. The announcement will be passed to J. Huebner next week for his decision on attending.
4. M. Case also reported receiving an announcement of a meeting from Westfield Wild & Scenic to be held on December 12 at the Town Hall in Chesterfield from 6:30 to 8:30. The public is welcome to attend. This notice will be posted on the hallway bulletin board. There has been no reply to the Board's second letter to Comen Contracting insisting that they remedy the damage done to Town residents' vehicles and property by their shoddy chip sealing of our roads and also reimburse the Town for labor and materials expended to sand the roads.
5. S. Lennon reported receipt of a check in the amount of \$ 2521.00 from the Town of Becket. There was no indication on the paperwork of what the check was for. M. Case suggested that it is Becket's share of the new school bus cost. G. Grogan to follow up with Becket for clarification.
6. M. Case said that the Board had received a third application for the open assessor's position. This was from Rose Borgnis. The Board scheduled interviews for Monday, December 16, starting at 6:00 pm. The interview committee will consist of J. Huebner, S. Lennon, M. Case, K. Avalle and D. Spencer.
7. Planning Board Chair, M. Wiley, appeared before the Board to request signatures on a grant application for the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC). The application is for grant funding to cover the cost of BRPC assisting the Town in developing a business by-law. M. Case and S. Lennon were happy to sign the application..
8. M. Case said that he had attended the Hinsdale Select Board meeting last week to discuss school funding and related policy issues. He is the new Chairman of the Central Berkshire Regional School District.
9. J. Nelson reported that the Berkshire Regional Health Administration (BRHA) will produce a flyer for their proposed program on Winter Health Tips. Currently this program is scheduled for the January COA meeting. It will be free and open to all residents.
10. J. Hostetter told the Board that she had spoken with P. Clark and has scheduled printing of a Public Notice in the Berkshire Eagle announcing a public hearing on the details of the Washington Mountain Road reconstruction project for December 19 at 6:30.

11. Tax Collector B. Phillips told the Board that she needs to purchase blinds for their office. S. Lennon suggested that she could get them to match the others in the building at Home Depot. D. Spencer told her and the Board that she does not need approval for this purchase. Since she administers her department expense account, she can make this decision herself.
12. D. Fish reported to the Board that he had no news from Westfield Wild & Scenic on a plan for the Cross Place Road Bridge. He has not yet worked with P. Clark on revisions to the culvert maintenance plan. He wants to see clarification on the required process for testing culvert effluent they might dredge up. He questions whether the Town will need to test all material removed from the pipes, even if it is only beaver twigs. He sent the maintenance plan to Mark Moore at DOT. He has not yet had a reply. Town Highway crew would clear out the culverts as needed, but who would do the testing? That is open to interpretation. He also said that they have been having equipment problems all week. Two trucks have broken down. Repair parts have been ordered and the crew will repair the trucks and get them back in service as soon as possible. M. Case asked him to talk to the Treasurer to be sure the boots allowance of one pair per year gets updated in the Highway Department personnel file.
13. S. Lennon said that the Town Hall improvement committee will meet again after the first of the year to plan any needed repairs/changes.
14. J. Hostetter reported to the Board that she had met with Judge Sacco and his management team about the Bucksteep ABCC permit. They signed the annual permit application. This permit would be good until the property is sold. The cost of the license is \$750. Judge Sacco told her that he will know if the deal goes through in July. He is not at liberty to discuss any details of the transaction before that time. J. Hostetter has received the Bucksteep Board of Health inspection report. She is still waiting for the Fire Chief and Building Inspector to do their site visits and get their reports in to the Town. The Select Board only meets once more this month (on December 16) and the Board will need to make a decision on granting the permit at that time. She is working with D. Parnell on the Board of Health (BOH) revolving accounts. She is also working to streamline the BOH inspection process and accounting. She reported that Summit Hill Campground will not go ahead with a seasonal alcohol license.
15. Victor Breen reported to the Board that the new school bus has been in service for a week and is running smoothly. He also said that the COA had approached him about using the bus after the first of the year to carry seniors to some events and appointments. Chief Breen researched this request and has concluded that it would not be a good idea for the Town to do this. There are major liability issues involved and the driver would need special certification.
16. Treasurer G. Grogan reported that it is the end of the year and he is caught up on the Town accounts.
17. There will be no Selectmen's meetings on 12/23 or 12/30.
18. M. Case made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40. S. Lennon seconded and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved: _____

Approved: _____

Minutes written by J. Nelson